

מַעְרִיב עֶרְבִים

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי
אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר בְּדַבְּרוֹ מַעְרִיב עֶרְבִים,
בְּחָכְמָה פּוֹתַח שְׁעָרִים,
וּבְתַבּוּנָה מְשַׁנֶּה עֵתִים
וּמַחְלִיף אֶת הַיָּמִים,
וּמְסַדֵּר אֶת הַכּוֹכָבִים
בְּמִשְׁמְרוֹתֵיהֶם בְּרָקִיעַ כְּרִצּוֹנוֹ.
בוֹרֵא יוֹם וְלַיְלָה,
גּוֹלֵל אוֹר מִפְּנֵי חֹשֶׁךְ
וְחֹשֶׁךְ מִפְּנֵי אוֹר,
וּמַעְבִּיר יוֹם וּמַבְיֵא לַיְלָה,
וּמַבְדִּיל בֵּין יוֹם וּבֵין לַיְלָה,
יי צְבָאוֹת שְׁמוֹ.
אֵל חַי וְקַיִם,
תָּמִיד יִמְלֹךְ עָלֵינוּ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי, הַמַּעְרִיב עֶרְבִים.

מַעְרִיב עֶרְבִים

Roots

ע - ר - ב evening

א - ר - ב create

The Ma'ariv Aravim is part of the Sh'ma and its blessings, the second section of the service, and only spoken in the evening (which is called the ma'ariv service). Like its morning service counterpart Yotzer Or, this prayer thanks God for continuing the cycle of creation by turning night into day and day into night. "Ma'ariv aravim" is translated as "the one who brings on the evening." But seeing that the two words have the same root, the phrase more accurately means "the one who evenings the evening."

Vocabulary

עֶרֶב evening

לַיְלָה night

יּוֹם day

זְמַן time

אוֹר light

חֹשֶׁךְ darkness

מַעֲרִיב עֶרְבִים

Translation

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who speaks the evening into being, skillfully opens the gates, thoughtfully alters the time and changes the seasons, and arranges the stars in their heavenly courses according to plan. You are the Creator of day and night, rolling light away from darkness and darkness from light, transforming day into night and distinguishing one from the other. Adonai Tz'vaot is Your Name. Ever-living God, may You reign continually over us into eternity. Blessed are You, Adonai, who brings on evening.