

פליאה - Peliah

Psalm 139:6-8

About the Piyut

This Piyut is comprised of three verses from Psalm 139. It's melody was brought to Israel by Rabbi Eliyahu Ki-Tov, author of *Sefer Ha-Toda'ah* (The Book of our Heritage). In some communities it is common to sing this Piyut before the blowing of the *shofar* during Rosh HaShanah. The text itself describes the ability of G-d to know the human soul and emotions to it's deepest depths. Humans, as described here, are awash with amazement and enlightenment when in the presence of such infinite knowledge. This Piyut served as an inspiration for many other Piyutim throughout the ages, the most famous of which are 'Keter Malchut', by Rabbi Shlomo Ibn Gavirol and 'Ana Elech M'-Ruchacha', by Rabbi Israel Najara.

Hebrew Text

Peliah da'at mimeni nisgeva lo uchal la

פְּלִיָּאָה דַּעַת מִמֶּנִּי נִשְׁגָּבָה לֹא-אוּכַל לָהּ.

Ana elech m'ruchacha v'-ana mipanecha evrach

אָנָּה אֵלֶיךָ מְרוּיָּחֶךָ וְאָנָּה מִפְּנֵיךָ אֲבָרַח.

Im esak shamayim sham ata v'-atziya sh'ol hinchu

אִם אֶסֶק שָׁמַיִם שָׁם אַתָּה וְאֶצִּיעָה שְׂאוֹל הִנְךָ

English Translation

Knowledge is too wondrous for me, high above—I cannot attain it.
Where can I go from Your spirit, and where from before You flee?
If I soar to the heavens, You are there, if I bed down in Sheol—there You are.

[Recording by the Ben-Arza Family](#)