

Witnesses to the One

Discussion Questions

- What are the different possible meanings of the word *hear*?
- Why is it important to try to understand what we are saying when we recite the *Sh'ma*?
- Discuss the original meaning of the *Sh'ma* as said by Moses. In what ways does his interpretation resonate with you today?
- What does it mean to say the *Sh'ma* as a protest to idolatry or oppression, like Akiba ben Joseph and others did? How is saying the *Sh'ma* related to facing death?
- How is the idea of God as Creator linked to the *Sh'ma*'s statement that God is One?
- How is God being One related to God being Unique (as Maimonides states)? Infinite (Haim Vital)? All-knowing (Moses Haim Luzzatto)?
- How can the Zionist belief in the oneness of the people Israel on one land be reconciled with the oneness of God?
- Leo Baeck felt that one God meant one moral standard for everyone, and Abraham Joshua Heschel once said, "There will either be one world or no world." How does the oneness of God imply the oneness of humanity?
- Which figures presented in this book are most meaningful to you? Why? Who, historically, has been missing from the writing of Jewish theology?