

שבח אל חי - Shevach El Chai

R. Shalom Shabazi

About the Piyut

This Piyut is was authored by the great Yemenite Rabbi Shalom Shabazi. This can be seen by his signature acronym — each verse is headed by a letter of his full name (Shalom ben Yosef). In Yemenite Jewish tradition this Piyut is sung on the eve of the Sabbath. This being said, the Piyut can be and is sung at various other occasions and events. The text includes words of praise for Adonai, as well as a request for redemption and peace.

Hebrew Text

<i>Sh'vach El chai / asher bara kol chai</i>	אֲשֶׁר בָּרָא לְכָל חַי	שֶׁבַח אֵל חַי
<i>U-malchuto adei netzach netzachim</i>		וּמַלְכוּתוֹ עַדִּי נֶצַח נְצָחִים
<i>L'shoni dibra / bi-sh'vach v'-zimra</i>	בְּשֶׁבַח וְזִמְרָה	לְשׁוֹנִי דִבְרָה
<i>V'-h nora aley chol ha-sh'vachim</i>		וְהוּא נֹרָא עָלֵי כָל הַשֶּׁבָּחִים
<i>M'nat nafshi / v'-sichli ha-enoshi</i>	וְשִׁכְלִי הָאֲנוּשִׁי	מִנַּת נַפְשִׁי
<i>V'-chilyotai aley chasdo b'tuchim</i>		וְכִלְיוֹתַי עָלֵי חֶסֶדּוֹ בְּטוּחִים
<i>B'-sod libi / v'-sarafai b'-kirbi</i>	וְשִׁרְעַפִּי בְּקִרְבִּי	בְּסוּד לִבִּי
<i>Ehodenu v'-ra'ayonai s'mechim</i>		אֶהְדְּנוּ וְרַעֲיוֹנֵי שְׂמֵחִים
<i>N'hog avdach / adon olam b'-chasdach</i>	אֲדוֹן עוֹלָם בְּחֶסֶדְךָ	נְהַג עֲבָדְךָ
<i>V'-sameach l'avot ne'enachim</i>		וְשִׂמַּח לְבָבוֹת נֶאֱנָחִים
<i>Yeshua tish'l'cha / livney menucha</i>	לְבֵנֵי מְנוּחָה	יְשׁוּעָה תִּשְׁלַחַה
<i>V'-taskilem b'chol sodot n'chochim</i>		וְתִשְׁכִּילֵם בְּכָל סוּדוֹת נְכוּחִים
<i>V'-hachisha / l'-vat galim d'rusha</i>	לְבַת גָּלִים דְּרוּשָׁה	וְהַחִישָׁה
<i>P'deh laisha n'duda ba-p'tachim</i>		פָּדָה לִישָׁה נְדוּדָה בַּפְּתָחִים
<i>S'lach pish'a / v'-hachisha l'yisha</i>	וְהַחִישָׁה לִישָׁעָה	סָלַח פִּשְׁעָה
<i>V'-hadricha l'-halach ba-r'vachim</i>		וְהַדְרִיכָה לְהֵלֵךְ בְּרוּחִים
<i>P'deh u-z'chor / z'chut melech m'charker</i>	זְכוּת מֶלֶךְ מְכַרְכֵּר	פָּדָה וְזָכַר
<i>L'-mul aron v'-gam zevach z'vachim</i>		לְמוֹל אֲרוֹן וְגַם זֶבַח זְבָחִים
<i>Sh'lomcha tzach / y'chayenu la-netzach</i>	יְחִינּוּ לְנֶצַח	שְׁלוֹמְךָ צַח
<i>Ki-tz'li av m'dubakim v'-nachim</i>		כִּצְלִי עַב מְדַבְּקִים וְנָחִים

English Translation

Praise the living God	Who created all that lives
His kingship is eternal	
My tongue speaks	With praise and song
And His awe is above all praises	
The portion of my soul	And my human understanding
My innards trust in his kindness	
In my innermost heart	The cares within me
I acknowledge Him & my inner thoughts rejoice	
Lead your servant	Master of the world, in your kindness
Make the sighing hearts rejoice	
Send salvation	To those you have given a haven
Make them wise in the present secrets	
And hasten	to Bat-Galim, Sought-Out
Redeem Laish from wandering at the entrances	
Forgive her sins	Hasten to save her
And lead her to walk in open spaces	
Redeem and remember	The merit of the king who danced
In front of the ark and also offered sacrifices	
Your peace, Dazzling One	Will sustain us forever
Like cloud shadows joined together at rest	

Translation by Abigail Denmark

Recording by Nissim Matari