

רפא צירי - Sukkah V'-Lulav

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About the Piyut

Sukkah V'-Lulav is a Kabbalistic Piyut, one of the central Piyutim for the holiday of *Sukkot* in various Sephardic communities. The Piyut was written by R. Moshe Adahan, the head of a Moroccan *Beit Din* (court) during the 17th and 18th centuries. It quickly became popular amongst all the Jewish communities of North Africa, as well as other Sephardic communities in the Mediterranean region. As a central Piyut for *Sukkot*, it has received many melodic settings. The poem describes the *mitzva* of the *Arba'at Ha-Minim* (the four species) and their various flavors and roles according to traditional Rabbinic teachings.

Hebrew Text

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| Sukkah v'-lulav l'-am s'gula / Yachad yaronu yis'u t'hila | יחד ירנו ישאו תהלה | סוכה ולולב לעם סגלה |
| El mi'-mitzrayim g'alanu / dibrot kod'sho hishmiyanu | דברות קדשו השמיענו | אל ממצרים גאלנו |
| Ananei chavod hikifunu / l'arba ruchot mata u'-mala | לארבע רוחות מטה ומעלה | ענני כבוד הקיפנו |
| Noam d'rachav lanu hodia / mi-ziv hadaro lanu hofia | מזיו הדרו לנו הופיע | נועם דרכיו לנו הודיע |
| Da'at yom l'-yom omer / da'at yachveh laila l'-laila | דעת יחיה לילה ללילה | דעת יום ליום אומר יביע |
| Yismach yisrael b'-tzel sukkato / yistofef yecheseh tachat evrato | יסתופף יחסה תחת אברתו | ישמח ישראל בצל סכתו |
| Ha-shem ki-chtavo v'-chikriyato / k'-misaper sukkah misparo alah | כמספר סכה מספרו עליה | השם ככתבו וכקריאתו |
| Meh atzmu razei lulav u-minav / v'-li ma yakru m'od inyanav | ולי מה יקרו מאד עניניו | מה עצמו רזי לולב ומיניו |
| Ash'rei t'hor lev hasam ra'ayonav / l'sod mitzvato hameulah | לסוד מצותו המעלה | אשרי טהור לב השם רעיוניו |
| Shem ben arba ba-lulav choneh / b-milui ha-hin bifratah tim'neh | במלוי ההי"ן בפרטיו תמנה | שם בן ארבע בלולב חונה |

*Nochach ha-lulav la-shidra tifneh /
s'vivav minav goren agulah*

סְבִיבֵי מִיָּנִי גֵרֶן עֲגֻלָּה

נוֹכַח הַלּוּלָב לְשִׁדְרָה תִּפְנֶה

*He-hadas romez lishlosa avot /
Moshe Aharon badei aravot*

מֹשֶׁה אַהֲרֹן בְּדֵי עֲרֻבוֹת

הֶהָדַס רוֹמֵז לְשִׁלּוּשֵׁי אָבוֹת

*Yosef la-lulav chemdat l'vavot /
David etrog kala k'lula*

דָּוִד לְאַתְרוֹג כָּלָה כְּלוּלָה

יוֹסֵף לְלוּלָב חֶמְדַּת לְבָבוֹת

*Chotam t'uda tatir l'-vincha /
zeved tov tivbod l'-am lach*

זָבֵד טוֹב תִּזְבֹּד לְעַם לְךָ

חוֹתָם תַּעֲוֶדָה תִּתִּיר לְבִנְךָ

*Koreh u-meyachel li-y'shuatcha /
yitkadash shimcha b'-finu selah*

יִתְקַדֵּשׁ שִׁמְךָ בְּפִינוּ סֵלָה

קוֹרָא וּמֵיחֵל לִישׁוּעָתְךָ

English Translation

Sukkah and *Lulav* to a nation prized

Together they raise song and praise

God from Egypt us redeemed

His holy words to us revealed

Clouds of glory surrounded us

From four directions, below and above

His pleasant ways to us announced

Appearing to us in glorious light

Wisdom uttered, expressed, and pronounced

Each single day, each single night

Let Israel rejoice in the shade of His sukkah

Sheltered beneath the wings of the *Shechinah*

The ineffable Name, as it is written and read

Equals sukkah when its letters we add

How great the mysteries of the *lulav* and its species

And how precious to me all of its intricacies

Happy is the pure of heart who sets his intentions

Upon this mitzvah's secret essence

The four part Name in the *lulav* dwells

When counted in full spelling and an additional 'hey'

Be present with the *lulav* with its back turned

As its species surround it in a half circle

The myrtle alludes to the three patriarchs

Moses and Aaron are each a willow branch

Yosef is beloved as a *lulav*

And David, as an *etrog*, a perfect bride

The secret of Your teaching to your son release

To Your people this would be the best of gifts

For we call and long for Your salvation still

May Your Name be sanctified through our uttering lips

Recording by R. Yehuda Ovadya-P'taya