



## JEWISH COMMUNITY

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו מלך העולם,  
אוֹר יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּגִבוּרָה.

Blessed are You, *Adonai*, our  
God, Majesty of the world, who  
girds Israel with fortitude.

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו מלך העולם,  
עוֹטֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּתַפְאָרָה.

Blessed are You, *Adonai*, our  
God, Majesty of the world, who  
adorns Israel with magnificence.

### LEARNING

Sometimes, we need God to gird us with fortitude and strength toward a goal; other times, we need God to help us notice the magnificence that is already inside and all around us. These prayers together invite us to notice and seek both.

### REFLECTION

“Who is strong? One who conquers their evil inclination.”<sup>21</sup>

When have you shown heroism? What does this kind of strength or fortitude mean for you? When have the Jewish people shown strength? Is there a relationship between overcoming the evil inclination and being adorned with magnificence? If so, what would be an example?

### INSPIRATION

“The Jewish people’s strength is a unique strength. It is a strength that is manifest not through the conquering of others, by overpowering them or destroying them. Rather, it is a strength that comes from the ability of a person to conquer themselves. This is the strength of the Divine soul, the ability to conquer one’s physicality and base desires, which is thousands of times greater than the strength [needed] to take over a city. This is the strength [expressed in this blessing] which girds the Jewish people, the foundation of pure morality.”<sup>22</sup>

### PERSONAL PRAYER

Please, God, grant us strength to muster courage to live with sincerity of the heart, with words of truth.

Let us not to be subject to external murmurings which crouch by our vulnerabilities.

Bless me, God, to see the marvels of Creation in Your world.

Bless us with the capacity to feel the splendor of Your peace.

— Rachela Samimi-Golan,  
Reut, Israel

<sup>21</sup> Ethics of Our Fathers (*Pirkei Avot*) 4:1.

<sup>22</sup> Rav Abraham Isaac HaKohen Kook, *Olat Re’iya*.