

אגדלך - Agadelcha

R. Abraham Ibn Ezra

About the Piyut

Agadelcha, written by the poet Abraham Ibn Ezra, is a deeply personal expression of faith, humility, and praise. In this Piyut, Ibn Ezra focuses on the power of singing in community as a pathway for connecting with the divine. *Agadelcha* is sung every Shabbat in the Aleppo tradition in a different melody according to the *maqam* of the particular Shabbat. It is also featured in the Babylonian and Moroccan practices of *bakashot*.

Agadelcha is widely known throughout the Jewish world by the more modern melody composed in the 20th century by Mordechai Khalfon, which captures the full range of emotions in the poem, from reverence, respect and feeling of insignificance, to praise, exultation, and joy.

Hebrew Text

Agadelcha elohey kol neshama

V'od'cha b'rov pachad v'eyma

B'omdi toch k'halcha tzur l'romem

l'cha echra v'achof rosh v'koma

R'ki-ey rom ha-lo nata b'mivta

V'ha'aretz y'sada al b'lima

Ha-yuchal ish chakor et sod y'tzaro

U'mi hu ze b'chol kedma v'yama

M'romem hu alei kol peh v'lashon

Asher hifli v'asa kol b'choch'ma

V'yitgadal b'goy kadosh v'elyon

V'yitkadash sh'meya raba b'alma

אֶגְדֹּלְךָ אֱלֹהֵי כָל נִשְׁמָה

וְאוֹדְךָ בְּרַב פַּחַד וְאֵימָה

בְּעַמְדִּי תוֹךְ קִהְלְךָ צוּר לְרוֹמֵם

לְךָ אֶכְרַע וְאֶכְפֹּף רֹאשׁ וְקוֹמָה

רְקִיעֵי רוֹם הֵלֹא נָטָה בְּמִבְטָא

וְהָאָרֶץ יִסְדָּה עַל בְּלִימָה

הַיּוֹכֵל אִישׁ חֶקוֹר אֶת סוֹד יִצְרוֹ

וּמִי הוּא זֶה בְּכָל קִדְמָה וְיָמָה

מְרוֹמֵם הוּא עָלֵי כָל פֶּה וְלָשׁוֹן

אֲשֶׁר הִפְלִיא וַעֲשָׂה כָל בְּחֻכְמָה

וַיִּתְגַּדֵּל בְּגוֹי קָדוֹשׁ וְעֶלְיוֹן

וַיִּתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵיהּ רַבָּא בְּעֶלְמָא

English Translation

I will praise You, God of all souls
And I will thank you with great fear and awe.
As I stand among your worshipers, Lord, and exalt you
Before you I will kneel and bow head and body.
The high heavens - has God not stretched them forth with speech?
And earth founded upon nothingness.
Can a man explore the secret of his Creator?
And who is God at the far ends of the East and the West?
God is exalted by every mouth and tongue
God who did wonders, and has done all with wisdom.
God's name will be magnified among the holy nation.
May God's name be sanctified in the world!

Recording by Jeanette Rothstein-Yehudayan