Maariv Aravim   מַעֲרִיב עֲרָבִים

Roll Into Dark

Sim Shalom pg. 28

Roll into dark; Roll into light

Night becomes day; Day turns to night

Translation:

Creator of day and night,	בּוֹרֵא יוֹם וָלָיְלָה,
Rolling light away from darkness,	גּוֹלֵל אוֹר מִפְּנֵי חֹשֶׁךְ,
And darkness from light.	וְחֹשֶׁךְ מִפְּנֵי אוֹר.

BIG Idea – It's evening time!

There are a few things we can count on every single day… Like, that the sun always rises in the morning and sets in the evening! Like many other things in life, it seems so normal, that we don't think to stop and appreciate the moment it happens.

The **Ma'ariv Aravim** prayer reminds us that even though the sunset is normal and expected, we can still stop and appreciate it. The prayer is saying: "Thank you God, for creating day and night, separating them from each other, and bringing in this evening".

The Story of Creation

Read this text from the Torah book of Genesis, chapter 1:

"In the beginning God created the sky and the earth. The earth was empty and had no shape. Darkness covered the ocean, and God's Spirit was moving over the water.

Then God said, "Let there be light!" And there was light. God saw that the light was good. So God divided the light from the darkness. God named the light "day" and the darkness "night."

And it was evening, and it was morning, the first day."

Key Words:

בּוֹרֵא – creator, creates

יוֹם – day

לַיְלָה – night

אוֹר – light

חֹשֶׁךְ – darkness

What do you notice?

1. Did light or darkness come first?

2. Are darkness and light mixed? If so how did they get separated?

3. Does the Jewish day begin in the morning or the evening? What are your clues?

4. What are some examples you can think of that the Jewish day begins at that time?