

## אשורר שירה - I Will Compose Songs R. Rafael Baruch Toledano

### About the Piyut

This Piyut of praise for the Torah is amongst the better known Piyutim of our recent generation. This relatively young Piyut was composed by Rabbi Rafael Baruch Toledano, a prominent Moroccan leader who strove to strengthen the identity of the Israeli Moroccan community. The catchy text and tune led to it's popularity amongst many communities. It is especially sung on holidays that celebrate the Torah such as *Shavuot* (the celebration of receiving the Torah) and *Simchat Torah* (the day when the annual reading of the Torah is completed).

### Hebrew Text

Ashorer shira lichvod ha-Torah

אֲשׁוֹרֵר שִׁירָה לְכַבּוֹד הַתּוֹרָה

Mi-paz y'kara zaka u-vara

מִפֶּז יִקְרָה זָכָה וְבָרָה

Ne'eman sh'mo bachar b'-amo

נֶאֱמַן שְׁמוֹ בָּחַר בְּעַמּוֹ

Lihiyot li li-sh'mo uma niv'chara

לִהְיוֹת לִי לִשְׁמוֹ אִמָּה נִבְחָרָה

Nigla bi-ch'vodo al sinai hodo

נִגְלָה בְּכַבְדּוֹ, עַל סִינֵי הוֹדוֹ

Kara l'-avdo, l'kabel Torah

קָרָא לְעַבְדּוֹ, לְקַבֵּל תּוֹרָה

Nitna lanu al yad ro'einu

נִתְּנָה לָנוּ עַל יַד רוֹעֵינוּ

Moshe rabeinu b'chir ha-uma

מֹשֶׁה רַבֵּנוּ בְּחִיר הָאִמָּה

Ne'eman beito hibit bi-d'muto

נֶאֱמַן בֵּיתוֹ הִבִּיט בְּדַמּוּתוֹ

Gam n'vuato mar'a me'ira

גַּם נִבְּוֵאתוֹ מֵרָאָה מְאִירָה

Yismach yisrael b'-ahavat El

יִשְׂמַח יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאַהֲבַת אֵל

Ki hu manchil El lomdei Torah

כִּי הוּא מַנְחִיל אֶל לּוֹמְדֵי תּוֹרָה

Ashrei ha-gever al yitzro gover

אֲשֶׁרִי הַגֵּבֵר עַל יִצְרוֹ גּוֹבֵר

Meisharim dover bocher ba-Torah

Raba ne'ima Torah t'mima

Peti machkima ayin me'ira

מישרים דובר בוחר בתורה

רבה נעימה תורה תמימה

פתי מחכימה עין מאירה

## English Translation

I will compose songs to honor the Torah

More precious than gold, bright and pure

The Faithful One chose His nation

To be His nation chosen for His name

He revealed his majesty at Sinai in his glory

He called His servant to receive the Torah

It was given to us by our shepherd

Our teacher, Moses, chosen one of the nation

Faithful in His house, he saw His image

His prophesy was a clear vision

Let Israel rejoice in God's love

He gives inheritance to those who learn Torah

Fortunate is the one who overcomes his inclination

Speaks the truth, chooses the Torah

The perfect Torah is very delightful

Making fools wise, lighting up eyes

*Translation by Abigail Denemark*

**Recording from the Hazmana L'Piyut website**