



שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ ה' אֶחָד

Listen Yidden, Hashem is our
Aibershter, Hashem is One.

(DEVARIM 6:4)

Shema Yisroel — The second *posuk* is *Shema*. We say, “*Shema Yisroel!*” Listen Yidden! “*Hashem Elokeinu,*” Hashem is our *Aibershter*, and “*Hashem Echod,*” Hashem is one.

Besides for what we need to know for our own *neshama*, that Hashem gave us the Torah as a gift that is very special and very good for us, we need to know about the world too! When we go into the big world, which has seven heavens and stretches out so far in four different directions, we need to remember that it’s not something that exists on its own! It LOOKS like it exists by itself, but it was created by Hashem, and it was created for a reason!

The whole world is one with Hashem Who created it, and all of it is there so that we can use the special gift Hashem gave us, the gift of Torah and *mitzvos*! The whole world and everything in it exists so that we can use all of it in order to serve Hashem.

See Der Rebbe Redt Tzu Kinder chelek Hey

Hashem is One

The second of the Twelve *Pesukim* is the first line of *Shema*! We all already know the words of this *posuk* very well, but we should also know what the *posuk* means, and what its lesson is for us!

At the end of the *posuk* we say, **Hashem Echod** — Hashem is one.

The word *Echod* shows us HOW Hashem is one! *Echod* is made of three letters, *Alef*, *Ches*, and *Daled*.

Alef — *Alef* is the first letter, so the *Gematria* of *Alef* is ONE! The *Alef* is the one *Aibershter*, the *Alufo Shel Olam*.

Ches — *Ches* is the eighth letter of the *Alef-Beis*, with a *Gematria* of EIGHT. The *Ches* reminds us of the seven levels of *Shomayim*, plus the one earth where we live — eight all together!

Daled — *Daled* is the fourth letter of the *Alef-Beis*, so it has a *Gematria* of FOUR. The *Daled* reminds us of the *Daled Ruchos*, the four different directions — north, south, east, and west.

And what letter is first? The *Alef*, of course!

The word *Echod* shows us that the heavens and the earth (the *Ches*), and all four directions (the *Daled*), are all like nothing on their own. They only exist because they come after the *Alef*, because Hashem, the *Alufo Shel Olam*, gives them *chayus*!

This is something even kids need to know!

When we look around, the world looks very big! There are many exciting things to do and places to go. There are fun trips to take and toys to play with. There are books to read, flowers to smell, and delicious foods to taste. There are so many different things in the heavens and the earth, and in all four directions.

But really, all of these things are like nothing on their own! They only exist because Hashem, the *Alufo Shel Olam*, gives them *chayus*! They are only here because Hashem *Echod*, because the ONE Hashem, wants them to be here!

That will make us realize that we shouldn't just take our exciting trips or play with our fun toys because WE like them. We will realize that everything we do needs to be for Hashem!

We will want to do things that make Hashem happy all the time! We will want to use all of our trips, all of our toys, and all of our treats to bring us closer to Hashem and fulfill the *shlichus* Hashem put us in the world to do!

That's what we say in the paragraph that comes after *Shema, Ve'ahavta*. We say that we should love Hashem, and that we are ready to use EVERYTHING we have to do what Hashem wants!

See Der Rebbe Redt Tzu Kinder chelek Hey, p. 249