



## Psalm 27

א לְדוֹד יְהוָה אוֹרִי וַיִּשְׁעֵי מִמִּי אִירָא  
יְהוָה מְעוֹז חַיִּי מִמִּי אֶפְחָד  
ב בְּקִרְבִּי עָלַי מְרַעִים לֶאֱכֹל אֶת  
בְּשָׂרִי צָרִי וְאִיְבֵי לִי הֵמָּה כָּשְׁלוּ  
וּנְפְלוּ. ג אִם תַּחְנֶה עָלַי מִחֲנֶה לֹא  
יִירָא לְבִי אִם תִּקּוּם עָלַי מִלְחָמָה  
בְּזֹאת אֲנִי בּוֹטֵחַ. ד אַחַת שְׂאֵלְתִּי  
מֵאֵת יְהוָה אוֹתָהּ אֶבְקֹשׁ שְׁבֵתִי  
בְּבַיִת יְהוָה כָּל יְמֵי חַיִּי לַחַזוֹת  
בְּנַעַם יְהוָה וּלְבַקֵּר בְּהֵיכָלוֹ.

ה כִּי יִצְפְּנֵנִי בְּסֹכְהָ בְּיוֹם רָעָה  
יִסְתַּרְנִי בְּסֹתֵר אֶהְלוּ בְּצוּר  
יְרוּמִמֵּנִי. ו וְעַתָּה יְרוּם רֹאשִׁי עַל  
אִיְבֵי סְבִיבוֹתַי וְאֶזְבְּחָהּ בְּאֶהְלוּ  
זִבְחֵי תְרוּעָה אֲשִׁירָה וְאֶזְמָרָה  
לִיהוָה. ז שְׁמַע יְהוָה קוֹלִי אֶקְרָא  
וְחַנּוּנִי וְעֲנֵנִי. ח לָךְ אָמַר לְבִי בְקִשׁוּ  
פָנָי אֶת פְּנֵיךָ יְהוָה אֶבְקֹשׁ.

ט אַל תִּסְתֵּר פְּנֵיךָ מִמֵּנִי אַל תִּט  
בְּאַף עֲבָדְךָ עֲזָרְתִּי הֵייתָ אַל  
תִּטְשֵׁנִי וְאַל תַּעֲזֹבֵנִי אֱלֹהֵי  
יִשְׁרָאֵל. י כִּי אָבִי וְאִמִּי עֲזָבוּנִי וַיהוָה  
יֶאֱסֹפֵנִי. יא הוֹרְנִי יְהוָה דֶּרֶכְךָ וְנַחֲנִי  
בְּאַרְחַ מִישׁוֹר לְמַעַן שׁוֹרְרֵי. יב אַל  
תִּתְּנֵנִי בְּנַפְשׁ צָרִי כִּי קָמוּ בִי עֲדֵי  
שֹׁקֵר וַיִּפְחֵ חָמָס.

יג לֹא הֶאֱמַנְתִּי לְרֹאוֹת בְּטוֹב  
יְהוָה בְּאַרְץ חַיִּים. יד קְוֵה אֶל יְהוָה  
חֲזַק וַיֶּאֱמַץ לְבָבְךָ וְקוֹה אֶל יְהוָה.

1 Of David. YHVH is my light and my help; whom should I fear? YHVH is the stronghold of my life, whom should I dread? 2When evil ones assail me to devour my flesh— it is they, my foes and my enemies, who stumble and fall. 3Should an army besiege me, my heart would have no fear; should war beset me, still would I be confident. 4 One thing I ask of YHVH, only that do I seek: to dwell in the house of YHVH all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of YHVH, to frequent God's temple.

5God will shelter me in the Divine pavilion on an evil day, grant me the protection of the Divine tent, raise me high upon a rock. 6 Now is my head high over my enemies roundabout; I sacrifice in God's tent with shouts of joy, singing and chanting a hymn to YHVH. 7 Hear, O YHVH, when I cry aloud; have mercy on me, answer me.

8 In Your behalf my heart says: "Seek My face!" O YHVH, I seek Your face.

9 Do not hide Your face from me; do not thrust aside Your servant in anger; You have ever been my help. Do not forsake me, do not abandon me, O God, my deliverer. 10 Though my father and mother abandon me, YHVH will take me in. 11 Show me Your way, O YHVH, and lead me on a level path because of my watchful foes. 12 Do not subject me to the will of my foes, for false witnesses and unjust accusers have appeared against me.

13 Had I not the assurance that I would see with the goodness of YHVH in the land of the living . . . 14 Look to YHVH; be strong and of good courage! O look to YHVH!

## Psalm 27-- Dharmic Interpretive Translation, Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg

לְדָוִד | יְהוָה | אֹרִי וְיִשְׁעֵי מִמִּי אֵירָא יְהוָה מְעֹז–חַיִּי מִמִּי אֶפְחָד:

Awareness is sunlight in the mind. No one can take that from me. Awareness is my life's stronghold. It absorbs all fear.

בְּקֶרֶב עָלֵי | מְרַעִים לְאָכַל אֶת–בְּשָׂרִי צָרִי וְאֵיבֵי לִי הֵמָּה כְּשָׁלוֹ וְנִפְלוֹ:

The hindrances and defilements are as close as my flesh and mind, but they dissolve in the light of being known.

