**Name:** והחכמה מאין תמצא,Vehaḥochma Me’ayin Timmatsē

**Introduction:**

This text is taken from Job 28:12–28, followed by Psalms 111:10. The Job passage is a hymn in praise of Wisdom; because Jewish tradition understands “Wisdom” throughout Job and Proverbs to refer to the Torah, this means that the Job passage is understood as a hymn in praise of the Torah. Thus, it is appropriate to read on Shabbat Bereshit, before we start to read of the whole Torah from the beginning, as well as on the weeks when we read the Ten Commandments, which were the occasion par excellence of divine revelation of Torah. The one line from Psalms, recited after the Job passage, also speaks of wisdom, and thus is an appropriate conclusion to the passage.

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**Category:** Liturgy

**Sub-Category:** Biblical verses

**Genre:** Introduction to Torah-reading

**Occasion:** Shabbat Bereshit, Shabbat Yitro, Shabbat Va’etḥannan

**Composer**: N/A (Biblical Verses)

**Liturgical Slot:** Before the beginning of the *parasha* (Shabbat Bereshit); in the middle of the *parasha*, before the reading of the Ten Commandments (Shabbat Yitro, Shabbat Va’etḥannan)

**Source:** Vilna Siddur, Volume 1, page 407

**Cantorial Notes:** The individual reciting this passage traditionally reads the opening part of each sentence, and the congregation responds with the closing portions. The congregation’s response begins with each asterisk.

