

In Jewish tradition, studying is not something we do just to become more knowledgeable, or to know how to behave later on in life. Judaism teaches that study is itself a spiritual act. By studying we become closer to God and closer to our ideal vision for ourselves. We make a blessing before we study Torah to remind ourselves that we are not studying this ancient text just because it is historically significant, literarily magnificent, or because it helps us understand Jewish law. We study Torah because it sanctifies our lives and helps us discover meaning and purpose in life. Studying Torah draws us closer to God. Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu laasok b'divrei Torah. Blessed are You, our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to engage with words of Torah. The one occupied with the needs of the