

When the Amidah is recited silently, we read the following paragraph.
When the Amidah is chanted aloud, the leader reads this paragraph
as the congregation reads the next passage.

מוֹדִים אֲנַחְנוּ לָךְ, שְׂאֵתָהּ הוּא יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֵלֵהִי
אֲבוֹתֵינוּ [וְאֲמוֹתֵינוּ] לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד. צוּר חַיֵּינוּ מִגֵּן יִשְׁעֵנוּ
אֵתָהּ הוּא לְדוֹר וָדוֹר. נוֹדָה לָךְ וְנִסְפָּר תְּהִלָּתְךָ, עַל חַיֵּינוּ
הַמְּסוּרִים בְּיָדְךָ וְעַל נִשְׁמוֹתֵינוּ הַפְּקוּדוֹת לָךְ, וְעַל נְסִיךְ
שְׂבָכ־לַיּוֹם עִמָּנוּ, וְעַל נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ וְטוֹבוֹתֶיךָ שְׂבָכ־לַעֲתָ,
עָרַב וּבָקֵר וְצָהָרִים. ◀ הַטּוֹב, כִּי לֹא כָלוּ רַחֲמֶיךָ,
וְהִמְרַחֵם, כִּי לֹא תָמוּ חֲסָדֶיךָ מֵעוֹלָם קוֹיֵנוּ לָךְ.

This paragraph is recited by the congregation when the full Amidah is repeated
by the service leader, by custom remaining seated and bowing slightly.

מוֹדִים אֲנַחְנוּ לָךְ שְׂאֵתָהּ הוּא יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֵלֵהִי
אֲבוֹתֵינוּ [וְאֲמוֹתֵינוּ], אֱלֹהֵי כָל־בְּשָׂר, יוֹצְרֵנוּ, יוֹצֵר
בְּרֵאשִׁית. בְּרָכוֹת וְהוֹדָאוֹת לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל וְהַקְּדוֹשׁ,
עַל שֶׁהַחַיִּיתָנוּ וְקִיַּמְתָּנוּ. כֵּן תַּחֲיֵנוּ וְתַקִּימֵנוּ, וְתַאֲסוּךְ
נְלִיּוֹתֵינוּ לַחֲצוֹת קִדְשֶׁךָ, לְשִׁמּוֹר חֻקֶיךָ וְלַעֲשׂוֹת רְצוֹנְךָ,
וְלַעֲבֹדְךָ בְּלִבֵּב שָׁלֵם, עַל שֶׁאֲנַחְנוּ מוֹדִים לָךְ.
בְּרוּךְ אַל הַהוֹדָאוֹת.

On Hanukkah we add Al Hanissim on page 430.

וְעַל כָּלֶם יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִתְרוֹמֵם שְׁמֶךָ מִלְּפָנֶיךָ תָּמִיד לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

On Shabbat Shuvah we add: וּכְתוּב לְחַיִּים טוֹבִים כָּל־בְּנֵי בְרִיתְךָ.

וְכָל הַחַיִּים יוֹדוּךָ סֵלָה,

וְיִהְלָלוּ אֶת־שִׁמְךָ בְּאֵמֶת,

הָאֵל יִשׁוּעֵתָנוּ וְעִזְרָתָנוּ סֵלָה.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה, הַטּוֹב שְׁמֶךָ וְלָךְ נִאֶה לְהוֹדוֹת.

THE SIXTH B'RAKHAH. The penultimate *b'rakhah* of the Amidah has two versions. The first is recited during the silent Amidah, or by the leader when the Amidah is recited aloud by the leader. This version reflects on the miracles of daily life. When the Amidah is recited out loud, the congregation accompanies the leader with a different version of the blessing, one that remarks on the very ability to give thanks. The central idea it expresses is *modim anahnu lakh . . . al she-anahnu modim lakh*, “we thank You for the ability to thank You.” The prayer may be understood as an expression of appreciation for being part of a religious tradition that values gratitude. More radically, this prayer may be understood as expressing the thought that our prayers may be addressed to God, but God is the Source of All—even the prayers we speak. The very ability to thank is thus a manifestation of the presence of God within us.

WE THANK YOU מוֹדִים. Our gratitude is expressed in universal terms, without reference to Jewish particularity. Here we reflect on the very basis of life itself. God’s wonders are found in the cycles of the planets,

the rhythm of the seasons, the resurgence of life. We may come to realize that gratitude is a self-creating blessing: the more we cultivate gratitude, the more we are aware of all that we receive for which we may be grateful, the more we blossom as human beings. (Bradley Shavit Artson)