

Psalm 27  
David's

Yah, you are my Light, my Savior,  
Whom need I dread?  
Yah, With You as my strong Protector  
Who can make me panic?  
When hateful bullies gang up on me,  
Wanting to harass me,  
To oppress and terrorize me,  
They are the ones  
Who stumble and fall.

Even if a gang surrounds me  
My heart is not weakened.  
If a battle is joined around me  
My trust in You is firm.  
Only one thing do I ask of You, Yah,  
Just this alone do I seek:  
I want to be at home with You, Yah,  
All the days of my life.  
I want to delight in seeing You,  
When I come to visit You  
In Your Temple.

You hide me in Your Succah  
On an foul day.  
You conceal me unseen in Your tent  
And also raise me beyond  
Anyone's reach.  
And now, as You have held  
My head high,  
Despite the presence  
Of my powerful foes,  
I prepare to celebrate and thrill,  
Singing and making music

To You, Yah!

Listen, Yah, to the sound of my cry  
And, being kind, answer me.  
My heart has said:  
I turn to seek You,  
Your Presence is what I beg for.  
Don't hide Your Face from me.  
Don't just put me down,  
You, who have been my helper  
Don't abandon me, don't forsake me,  
God, my support.  
Though father and mother have left me  
You, Yah, will hold me securely.

Please teach me Your way  
And guide me on the straight path.  
Discourage those who defame me.  
False witnesses stood up against me,  
Belching out violence.  
Don't let me become  
The victim of my foes.

*[I would not have survived]*  
If I had not hoped that I would yet see  
Yah's goodness fully alive on Earth.

So friend, you too, hope to Yah.  
Be sturdy!  
And make strong your heart!  
And most of all ---keep hoping to Yah.

Translation:  
Rabbi Zalman Schachter Shalomi, unpublished.



Translation by Robert Alter

For David.

The LORD is my light and my rescue,  
Whom should I fear?  
The LORD is my life's stronghold,  
Of whom should I be afraid?  
When evildoers draw near me to eat my flesh—  
my foes and my enemies are they—  
they trip and they fall.  
Though a camp is marshaled against me,  
my heart shall not fear.  
Though battle is roused against me,  
nonetheless do I trust.

4 One thing do I ask of the LORD,  
it is this that I seek—  
that I dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to behold the LORD's sweetness  
and to gaze on His palace.

5 For He hides me in His shelter  
on the day of evil.  
He conceals me in the recess of His tent,  
on a rock He raises me up.

6 And now my head rises  
over my enemies around me:  
Let me offer in His tent  
sacrifices with joyous shouts.  
Let me sing and hymn to the LORD.

7 Hear, O LORD, my voice when I call,  
and grant me grace and answer me.

8 Of You, my heart said:  
"Seek My face."  
Your face, LORD, I do seek.

9 Do not hide Your face from me,  
do not turn Your servant away in wrath.  
You are my help.  
Abandon me not, nor forsake me,  
O God of my rescue.

10 Though my father and mother forsook me,  
the LORD would gather me in.

11 Teach me, O LORD, Your way,  
and lead me on a level path  
because of my adversaries.

12 Do not put me in the maw of my foes.  
For false witnesses rose against me,  
outrageous deposers.

13 If I but trust to see the LORD's goodness,  
in the land of the living—

14 Hope for the LORD!  
Let your heart be firm and bold,  
and hope for the LORD.

תהילים כז

א לָדוֹד | יְהוָה | אֹרִי וַיִּשְׁעֵי מִמִּי אֵינֶנּוּ  
יְהוָה מְעוֹז חַיִּי מִמִּי אֶפְתָּח:

ב בְּקֶרֶב עָלַי | מְרַעִים לֶאֱכֹל אֶת־בְּשָׂרִי  
צָרִי וְאֵיבֵי לִי הִמָּה כְּשָׁלוֹ וְנִפְלוּ:

ג אִם־תַּחֲנֶנֶה עָלַי | מִחֲנֶנֶה לֹא־יִירָא לְבִי  
אִם־תִּקְוֶם עָלַי מִלְחָמָה כִּזְאת אֲנִי