אִם–תַּחֲנֶנֶה עָלַי | מַחֲנֶנֶה לֹא–יִרָא לְבִי אִם–תִּקְוֹם עָלַי מִלְחָמָה בְּזֹאת אֲנִי בּוֹטָח:

Even though I feel assaulted by hostile forces, my heart remains confident, balanced and patient.

אֶחַת | שְׁאֵלַתִּי מֵאֵת–יְהוָה אוֹתָהּ אֲבַקֵּשׁ שְׁבִתִּי בְּבֵית–יְהוָה כָּל–יְמֵי חַיִּי לְחִזּוֹת בְּנַעַם–יְהוָה וּלְבַקֵּר בְּהִיכָלוֹ:

I seek only one thing, one thing alone: to connect to this moment. Nowhere else. Only this. Nothing less. My palace in time.

כִּי יִצְפְּנֵנִי | בְּסֹכֶה בְּיוֹם רָעָה יִסְתַּרְנִי בְּסִתְרֵי אֶהְלוֹ בְּצוּר יְרוּמָמַי:

When difficulties arise, I have a hiding place in my own heart— a secret tent where I can go and feel safe, a rock to rest my head upon.

וְעֵתָה יְרוּם רֹאשִׁי עַל אֵיבֵי סְבִיבוֹתַי וְאֶזְבְּחָהּ בְּאֶהְלוֹ זִבְחֵי תְרוּעָה אֲשִׁירָה וְאֶזְמַרָה לִיְהוָה:

Greed, hatred, and delusion don't stop coming, but when they are met with a spacious heart, they don't stick around. Leaving me so grateful, I want to sing out loud:

שְׁמַע–יְהוָה קוֹלִי אֶקְרָא וְחַנּוּנִי וְעֲנֵנִי:

Listen, world! The power of love sets me free.

לָךְ | אֶמַר לְבִי בְקִשׁוֹ פָּנֶי אֶת–פְּנֵיךְ יְהוָה אֲבַקֵּשׁ:

When I turn to face my heart—then everyone and everything is revealed.

אֵל–תִּסְתֵּר פְּנֵיךְ | מִמֶּנִּי אֵל–תֵּט–בְּאֶף עַבְדְּךָ עֲזָרְתִּי הֵיטֵב אֵל–תִּטְשֵׁנִי וְאֵל–תַּעֲזֹבֵנִי אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׁרָאֵל:

Let this truth not be hidden from me. If only I could remember always what seems so clear right now. Wisdom would guide my every moment.

כִּי–אָבִי וְאִמִּי עֲזָבוּנִי וַיְהוָה יֵאֱסָפֵנִי:

Awareness and compassion would be a father and a mother to me.

הוֹרְנֵי יְהוָה דְרָכְךָ וּנְחֵנִי בְּאֶרְחַ מִישׁוֹר לְמַעַן שׁוֹרְרֵי:

But I can follow the guidance of those who have walked this path before.

אֵל–תִּתְּנֵנִי בְּנִפְשׁ צָרִי כִּי קָמוּ–בֵּי עֵדִי–שִׁקֵּר וַיִּפַּח חֲמָס:

Trying to stay alert to the obstacles along the way because delusion and hatred aren't disappearing so fast.

לוֹיֵלָה הֶאֱמַנְתִּי לְרֹאוֹת בְּטוֹב–יְהוָה בְּאֶרְץ חַיִּים:

Still, I affirm my faith in the power of goodness.

קוּיָה אֵל–יְהוָה חֲזַק וַיֶּאֱמַץ לְבָבְךָ וְקוּיָה אֵל–יְהוָה:

May we take courage; may we be strong; may our hearts be so filled with love there is no room for anything else! May we see the arising and passing of all conditioned things. May we open to the

Unconditioned: Y\*H\*V\*H

**Psalm 27: From *Opening to You: Zen-Inspired Translations of the Psalms***

**by Norman Fischer**

You are my light and my help  
    Whom should I fear?  
You are the fortress of my life  
    Who should I dread?  
When the narrow ones gather their strength to  
    devour me  
    It is they who stumble and fall  
Even if a royal army were camped outside my gate  
    My heart would not fear  
And when they struck out with terrible weapons  
    Against me  
    Even then I'd trust

One thing I ask for, one thing I hope---  
    To live in your house  
    All the days of my life  
    To behold your loveliness  
    Every morning in the light of your temple  
    dawn

Till on a doomful day  
You secure me in your precincts  
Conceal me within the folds of your covering tent  
Place me high and safe upon a rock  
My head lifted above the engulfing waves

With the joy of my heart  
I will sacrifice  
Within that billowing shelter  
Singing and playing my abandonment to you  
Hear my voice when I raise it up  
Be gracious--answer me--  
Speaking with your voice my heart sang,  
Seek my presence

I will

Do not hide your glowing face from me  
Do not reject me in anger because of my shortcomings  
You have always been for me  
Don't cast me off now, don't walk away  
My helper, my friend

My mother and father forsake me  
But you take me up  
Show me the way!  
Guide my steps on the clear path  
Against the ever-present cliffs and thickets  
Protect me from the noise of desire and hatefulness  
From false words and shouted accusations

If I did not have faith in your rightness  
That it would bloom in this living land--  
It is unthinkable

I wait only for you  
With strength and good courage--

I wait only for you