

## רפא צירי - Shefal Ruach

*R. Solomon Ibn Gavirol*

### About the Piyut

Shefal Ruach, written by the prolific poet Solomon Ibn Gabirol, is a deeply personal Piyut that opens the morning service on the second day of Rosh Hashanah in most Sephardic and Mizrahi communities. The poem describes an individual, standing before the Creator in prayer, reflecting on the finite nature of human existence, as compared to the limitlessness of the divine.

### Hebrew Text

<i>Sh'fal ruach sh'fal berech v'-koma / akadmach b'-rov pachad v'-eyma</i>	אֶקְדַּמְךָ בְּרֹב פַּחַד וְאֵימָה	שֶׁפַל רוּחַ שֶׁפַל בְּרַךְ וְקוֹמָה
<i>L'fanecha ani nechshav b'-eynai / k'-tola'at k'tana ba-adama</i>	כְּתוֹלַעַת קִטְנָה בְּאֶדְמָה	לִפְנֶיךָ אֲנִי נֹחֵשֵׁב בְּעֵינַי
<i>M'lo olam asher eyn ketz l'god'lo / ha-chamoni y'halelcha u'-vama</i>	הַכֹּמֵנִי יְהַלֵּלְךָ וּבְמָה	מִלֵּא עוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר אֵין קֵץ לְגִדְלוֹ
<i>Hadarcha lo y'chilun mal'achey rum / v'-al achat ani kama v'-chama</i>	וְעַל אַחַת אֲנִי כְּמָה וְכְמָה	הַדָּרְךָ לֹא יִכִּילוֹן מַלְאָכֵי רוּם
<i>Hetivota v'-higdalta chasadim / l'cha tagdil l'hodot kol neshama</i>	לְךָ תִּגְדִּיל לְהוֹדוֹת כָּל נִשְׁמָה	הַטִּיבוֹתָ וְהִגְדַּלְתָּ חֲסָדִים
<i>[Ashacher el b'reshit ra'ayonai / asher li-shmo t'halel kol neshama]</i>	אֲשֶׁר לְשִׁמוֹ תִּהְלַל כָּל נִשְׁמָה	[אֲשַׁחַר אֶל בְּרֵאשִׁית רְעִיוֹנִי]

### English Translation

Humble of spirit, humble the knee, and statue	I approach you with much fear and awe.
In front of You, I consider myself	Like a worm, small in the ground.
You fill the world, there is no end to Your greatness,	Can one like me praise you? And with what?
The path in not sufficient for angels on high	And for myself, how much more so.
You have brought good and magnified mercies,	Wherefore the soul shall magnify your praise

Recording by the Ha-Madregot Band