

BLESS OUR LOVE-MAKING*

A7 Dm
 בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְהוָה,
 Dm Gm
 לַעֲשֵׂה אוֹרִים גְּדוֹלִים,
 Dm A7 Am Gm
 יִצֵר רוּחַ כָּל אִישׁ וְאִשָּׁה.
 A7
 תוֹדִיעֵנִי אֶרְחַח חַיִּים:
 AmA7 DmGm Dm Gm
 שִׁבַּע שְׂמֵחוֹת אֶת-פָּנֶיךָ.
 Dm Gm A7
 נִזְכִּיר דְּדִיךָ מִיַּיִן מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל
 Dm Gm
 אֶהְבֶּיךָ,
 Dm A7
 אֲנִי לְדוּדִי וְדוּדִי לִי.

Blessed are you, יְהוָה,
 who made the great lights,
 who forms the spirit,
 of every woman and man.
 You make me know the path of life,
 in Your face is fullness of joy.
 We will find that loving Your way
 is more fragrant than wine,
 that it is the right love,
 I am my beloved's,
 my beloved is mine.

* Based on Psalm 136:7, Zechariah 12:1, Psalm 16:11, and Songs of Songs 1:4 and 6:3. According to the *Iggeret Ha-Kodesh* or *Holy Letter* (Northvale, New Jersey: Jason Aaronson, 1993), an anonymous 13th century Kabbalistic writing that emphasizes ethical behavior: "He commanded us . . . saying that we must sanctify ourselves at the time of intercourse as the tradition understands the verse: 'Thus shall you separate the children of Israel from their uncleanness' [Leviticus 15:31]" (pp. 68-71). "Know that the sexual intercourse of a man with his wife is holy and pure when done properly, in the proper time and with the proper intention" (p. 72). ". . . God, may He be praised, created all, as His wisdom decreed, and did not create anything ugly or shameful" (pp. 74-75). ". . . Sexual union can be a means of spiritual elevation when it is properly practiced" (p. 80). ". . . The union of man with his wife, when it is proper, is the mystery of the foundation of the world and its civilization. Through the act they become partners with God in the act of creation. This is the mystery of what sages said, 'When a man unites with his wife in holiness, the *Shekhinah* is between them in the mystery of man and woman'" (p. 92).