

## Blessings before Learning Torah

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְעֲסוֹק בְּדִבְרֵי  
תּוֹרָה.

Barukh atah, adonai eloheinu, melech ha'olam; asher kiddeshanu b'mitzvotav,  
v'tzivanu la'asok b'divrei torah.

You are blessed, Eternal One our God, Sovereign of the universe; You have made  
us holy through Your *mitzvot* and commanded us to occupy [ourselves]  
with words of Torah.

וְהַעֲרֵב נָא יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֶת דִּבְרֵי תוֹרָתְךָ בְּפִינוּ וּבְפִי עַמְּךָ בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְנִהְיָה אֲנַחְנוּ  
וְצִאֲצִאֵינוּ וְצִאֲצִאֵי עַמְּךָ בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל כְּלָנוּ יוֹדְעֵי שְׁמֶךָ וְלֹמְדֵי תוֹרָתְךָ לְשִׁמְחָה.  
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, הַמְלִמֵּד תּוֹרָה לְעַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל.

May your eyes sparkle with the light of Torah,  
And your ears hear the music of its words.  
May the space between each letter of the scrolls  
Bring warmth and comfort to your soul.  
May the syllables draw holiness from your heart,  
And may this holiness be gentle and soothing to the world.  
May your study be passionate,  
And meanings bear more meanings  
Until life itself arrays itself to you  
As a dazzling wedding feast.  
And may your conversation,  
Even of the commonplace,  
Be a blessing to all who listen to your words  
And see the Torah glowing on your face.

- from A Blessing by Danny Siegel, inspired by Talmud Berachot 17a