

# What Jews Believe

## Lesson Two: Torah

### Text 1

אני (*Ani*): א  
אנכי (*Anochi*): א

**אנא נפשי כתיבת יהבית**  
"I give you My soul in writing."

Rabbi Yochanan said, "[The word] *Anochi* [as used in Exodus 20:1] is an acronym for the phrase *Ana nafshi k'tavit yahavit* (I give you My soul in writing.)"

*(Talmud, Shabbat 105a)*

### Text 2

G-d spoke all these words, to respond: I am the Lord, your G-d, Who took you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

*(Exodus 20:1-2)*

### Text 3

...The Lord came from Sinai and shone forth from Seir to them; He appeared from Mount Paran and came with some of the holy myriads...

*(Deuteronomy 33:2)*

### Text 4

When God revealed Himself to give the Torah to Israel, He revealed Himself not only to Israel but to all the nations.

*(Sifri, Deuteronomy 343)*

### Questions for Discussion

1. In the previous lesson, we were introduced to the concept that G-d is "perfect existence" who desired a creation. How does this idea lead us to the idea that this same G-d also gave the Torah?
2. What does it mean to say that the Torah makes G-d "vulnerable" so to speak?
3. Are the commandments more for our benefit or more for G-d's own purposes? Defend your position.
4. What does it mean that G-d "revealed Himself" at Sinai? How is Torah a revelation?