

## אל חביבי - El Havivi Asher Mizrachi

### About the Piyut

This Passover song is traditional amongst the Jewish community of Khaleb. The words were composed by Asher Mizrachi and the melody is by Rachamim Amar. Many songs by this duo have become an important part of the Sephardi-Jerusalemite Piyut repertoire, and some have gained a place amongst other communities as well. In this Piyut, the author refers to God with words of endearing closeness. He repeatedly requests that the Almighty should have compassion for and redeem his people. The repetition of the chorus — 'God, my beloved, God, please' — emphasizes the sense of a deep and personal request.

### Hebrew Text

<i>El, havivi, Yah, ana / b'-naim hoshiveini na</i>	בְּנַעִים הוֹשִׁיבֵנִי נָא	אֵל, חֲבִיבִי, יְהִי, אָנָּה
<i>El, lim'oni b'-moado / yir'eh v'-y'galeh ch'vodo</i>	יִרְאֶה וַיְגַלֶּה כְּבוֹדוֹ	אֵל, לְמַעֲוֹנִי בְּמוֹעֲדוֹ
<i>Yom'ru ha-m'yachalim l'chasadav / eyn bil'adav</i>	אֵין בִּלְעָדוֹ	יֹאמְרוּ הַמַּיְחָלִים לְחֶסֶדּוֹ
<i>T'rivun al ma im'di / lo tochlu amod negdi</i>	לֹא תוֹכְלוּ עִמָּדִי נִגְדִי	תִּרְיֹבֻן עַל מָה עִמָּדִי
<i>Eli magen ba'adi / b'et tzara eyn bil'ado</i>	בְּעֵת צָרָה אֵין בִּלְעָדוֹ	אֵלִי מָגֵן בְּעֵדִי
<i>Adati b'-Nissan nig'alu / amim bifneyhem nafalu</i>	עַמִּים בִּפְנֵיהֶם נָפְלוּ	עַדְתִּי בְּנִיסָן נִגְאָלוּ
<i>Ra'adu v'-gam nivhalu / tamu, kalu</i>	תָּמוּ, כָּלוּ	רָעְדוּ וְגַם נִבְהָלוּ
<i>Miyalduti ahavtani / yom va-leyl lo azavtani</i>	יוֹם וָלַיִל לֹא עֲזַבְתָּנִי	מִיִּלְדוּתִי אֶהְבַּתָּנִי
<i>Ata l'mafriya samtani / beyn amim chusa na</i>	בֵּין עַמִּים חוֹסֶה נָא	עַתָּה לְמַפְרִיעַ שְׁמַתָּנִי

### English Translation

God, my beloved, God, please  
Settle me in pleasantness  
God, to my dwelling at the right time  
Will appear and reveal his glory  
Those who hope for His mercy will say  
"There is none but Him"  
Why do you fight with me?  
You will not be able to stand before me

My God is a shield around me  
In troubled times there is none but Him  
My people were redeemed in Nisan  
Nations fell before them  
They shook and were frightened  
They were finished, destroyed  
You have loved me from my youth  
Day and night You have not left me  
Now You have set me to distress  
Among the nations—Have mercy please

*Translation by Abigail Denmark*

**[Recording by Moshe Habusha](#)**