

## אל אדון - El Adon

### Anonymous

#### About the Piyut

One of the most ancient poems known to us, which is assumed to have been written between the 2nd and 4th century in Israel. Like other ancient poems it does not rhyme and its structure resembles closely that of certain psalms. It contains an alphabetical acrostic with two letters of the aleph-bet in each stanza. The poem revolves around the description of the creator exulted by all creation but most specifically by the heavenly bodies - the sun and the moon - and the heavenly creatures - angels, seraphim, cherubim, etc. It is located in the first blessing before the Shabbat morning Sh'ma, naturally continuing the theme of the opening prayer of the Sh'ma section: "Blessed are You God, our Lord, Master of the universe, who created light and crafted darkness, made peace and fashioned all things".

it to a higher spiritual level.

#### Hebrew Text

<i>El adon al kol ha-ma'asim / Baruch u-m'vorach b'fi kol ha-n'shama</i>	בְּרוּךְ וּמְבֹרָךְ בְּפִי כָל הַנְּשָׁמָה	אֵל אֲדוֹן עַל כָּל הַמַּעֲשִׂים
<i>Godlo v-tuvo maleh olam / Da'at u-t'vuna sov'vim hodo</i>	דַּעַת וּתְבוּנָה סוֹבְבִים הוֹדוֹ	גָּדְלוֹ וְטוּבוֹ מָלֵא עוֹלָם
<i>Ha-mitga'eh al chayot ha-kodesh / V'nehedar b'chavod al hamerkava</i>	וְנִהְדָּר בְּכָבוֹד עַל הַמֶּרְכָּבָה	הַמִּתְגַּאֵה עַל חַיּוֹת הַקֹּדֶשׁ
<i>Z'chut u-mishor lifnei chis'o / Chesed v-rachamim maleh kvodo</i>	חֶסֶד וְרַחֲמִים מָלֵא כְבוֹדוֹ	זְכוּת וּמִישׁוֹר לִפְנֵי כְסָאוֹ
<i>Tovim m'orot shebar'am Elokeinu / Yatzram b'da'at b'vina u-v'haskel</i>	יֵצְרָם בְּדַעַת בְּבִינָה וּבְהַשְׁכֵּל	טוֹבִים מְאֹרֹת שֶׁבָּרָאם אֱלֹקֵינוּ
<i>Koach u-g'vura natan bahem / Lihiyot moshlim b-kerev tevel</i>	לִהְיוֹת מוֹשְׁלִים בְּקֶרֶב תֵּבֵל	כֹּחַ וְגִבּוּרָה נָתַן בָּהֶם
<i>M'le'im ziv u-m'fikim noga / Na'eh zivam b-chol ha-olam</i>	נָאֵה זִיוָם בְּכָל הָעוֹלָם	מְלֵאִים זִיו וּמְפִיקִים נֹגֵה
<i>S'mechim b'tzetam sasim b'voam / Osim b-eyma r'tzon konam</i>	עוֹשִׂים בְּאִמָּה רְצוֹן קוֹנֵיָהֶם	שְׂמֵחִים בְּצִאתָם שְׂשִׁים בְּבוֹאָם

*P'er v'chavod notnim lish'mo / tzahala v-  
rina l-zecher malchuto*

צִהְלָה וְרָנָה לְזֵכֶר מַלְכוּתוֹ

פָּאָר וְכְבוֹד נוֹתָנִים לְשִׁמּוֹ

*Kara lashemesh vayizrach or / Ra'a v'hitkin  
tzurat ha-l'vana*

רָאָה וְהִתְקִין צוּרַת הַלְבָנָה

קָרָא לְשֶׁמֶשׁ וַיִּזְרַח אוֹר

*Shevach notnim lo kol tz'va marom /  
Tiferet u-g'dula serafim v-chayot v-ofanei  
ha-kodesh*

תִּפְאָרֶת וְגִדְלָה שְׂרָפִים וְחַיּוֹת  
וְאוֹפְנֵי הַקֹּדֶשׁ

שֶׁבַח נוֹתָנִים לוֹ כָּל צָבָא מְרוֹם

## English Translation

God master of all creations  
Blessed and praised by every soul  
His greatness and goodness fill the universe  
Knowledge and wisdom surround Him  
He is exalted above the celestial beings  
And adorned in honor above the chariot  
Virtue and honesty stand before His throne  
Grace and Mercy are abundant in Him  
Good are the luminaries created by our God  
Crafted with knowledge, wisdom, and insight  
Strength and might He placed in them  
to reign over the universe  
Full of brilliance they radiate brightness  
Beautiful is their brilliance throughout the world  
They rejoice in their rising and delight in their setting  
Performing with reverence the will of their Creator  
Glory and honor do they give to His name  
Revelry and song for His Majesty  
He called forth the sun and it shone light  
He saw fit to regulate the form of the moon  
All the hosts of heaven gave Him praise  
Serafim, Ophanim, and Celestial Beings  
attribute magnificence and greatness

**Recording by the Piyut North America ensemble**