

Hannah A, segue into Sh'ma

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְיָ אֶחָד.

Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad.

HEAR O ISRAEL, Adonai is our God, Adonai is One.

שמע
Sh'ma

בָּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

Baruch shem k'vod malchuto l'olam va-ed.

Blessed is God's glorious majesty forever and ever.

Hannah: "Please be seated."

שְׁמַע *Sh'ma, Hear* — Deuteronomy 6:4-9 is a single unit. (The line *Sh'ma Yisrael* is Deuteronomy 6:4). Israel is called upon to be totally devoted to God, whose Torah is to be ever-present in our waking thoughts. The Rabbis call the content of this paragraph "Accepting the Yoke of Divine Sovereignty" (*M. B'rachot 2:2*). The first verse is singled out for special focus: over the centuries it was understood to refer to the unity and singularity of God, where Judaism differed from Christianity. It also came to be associated with Jewish martyrdom, based on a legend of Rabbi Akiba's death. These are the last words to be recited before going to sleep at night as well as before one's death.

בָּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד *Baruch shem k'vod . . . Blessed is God's glorious . . .* According to *M. Yoma 3:8*, this was the congregational response in the Temple courtyard on the Day of Atonement when the High Priest would pronounce the name of God and the people would prostrate themselves in awe. Classical Reform practice grouped this response with the *Sh'ma* for singing or congregational recitation; traditionally it is recited silently because it interrupts the biblical paragraph.