

Incantation for Hopefulness

by Rabbi Shefa Gold

לִישׁוּאַתְּךָ קִוִּיתִי יְיָ.
קִוִּיתִי יְיָ לִישׁוּאַתְּךָ.
יְיָ לִישׁוּאַתְּךָ קִוִּיתִי.

Lishuatcha kiviti Yah; Kiviti Yah lishuatcha; Yah lishuatcha kiviti.

I wait/hope for Your Salvation. (Genesis 49:18, Bedtime liturgy)

As Jacob lies on his death bed, blessing each of his sons, he suddenly stops and cries out this line, then returns to his task of blessing. The bedtime liturgy takes his exclamation and turns it into a magic incantation of power and protection.