

אדון עולם - Adon Olam

Anonymous

About Adon Olam

Adon Olam is one of the most ancient Piyutim that is still widely known and sung throughout the communities of Israel. Some attribute this Piyut to R. Shlomo Ibn Gabirol (The Rashbag), although there is no proof that he is the author. It is customary to sing this Piyut before morning prayers.

Medieval rabbis regarded this poem with high esteem. Rabbi Yehudah the Pious of Germany wrote: "I guarantee that the prayers of one who says Adon Olam with attention are heard, and that Satan shall not act against his prayers... some say that even the evil inclination within him will reside and not entice him" (Sha'arei Tfilah 308:10b). The reason for this reverence can be attributed to the rare combination of the most important principles of faith with a sense of natural, emotional closeness to the Divine.

Hebrew Text

Adon olam asher malach

אֲדוֹן עוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר מָלַךְ

beterem kol yetzir nivra

בְּטֶרֶם כָּל יִצִּיר נִבְרָא

Le'et na'asah becheftzo kol

לְעֵת נַעֲשֶׂה בְּחִפְצוֹ כָּל

azai melech shemo nikra

אֲזִי מֶלֶךְ שְׁמוֹ נִקְרָא

Ve'acharei kichlot hakol

וְאַחֲרֵי כְּכֻלּוֹת הַכֹּל

levado yimloch nora

לְבַדּוֹ יִמְלֹךְ נוֹרָא

Vehu haya vehu hoveh

וְהוּא הָיָה וְהוּא הוֹבֵה

vehu yih'yeh betifara

וְהוּא יִהְיֶה בְּתִפְאָרָה

Vehu echad ve'eyn sheni

וְהוּא אֶחָד וְאֵין שֵׁנִי

lehamshil lo lehachbira

לְהַמְשִׁילוֹ וּלְהַחֲבִירָה

Beli reshit beli tachlit

בְּלִי רֵאשִׁית בְּלִי תַּכְלִית

velo ha'oz vehamisra

וְלֹא הָעֵז וְהַמְשָׁרָה

Beli erech beli dimyon

בְּלִי עֶרֶךְ בְּלִי דִּמְיוֹן

beli shinuy u'tmura

בְּלִי שִׁנוּי וְתִמְרוֹה

Beli chibur beli perud

בְּלִי חִבּוּר בְּלִי פְרוּד

gedol koach u'gevura

גָּדֹל כֹּחַ וְגִבּוּרָה

Vehu Eli vechai go'ali

וְהוּא אֱלִי וְחַי גּוֹאֲלִי

vetzur chevli be'yom tzara

וְצוּר חֶבְלֵי בְּיוֹם צָרָה

Vehu nisi umanosi

וְהוּא נָסִי וּמָנוּסִי

menat kosi beyom ekra

מִנַּת כּוֹסֵי בְּיוֹם אֶקְרָא

Vehu rofeh vehu marpeh

וְהוּא רוֹפֵא וְהוּא מַרְפֵּא

vehu tzofeh vehu ezra

וְהוּא צוֹפֶה וְהוּא עֲזָרָה

Beyado afkid ruchy

בְּיָדוֹ אֶפְקִיד רוּחִי

be'et ishan ve'a'ira

בְּעֵת אִישׁוֹן וְאַעֲיִרָה

Ve'im ruchy geviyati

וְעַם רוּחִי גִוִּיתִי

Adonay li velo ira

אֲדֹנָי לִי וְלֹא אִירָא

Bemikdasho tagel nafshi

בְּמִקְדָּשׁוֹ תִּגַּל נַפְשִׁי

meshichenu yishlach meherah

מְשִׁיחֵנוּ יִשְׁלַח מְהֵרָה

ve'az nashir b'vet kodshi

וְאֵז נָשִׁיר בְּבֵית קֹדְשִׁי

amen amen shem hanorah

אָמֵן אָמֵן שֵׁם הַנּוֹרָא

English Translation

Lord of the world who reigned

Before any creature came to be

By Your will all things were made

And then You were called our King.

And when all has ceased to exist

You alone, revered, will reign

You have been, and you still are,
And in your majesty you will be.

You are One -- there is no other
Who might ever approach your grandeur.
Without beginning and without end,
Strength and dominion belong to you.

Beyond imagining, beyond measure,
Unchanging and beyond compare
Set apart, yet utterly whole,
And wondrous in your might and power.

You are my God, my Redeemer lives
You are a Rock in my hour of despair.
You are my banner, You are my refuge,
You are my sustenance when I call.

You are the healer and You are the balm,
You keep watch and come to my aid.

And in Your hand I place my soul
When i sleep and when I wake.
As my spirit dwells in my body,
God is with me -- I will not fear.

In your abode my soul will rejoice,
For our redeemer is on the way
And in the Temple, on that day we will sing
The awesome Name.