

שלום לך דודי - Shalom Lecha Dodi

R. Solomon Ibn Gabirol

About the Piyut

This Piyut was authored by Rabbi Solomon Ibn Gabirol, one of the great *Paytanim* (liturgical poets) of 11th century Spain. The poem is traditionally sung in almost all of the Sephardic communities — amongst the *baqashot* tradition of Moroccan Jews and the *Hoshana Rabah* readings of Babylonian Jewry, to name a few. The Piyut tells a tale of love and pining of the children of Israel for God, based upon the Song of Songs.

Hebrew Text

<i>Shalom lecha dodi / Ha-tzach v'-ha-admon</i>	הצח והאדמון	שלום לך דודי
<i>Shalom lecha me'et / raka ch'mo rimon</i>	רקה כמו רמון	שלום לך מאת
<i>Likrat achotcha rutz / tzeh na l'-hoshi'a</i>	צא נא להושיעה	לקראת אחותך רוצ
<i>U'-tzlach k'ven Yishai / rabat b'nei Ammon</i>	רבת בני עמון	וצלח כבן ישי
<i>Ma lach y'feyfiya / ki t'oreri ahava</i>	כי תעוררי אהבה	מה לך יפהפיה
<i>U'-t'tzaltzeli kolech / ka-me'il b'-kol pa'amon</i>	במעיל בקול פעמון	ותצלצלי קולך
<i>Ha-et asher tachpotz / ahava achishena</i>	אהבה אחישנה	העת אשר תחפוץ
<i>Itah v'-alayich ered k'tal Chermon</i>	ארד כטל חרמון	עתה ועליך

English Translation

Greetings, Beloved	White and ruddy
Greetings to you from	The one with pomegranate temples
Run to greet your sister	Go and save her now!
Conquer as Jesse's son	The thousands of Ammonites
Why, O beautiful one	Why do you incite love
And make your voice ring out	Like the robe adorned with bells?
When you desire it	I will hasten love
In its time, and upon you	I will descend like the dew of Hermon

Translated by Abigail Denemark

Recording by Jo Amar