

THE LAWS OF READING THE SHEMA



Before a person says the Shema, he should stop and think that he is accepting Hashem as his King. He should say the Shema both in the morning before the third hour of the day, and in the evening before midnight. Every word should be said clearly without mumbling or swallowing the letters. Our Sages tell us that Gehinom will be cooled off for anyone who reads Shema the right way.

Before saying Shema in the morning, the Tzitzis are held in the left hand. When saying the Shema, he covers his eyes for the first sentence which begins with "Shema" and ends with "Echad." Just before the last paragraph, the Tzitzis are switched to the right hand and kissed each time the word Tzitzis is said.