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# Polar Tensions in Jewish Tradition

## English Lecture Program

Lecturer: Dr. Avi Kadish

In this course we will explore acute tensions between competing values within the Jewish tradition as they are expressed in Jewish thought, Jewish law and popular practice. Our goal will not be to adjudicate between opposing values and determine which side is “right,” but rather to understand these arguments as axes of tension upon which each person in every time and place must look for the best point of balance. Our test case for this study will be dialogue versus ritual in Jewish prayer.

Lesson	Date	Subject
1.	17.02.21	<b>Address, Petition, and Motivation in Biblical Prayer</b> “A person has an inner world, but the gift of expression comes from the Lord”
2.	24.02.21	<b>The Social Analogy: Confession, Blessing, and Praise</b>
3.	03.03.21	<b>Sincerity, Spontaneity and Prescription in the Bible</b>
4.	10.03.21	<b>Midrash and Talmud: The Social Analogy and its Fissures</b>
5.	17.03.21	<b>The Paradoxes of Prayer</b>
6.	24.03.21	<b>“For Me or for God?” – From Philosophy to Kabbalah (1)</b>
		<b>Passover Break</b>
7.	21.04.21	<b>“For Me or for God?” – From Philosophy to Kabbalah (2)</b>
8.	28.04.21	<b>“Blessings and Prayers, Kiddushes and Havdalahs” – What are they and when are they from?</b>
9.	05.05.21	<b>“Blessings and Prayers, Kiddushes and Havdalahs” – How and why how did they emerge?</b>





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10.	12.05.21	"Better not to pray": The Rabbinic Dilemma of Kavvanah
11.	19.05.21	The Ideological Factor in Modern Jewish Prayer
12.	26.05.21	Self and Community in a Time of Pandemic

Lessons begin at 6 PM and end at 8:15

Tuition: NIS 240 for the general public/NIS 120 for members of Kehilat Hakerem  
The course will begin on Zoom only. If health restrictions ease later in the semester, hybrid classes will be held both on Zoom and at Kehilat Hakerem.

For further details and pre-registration: [midrasha@hakerem.net](mailto:midrasha@hakerem.net)