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| וְֽ֭הַחׇכְמָה מֵאַ֣יִן תִּמָּצֵ֑א  וְאֵ֥י זֶ֝֗ה מְק֣וֹם בִּינָֽה׃\* | Vehaḥochma me’ayin timmatsē,  \*ve’ē zē meḳom bina. |
| But wisdom, where shall it be found?  And where is the place of understanding? (Job 28:12) | |
| לֹא־יָדַ֣ע אֱנ֣וֹשׁ עֶרְכָּ֑הּ  וְלֹ֥א תִ֝מָּצֵ֗א בְּאֶ֣רֶץ הַחַיִּֽים׃\* | Lo yada‘ enosh ‘erkah,  \*velo timmatsē be’erets haḥayyim. |
| Humanity knows not the price thereof;  neither is it found in the land of the living. (Job 28:13) | |
| תְּה֣וֹם אָ֭מַר לֹ֣א בִי־הִ֑יא  וְיָ֥ם אָ֝מַ֗ר אֵ֣ין עִמָּדִֽי׃\* | Tehom amar lo vi hi,  \*veyam amar en ‘immadi. |
| The deep says: ‘It is not in me’;  and the sea says: ‘It is not with me.’ (Job 28:14) | |
| לֹֽא־יֻתַּ֣ן סְג֣וֹר תַּחְתֶּ֑יהָ  וְלֹ֥א יִ֝שָּׁקֵ֗ל כֶּ֣סֶף מְחִירָֽהּ׃\* | Lo yuttan seḡor taḥteha,  \*velo yish-shaḳel kesef meḥirah. |
| It cannot be gotten for gold,  neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof. (Job 28:15) | |
| לֹֽא־תְ֭סֻלֶּה בְּכֶ֣תֶם אוֹפִ֑יר  בְּשֹׁ֖הַם יָקָ֣ר וְסַפִּֽיר׃\* | Lo tesullē bechetem ofir,  \*beshoham yaḳar vesappir. |
| It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir,  with the precious onyx, or the sapphire. (Job 28:16) | |
| לֹא־יַעַרְכֶ֣נָּה זָ֭הָב וּזְכוֹכִ֑ית  וּתְמ֖וּרָתָ֣הּ כְּלִי־פָֽז׃\* | Lo ya‘archenna zahav uzchochit,  \*utmuratah keli faz. |
| Gold and glass cannot equal it;  either shall the exchange thereof be vessels of fine gold. (Job 28:17) | |
| רָאמ֣וֹת וְ֭גָבִישׁ לֹ֣א יִזָּכֵ֑ר  וּמֶ֥שֶׁךְ חׇ֝כְמָ֗ה מִפְּנִינִֽים׃\* | Ramot veḡavish lo yizzacher, \*umeshech ḥochma mippeninim. |
| No mention shall be made of coral or of crystal;  yea, the price of wisdom is above rubies. (Job 28:18) | |
| לֹֽא־יַ֭עַרְכֶנָּה פִּטְדַת־כּ֑וּשׁ  בְּכֶ֥תֶם טָ֝ה֗וֹר לֹ֣א תְסֻלֶּֽה׃\* | Lo ya‘archenna pitdat kush, \*bechetem tahor lo tesullē. |
| The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it,  either shall it be valued with pure gold. (Job 28:19) | |
| וְֽ֭הַחׇכְמָה מֵאַ֣יִן תָּב֑וֹא  וְאֵ֥י זֶ֝֗ה מְק֣וֹם בִּינָֽה׃\* | Vehaḥochma me’ayin tavo,  \*ve’ē ze meḳom bina. |
| From where, then does wisdom come?  And where is the place of understanding? (Job 28:20) | |
| וְֽ֭נֶעֶלְמָה מֵעֵינֵ֣י כׇל־חָ֑י  וּמֵע֖וֹף הַשָּׁמַ֣יִם נִסְתָּֽרָה׃\* | Vene‘elma me‘ēnē chol ḥai,  \*ume‘of hash-shamayim nistara. |
| Seeing that is hid from the eyes of all living,  and kept close from the birds of the air. (Job 28:21) | |
| אֲבַדּ֣וֹן וָ֭מָוֶת אָ֣מְר֑וּ  בְּ֝אׇזְנֵ֗ינוּ שָׁמַ֥עְנוּ שִׁמְעָֽהּ׃\* | Avaddon vamavet ameru,  \*be’oznenu shama‘nu shim‘ah. |
| Destruction and Death say:  ‘We have heard a rumor thereof with our ears.’ (Job 28:22) | |
| אֱ֭לֹהִים הֵבִ֣ין דַּרְכָּ֑הּ  וְ֝ה֗וּא יָדַ֥ע אֶת־מְקוֹמָֽהּ׃\* | Elohim hevin darkah,  \*vehu yada‘ et meḳomah. |
| God understands the its way,  and He knows its the place. (Job 28:23) | |
| כִּי־ה֭וּא לִקְצוֹת־הָאָ֣רֶץ יַבִּ֑יט  תַּ֖חַת כׇּל־הַשָּׁמַ֣יִם יִרְאֶֽה׃\* | Ki hu liḳtsot ha’arets yabbit,  \*taḥat kol hash-shamayim yir’ē. |
| For He looks to the ends of the earth,  and sees under the whole heaven; (Job 28:24) | |
| לַעֲשׂ֣וֹת לָר֣וּחַ מִשְׁקָ֑ל  וּ֝מַ֗יִם תִּכֵּ֥ן בְּמִדָּֽה׃\* | La‘asot laruwaḥ mishḳal,  \*umayim tikken bemidda. |
| When He makes a weight for the wind,  and metes out the waters by measure. (Job 28:25) | |
| בַּעֲשֹׂת֣וֹ לַמָּטָ֣ר חֹ֑ק  וְ֝דֶ֗רֶךְ לַחֲזִ֥יז קֹלֽוֹת׃\* | Ba‘asoto lammatar ḥoḳ,  \*vederech laḥaziz ḳolot. |
| When He made a decree for the rain,  and a way for the storm of thunders; (Job 28:26) | |
| אָ֣ז רָ֭אָהּ וַֽיְסַפְּרָ֑הּ  הֱ֝כִינָ֗הּ וְגַם־חֲקָרָֽהּ׃\* | Az ra’ah vaysapperah,  \*hechinah veḡam ḥaḳarah. |
| Then did He see it, and declare it;  He established it, yea, and searched it out. (Job 28:27) | |
| וַיֹּ֤אמֶר **׀** לָאָדָ֗ם הֵ֤ן יִרְאַ֣ת אֲ֭דֹנָי הִ֣יא חׇכְמָ֑ה  וְס֖וּר מֵרָ֣ע בִּינָֽה׃\* | Vayyomer la’adam, hen yir’at adonai hi ḥochma,  \*vesor mera‘ bina. |
| And unto humanity He said: ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom;  and to depart from evil is understanding.’ (Job 28:28) | |
| רֵ֘אשִׁ֤ית חׇכְמָ֨ה **׀** יִרְאַ֬ת יְהֹוָ֗ה שֵׂ֣כֶל ט֭וֹב לְכׇל־עֹֽשֵׂיהֶ֑ם  תְּ֝הִלָּת֗וֹ עֹמֶ֥דֶת לָעַֽד׃\* | Reshit ḥochma yir’at adonai, sechel tov lechol ‘osehem,  \*tehillato ‘omedet la‘ad. |
| The fear of Adonai is the beginning of wisdom; all those that do them have a good understanding;  His praise endures for ever. (Psalms 111:10) | |