

אֶדְנִי, שְׁפָתַי תִּפְתַּח,
וּפִי יַגִּיד תְּהִלָּתְךָ.

אֲדֹנָי שְׁפָתַי

אֲדֹנָי שְׁפָתַי is the first line of the Amidah. It is how we start off this 3rd section of

the prayer service and it is read/chanted immediately following the מִי כְמוֹכָה.

The congregation rises to begin the Amidah and recites the first line as one unit. As the line is being said it is traditional to take three steps backwards for the first three words, and then to take three steps forward or then one step forward for each of the final three words. After saying אֲדֹנָי שְׁפָתַי together in Hebrew the congregation repeats it together in English.

The choreography of this line is done in emulation of how one would approach a ruler with whom one wishes to speak. Thus, we show respect by initially retreating before the ruler (God) and then approaching. The line also makes it clear that God is forever and that we are asking God to allow us to declare God's glory.

Vocabulary and Translation

Adonai – אֲדֹנָי

And My Mouth – וּפְי

May Declare – יְגִיד

Past Roots

כ – ר – ב - Blessed -

ר – ח – ב - Choose -

ל – א - Root for names of God -

Eternal God, open my lips, that my mouth may declare Your glory.