בוֹשֵׁת: ד אַחַת | שְׁאֵלְתִי מֵאֵת־יְהוָה  
אוֹתָהּ אֲבַקֵּשׁ שְׁבִתִי בְּיֵת־יְהוָה

כֹּל־יָמַי חַיִּי לַחַזוֹת בְּנַעֲמ־יְהוָה וּלְבַקֵּר  
בְּהִיכָלוֹ: ה כִּי יִצְפְּנֵנִי | בְּסֶכֶה כּוֹס

רָעָה יִסְתַּרְנִי בְּסֶתֶר אֶהְלוּ בְּעוֹר

יְרוּמִמֵּנִי: ו וְעֵתָה יְרוּם רֹאשִׁי עַל־אֵיבֵי  
סְבִיבוֹתַי וְאֶזְבְּחָה בְּאֶהְלוּ זְבַחֵי תְרוּעָה

אֲשִׁירָה וְאֶזְמַרָה לַיהוָה:

ז שְׁמַע־יְהוָה קוֹלִי אֶקְרָא וְחַנּוּנִי וְעֲנֵנִי:  
ח לֵךְ | אָמַר לְבִי בִקְשׁוּ פָנַי אֶת־פָּנֶיךָ

יְהוָה אֲבַקֵּשׁ: ט אֶל־תִּסְתַּר פָּנֶיךָ | מִכּוֹנֵי  
אֶל־תֵּשׁ בְּאֵף עֲבָדְךָ עֲזַרְתִּי חַיִּית

אֶל־תִּשְׁשֵׁנִי וְאֶל־תַּעֲזֹבֵנִי אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׁעֵי:  
י כִּי־אָבִי וְאִמִּי עֲזָבוּנִי וַיְהוָה יִאֲסֹפֵנִי:

יא הוֹרְנֵי יְהוָה דְּרָכֶיךָ וּנְחַנֵּנִי בְּאֶרֶח  
מִישׁוֹר לְמַעַן שׁוֹרְרֵי: יב אֶל־תִּתַּנֵּנִי

בְּנַפְשׁ צָרִי כִּי קָמוּ בִי עֲדֵי־שָׂקָר וַיִּפְחֵ  
חֶמְס: יג לוֹלֵא הָאֲמֵנֹתַי לְרֵאוֹת

בְּטוֹב־יְהוָה בְּאֶרֶץ חַיִּים: יד קִנְה  
אֶל־יְהוָה חֲזֹק וַיִּאֲמֵץ לְכַד וְקִנְה

אֶל־יְהוָה:

# Opening to You: Zen-Inspired Translation of the Psalms by Norman Fischer

YOU ARE MY LIGHT and my help  
Whom should I fear?

You are the fortress of my life  
Whom should I dread?

When the narrow ones gather their strength to  
devour me

It is they who stumble and fall

Even if a royal army were camped outside my gate

My heart would not fear

And when they struck out with terrible weapons  
against me

Even then I'd trust

One thing I ask for, one thing I hope—

To live in your house

All the days of my life

To behold your loveliness

Every morning in the light of your temple  
dawn

Till on a doomful day

You secure me in your precincts

Conceal me within the folds of your covering tent

Place me high and safe upon a rock

My head lifted above the engulfing waves

With the joy of my heart

I will sacrifice

Within that billowing shelter

Singing and playing my abandonment to you

Hear my voice when I raise it up

Be gracious—answer me—

Speaking with your voice my heart sang,  
*Seek my presence*

I will

Do not hide your glowing face from me

Do not reject me in anger because of my shortcomings

You have always been for me

Don't cast me off now, don't walk away

My helper, my friend

My mother and father forsake me

But you take me up

Show me the way!

Guide my steps on the clear path

Against the ever-present cliffs and thickets

Protect me from the noise of desire and hatefulness

From false words and shouted accusations

If I did not have faith in your rightness

That it would bloom in this living land—

It is unthinkable

I wait only for you

With strength and good courage—

I wait only for you