Reciting the Shema

עֹשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם בִּמְרוֹמָיו,
הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ,
וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל

May He who makes peace in His high places make peace for us, and for all Israel.

Keriat Shema Aleph: Deut. 6:4-9

We first say:

אֵל מֶלֶךְ נֶאֱמָן

El melekh ne'eman: God is a faithful King.

וְהָיָה יְהוָה לְמֶלֶךְ
עַל-כָּל-הָאָרֶץ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא
יִהְיֶה יְהוָה אֶחָד וּשְׁמוֹ אֶחָד

"And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one." (Zech. 14:9)

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יהוה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יהוה אֶחָד

Cover the eyes with the right hand:

Shema Yisrael, Adonai Elo**hei**nu[1], Adonai echad[2]

The oversized Ayin and Dalet form the word עֵד, *"witness."*

HEAR, O ISRAEL: THE LORD IS OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE

This implies acceptance of the yoke of heaven.

[בָּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד]

barukh shem kevod malkhuto le'olam va'ed

Blessed is the Name of His glorious kingdom forever and ever.

Said in an undertone... Pause briefly after reciting.

ve'ahavta et Adonai Elo**he**kha[3] b'khol le**va**vekha[4] uvkhol **naf**shekha[5] uvkhol me'o**de**kha[6]	וְאָהַבְתָּ אֵת יהוה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל-לְבָבְךָ וּבְכָל-נַפְשְׁךָ וּבְכָל-מְאֹדֶךָ:	You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your "muchness" (resources).
vehayu hadevarim ha'**e**leh asher anokhi metzavekha hayom al-leva**ve**kha[7]	וְהָיוּ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְצַוְּךָ הַיּוֹם עַל-לְבָבֶךָ:	And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.
ve'shi**nan**tam[8] leva**ne**kha vedi**bar**ta bam beshivtekha b've**te**kha uv**lekh**tekha va**de**rekh uvshakhbekha[9] uvkumekha	וְשִׁנַּנְתָּם לְבָנֶיךָ וְדִבַּרְתָּ בָּם בְּשִׁבְתְּךָ בְּבֵיתֶךָ וּבְלֶכְתְּךָ בַדֶּרֶךְ וּבְשָׁכְבְּךָ וּבְקוּמֶךָ:	You shall impress them upon your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up.
ukshartam le'ot al-ya**de**kha[10], vehayu le'totafot bein e**ne**kha	וּקְשַׁרְתָּם לְאוֹת עַל-יָדֶךָ וְהָיוּ לְטֹטָפֹת בֵּין עֵינֶיךָ:	You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.
ukhtavtam al-mezuzot be**te**kha u'visha**re**kha[11]	וּכְתַבְתָּם עַל-מְזוּזוֹת בֵּיתֶךָ וּבִשְׁעָרֶיךָ:	You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

[1] The Name יהוה represents God's attributes of love and mercy (מִדַּת הַרַחֲמִים), as opposed to the Name אֱלֹהִים, which represents God's justice and role as our Creator.
[2] The seminal verse is an affirmation of the acceptance of God's sovereignty and our loyalty to God as His subjects. The word "hear" means "listen," "obey," "respond."
[3] What is the proper kind of love for God? Loving others as yourself: וְאָהַבְתָּ לְרֵעֲךָ כָּמוֹךָ ("You shall love your neighbor as yourself," Lev. 19:18).
[4] The word "heart" is usually spelled with a single Vet. The double Vet is said to represent a double measure of love or a twofold love.
[5] I.e., with the will and all your desires. With every breath we are obligated to thank the Creator.
[6] I.e., with all your money (Berachot 54a, 61b, etc.). Me'od is related to middah, "measure," though some argue it means "much" (i.e., with all your "muchness").
[7] I.e., by constant study and absorption of the truth of God's Torah and revelation. Study to show yourself approved. Pause between "hayom" and "al-levavekha."
[8] The word means to "pierce sharply" or to impress sharply. The words of the Torah are to be "sharp" (i.e., familiar) in your mouth, not said with stammering.
[9] The sages note this implies that the Shema should be recited twice daily: in the evening (after three stars appear) and in the morning.
[10] Jewish tradition derives from this the various laws concerning the (hand and head) tefillin (phylacteries). The word totafot is obscure though refers to head tefillin.
[11] I.e., affixing a mezuzah scroll to each doorpost of the house. It is customary to touch the mezuzah when entering or leaving the house. "Gates" refers to public displays.