

Introduction to Torah Trope: Chanting the Shma

The V'ahavta is part of the prayer service, we say it at Shacharit (morning service) and at Ma'ariv (evening service), and it is part of the "bedtime Shma" as well. It is taken from the Torah, Chapter 6 of the book of Devarim (Deuteronomy), verses 5-9 ("Shma" is verse 4). During our prayers, we often chant V'ahavta in Torah trope.

5a. You shall love Adonai your God וְאַהֲבַתְּ אֶת ה' אֱ-לֹהֶיךָ

5b with all your heart and with all your soul, בְּכָל-לִבְבְּךָ וּבְכָל-נַפְשֶׁךָ

5c and with all your might וּבְכָל-מְאֹדְךָ:

6a. These words, וְהָיוּ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה

6b that I command you this day, אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מְצַוְּךָ הַיּוֹם

6c shall be taken to heart עַל-לִבְבְּךָ:

7a. Teach them again and again to your children, וְשִׁנַּנְתָּם לְבָנֶיךָ

7b and speak of them וְדַבַּרְתָּ בָם

7c when you sit in your home, בְּשֹׁבְתֶךָ בְּבֵיתֶךָ

7d when you walk on your way, וּבְלַכְתֶּךָ בְּדַרְךְךָ

7e when you lie down, and when you rise up. וּבְשָׁכְבְּךָ וּבְקוּמְךָ:

8a. Bind them as a sign upon your hand, וּקְשַׁרְתָּם לְאֹת עַל-יָדְךָ

8b and as a symbol above your eyes. וְהָיוּ לְטֹטְפֹת בֵּין עֵינֶיךָ:

9a. Inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes וּכְתַבְתָּם עַל-מַזְוֹת בֵּיתֶךָ

9b and on your gates וּבְשַׁעְרֶיךָ: