

אמר ה' ליעקב - Amar Adonai LeYa'akov

Anonymous

About the Piyut

This piyut, which marks the conclusion of and farewell to the day of Shabbat (Motzai Shabbat), is sung throughout the Jewish world. The first half of each stanza quotes a different verse of blessing, comfort and consolation that speaks of Jacob, while the second half is a responsive, repetitive proclamation: "fear not, my servant Jacob". The piyut contains an alphabetical acrostic. Jacob is the progenitor and as such the symbol of the Jewish people. By combining verses from across the bible the author creates an intricate fabric of statements, promises and words of comfort that are meant to build up and elevate of the persecuted Jewish nation. Maybe this is the reason it is sung at the end of the Shabbat when the relative calm and refuge are over and people start preparing for the dreadful routine of the weekdays.

Hebrew Text

<i>Amar Adonay leYaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תירא עבדי יַעֲקֹב	אָמַר ה' לַיַּעֲקֹב
<i>Bachar Adonay beYaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תירא עבדי יַעֲקֹב	בָּחַר ה' בַּיַּעֲקֹב
<i>Ga'al Adonay et Yaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תירא עבדי יַעֲקֹב	גָּאֵל ה' אֶת יַעֲקֹב
<i>Darach kochav mi Yaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תירא עבדי יַעֲקֹב	דֶּרֶךְ כּוֹכֵב מִיַּעֲקֹב
<i>Haba'im yashresh Yaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תירא עבדי יַעֲקֹב	הַבָּאִים יִשְׁרֹשׁ יַעֲקֹב
<i>Veyerd miYaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תירא עבדי יַעֲקֹב	וַיֵּרֶד מִיַּעֲקֹב
<i>Zechor eleh leYaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תירא עבדי יַעֲקֹב	זִכֹּר אֱלֹה [זאת]
<i>Chedvat yeshuot Yaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תירא עבדי יַעֲקֹב	חֲדוּת יְשׁוּעוֹת יַעֲקֹב
<i>Tovu ohalecha Yaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תירא עבדי יַעֲקֹב	טוֹבוֹ אוֹהֲלֶיךָ יַעֲקֹב
<i>Yoru mishpatecha leYaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תירא עבדי יַעֲקֹב	יֹרוּ מִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ לַיַּעֲקֹב
<i>Ki lo nachash beYaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תירא עבדי יַעֲקֹב	כִּי לֹא נָחַשׁ בַּיַּעֲקֹב
<i>Lo hibit aven beYaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תירא עבדי יַעֲקֹב	לֹא הִבִּיט אָוֶן בַּיַּעֲקֹב
<i>Mi mana afar Yaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תירא עבדי יַעֲקֹב	מִי מִנָּה אֶפֶר יַעֲקֹב

<i>Nishba Adonay leYaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תִּירָא עֲבָדֵי יַעֲקֹב	נִשְׁבַּע ה' לַיַּעֲקֹב
<i>Slach na le'avon Yaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תִּירָא עֲבָדֵי יַעֲקֹב	סָלַח נָא לְעוֹן יַעֲקֹב
<i>Ata hashev shevut Yaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תִּירָא עֲבָדֵי יַעֲקֹב	עֲתָה הֲשֵׁב שְׁבוּת יַעֲקֹב
<i>Padah Adonay el Yaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תִּירָא עֲבָדֵי יַעֲקֹב	פָּדָה ה' אֶת יַעֲקֹב
<i>Tzaveh yeshuot Yaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תִּירָא עֲבָדֵי יַעֲקֹב	צִוָּה יְשׁוּעוֹת יַעֲקֹב
<i>Kol kol Yaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תִּירָא עֲבָדֵי יַעֲקֹב	קוֹל קוֹל יַעֲקֹב
<i>Roni ve'simchi le Yaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תִּירָא עֲבָדֵי יַעֲקֹב	רָנִי וְשִׁמְחִי לַיַּעֲקֹב
<i>Shav Adonay et shvut Yaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תִּירָא עֲבָדֵי יַעֲקֹב	שָׁב ה' אֶת שְׁבוּת יַעֲקֹב
<i>Shav Adonay et shvut Yaakov, Al tirah avdi Yaakov</i>	אל תִּירָא עֲבָדֵי יַעֲקֹב	תֵּתֵן אֶמֶת לַיַּעֲקֹב

English Translation

God said to Yaakov	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
God chose Yaakov	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
A star will emerge from Yaakov	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
In Days to come Yaakov will strike roots	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
A ruler will arise from Yaakov	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
Remember these things for Yaakov	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
Remember these things for Yaakov	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
Delight will come with the salvations of Yaakov	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
Your tents are good Yaakov	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
They shall teach your ordinances to Yaakov	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
For there is no sorcery in Yaakov	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
He perceives no wrong in Yaakov	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
Who can count the dust of Yaakov	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
God made a vow to Yaakov	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
Please forgive the transgression of Yaakov	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
Bring back Yaakov from captivity now	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
God has redeemed Yaakov	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
Command salvation for Yaakov	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
The voice is the voice of Yaakov	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
Sing and be joyous for Yaakov	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
God has brought back Yaakov from captivity	Fear not, My servant Yaakov
Grant truth to Yaakov	Fear not, My servant Yaakov

Recording from the Iraqi tradition by the Piyut North America Ensemble