

Ben Zoma said, “Who is wise? The one who learns from everyone,
as it is said [in Psalms 119:99], ‘From all who would teach me,
I have gained understanding.’”

Pirkei Avot 4:1 (2nd Century CE)



ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו
לעסוק בדברי תורה

ALTERNATIVES

Blessed are You, God,
Ruler of all, Whose
mitzvot add holiness to
our lives and Who gave
us the mitzvah to study
Torah.

Brucha Aht Shechinah,
Ruach HaOlam, who
makes us holy through
Your commandments and
commands us to engage
in the study of Torah.

*Baruch atah Adonai, eloheynu melech ha'olam, asher kidshanu
b'mitzvotav vetzivanu la'asok bedivrey Torah.*

Blessed are you Adonai, our God Sovereign of the
universe, who makes us holy through mitzvot, and
instructs us to engage in the words of Torah.

TRANSLATION IS ABOUT MAKING MEANING

“... the artistry of the Hebrew Bible, whose full colors and intricate
patterns and designs we can never see in full, especially as they have
faded under the accumulations of theological and historical readings.
And the task of restoring those original colors and shadings — their
nuances — is, I believe, still incomplete.”

–Robert Alter

WE MAKE OUR OWN MEANING

“When we understand the
meaning of a religious text
in and for its time, we are
freer to take the text and
apply it to our own time.
Seeing how particular
sources answered the
religious needs of some
people in the period in
which they were written
allows us to look at
contemporary needs and to
interpret for today.”

–Judith Plaskow