**10 Fun Facts about *Ashrei***

1. If you are only saying one of the sections in *Pesukei D’Zimra,* this is the one.
2. We are taught that one who is careful to recite Ashrei three times a day is assured a place in the World to Come. This is because:
3. Each of the verses of Ashrei begins with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet in ascending order, something which is considered to be especially significant and auspicious.
4. The only exception to this is the letter *Nun* (נ) which does not appear at the start of any verse. This is because *Nun* is the first letter of the word *nefilla*, meaning “downfall” something which we do not wish to invoke. However, the next verse begins with the phrase *Somech Hashem L’chol Ha-Noflim* referring to God’s support for the fallen.
5. Ashrei contains the venerated verse of *Pote’iach et yadecha u’masbia lechol chai ratzon* – “You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing” which conveys God’s inherent role in the world which is to provide for the needs of all of His creations.
6. The opening phrase *Ashrei Yoshvei Vaitecha* - “Fortunate are the ones who sit in Your house” is the source of meditation before prayer. It is the source for the teaching that “The pious ones used to wait an hour before praying, pray for an hour, and wait for an hour after prayer.”
7. Each line in Ashrei is a combination of two statements connected by the letter *Vuv* (ו). The letter *Vuv* is the letter in God’s name that represents the connection between Heaven and Earth. Reciting Ashrei is meant to bring down that spiritual energy.
8. There are two verses that are an exception to the last rule. The line beginning with the letter *chet* (ח) andthe line beginning with the letter *Kuf* (ק)*.* There two letters together spell Chok (חק) which is a reference to things that are a “mystery” in this world.
9. Eleven of the phrases are spoken in second person- directly to Hashem. The other ten speak about Hashem in the third person. This represents our responsibility to balance love and awe of Hashem.
10. The last verses in Ashrei from the letter Samech (ס) and on, focus less on praising Hashem’s unfathomable greatness and more on our personal relationship with Hashem even during the hard times.