

TEFILLAH TIPS

Hashkiveynu

The final blessing after the *Shema* in the evening begins *hashkiveynu avinu leshalom, vехаamidaynu malkeynu lechaim*. – Lay us down to sleep G-d in peace, and awaken us for life. Since this is the evening prayer, *Maariv*, and we are commanded to recite the *Shema* twice a day; once in the morning and once in the evening, we pray that G-d should protect us and enable us from what was in order to retire from our long day and rest/sleep *beshalom* - peacefully.

It is interesting to note that the word *shalom* – peace, is invoked five times in this prayer. The underlying message here can be found in the commentary of *Rashi* in *parshat bechukotai* Lev. 26:6 - *venatati shalom baaretz* – and I will provide peace in the land. *Rashi* remarks famously, *im eyn shalom eyn klum* – without peace there is nothing at all. This means that one could possess all the riches, delicacies and treasures of the world; but without the gift of peace, internally and externally, the blessings are for naught. Therefore, we ask G-d for peaceful sleep, to provide for us a *sukkat shalom* – a Dwelling of Peace and that our goings and comings should all be in peace

Also noteworthy, is that we recite *hashkiveynu* on Friday night as well as the rest of the week during *Maariv*. BUT, while the rest of the week the other three blessings before and after the *shema* are exactly the same as the blessings we recite on *Shabbat*, *hashkiveynu* has a completely different ending during the week then it does on *Shabbat*.

Maariv for Weekdays :

Ushmor tzeytaynu uvoeynu lechaim uleshalom meyatoh vead olam baruch...shomair amo yisrael la'ad – **Protect** our goings and comings for life and for peace from now until eternity – Blessed G-d, who **protects** His people forever.

Maariv on Shabbat:

Ufros aleynu sukkat shelomecha, baruch...haporais sukkat shalom aleynu veal kol amo yisrael veal yerushalayim – Spread over us your Shelter of **Peace**, Blessed...G-d, who spreads His *sukkah* of **peace** upon us, upon all *Israel* and upon Jerusalem.

The commentators remark that the theme of the blessing for *Maariv* during the week is **protection** and the theme for *Maariv* on *Shabbat* is **peace**. Why is this so?

1. The *Kol Bo* explains practically that during the week we are coming and going to perform are daily responsibilities; therefore we need protection during our travels. On *Shabbat* we remain more stationary near our homes and *shuls* and therefore, we ask only for peace and not protection.
2. The *Eliyahu Rava* explains that the reason we do not ask for *Shemira* – protection on *Shabbat* is because ***Shabbat is the greatest protection for the Jewish people***. As the well known saying goes: *More than the Jews have kept the Shabbos, Shabbos has kept the Jews*.

* Therefore during *Shabbat Maariv* we ask *Hashem* to help us experience the peace of *Shabbat*, which provides the ultimate and eternal protection for the people of Israel.

Take Home Tip: As we observe the *Shabbat* each week, let's not only observe the *Mitzvoth/Commandments of Shabbat*, let's also aim to experience the protective *Shalom/Peace of Shabbat* as well.

Shabbat Shalom,

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