

## אילת חן - Ayelet Chen R. Shalom Shabazi

### About the Piyut

This wedding Piyut from the Yemenite tradition is traditionally sung by the community as the groom was escorted from the synagogue to his home during the seven days of the marriage celebration (the *Sheva Brachot* or Seven Blessings). The entire community would participate in the singing as a part of the celebration. In modern day Israel, this song is mostly sung on Shabbat mornings, following the *Shacharit* prayers while the congregation leads the groom to his home. It is also sung during the marriage ceremony, under the *chuppah*.

### Hebrew Text

Ayelet chen b'galut tis'm'cheini / U-valaila b'toch cheika m'loni	ובלילה בתוך חיקה מלוני	אילת חן בגלות תסמכני
L'chos yeyna ani tamid m'zuman / v'-nit'arav chamad yeyna b'-yeyni	ונתערב חמד יינה בייני	לכוס יינה אני תמיד מזומן
Sh'tu dodim l'umati v'-shichru / v'-hairu l'sechek ra'ayonai	והעירו לשכל רעיוני	שתו דודים לעומתי ושכרו
B'-heychal bat m'lachim ha-k'vuda / v'-shulchana m'zuman la-hamoni	ושולחנה מזומן להמוני	בהיכל בת מלכים הקבדה
z'man hifrid l'chol re'im v'dodim / aval dodi b'-ahava yimsh'cheini	אבל דודי באהבה ימשכני	זמן הפריד לכל רעים ודודים
Y'kasher chen v'-chesed al g'veret / b'-ma'agal chen v'-chesed yizk'reini	במעגל חן וחסד יזכרני	יְקַשֵּׁר חן וחסד על גברת
M'farshez ba'anan avei sh'chakim / l'-ra'ayati v'-hi tafik r'tzoni	לרעיתי והיא תפיק רצוני	מפרשז בענו עבי שחקים
Sh'areyha chamushim hem k'vuim / z'chut Leah b'vina tis'adeini	זכות לאה בביתה תסעדני	שעריה חמשים הם קבועים
T'orer ahavat Rachel l'-vanim / b'-sod malchut asirit ta'aleini	בסוד מלכות עשירית תעלני	תעורר אהבת רחל לבני
Elokim chish l'amcha y'shua / b'et ratzon t'tzach'tze'ach g'roni	בעת רצון תצחצח גרוני	אלקים חיש לעמך ישועה
Sh'lumey lev b'rov shalom t'sovev / b'ney ish tam s'gulat av hamoni	בני איש תם סגולת אב המוני	שלומי לב ברוב שלום תסובב

## English Translation

A graceful doe supports me in exile  
And here in her bosom she'll lodge me.  
To drink from her cup I am always prepared,  
She mingles her wine with my lees.  
Before me, my friends, drink and be drunk,  
Rouse the reason that's sleeping within me.  
There in her palace sits the daughter of kings,  
Her table ready for those who are with me.  
For every lover there comes a time to part,  
But with ardor my love shall recall me.  
He adorns his lady with grace and with kindness,  
In paths of grace and of kindness he leads me.  
For my beloved I spread out the clouds of the heavens,  
My desire she never denies me.  
Fifty are her gates, solid and firm, and with  
The favor of Leah her wisdom sustains me.  
She arouses Rachel's love for her children,  
Unto the tenth kingdom's secret she'll raise me.  
God, hasten to bring unto thine people salvation,  
And may my tongue be made pure within me.  
Thy great peace shall encompass those whole of heart,  
The sons of the pure man, a charm unto thee.

**Recording by Shulamit Levi**