

יעלה יעלה - Yaala Yaala

R. Israel Najara

About the Piyut

This Piyut, authored by Rabbi Israel Najara, the great 16th century poet, is a love song describing the love between the dod (lover) and the ra'aya (wife). The ra'aya is referred to here as Ya'ala. This Piyut has received a number of different musical settings and is widely sung in various Mizrahi communities. The most common melody is that of Ezra Aharon, written in the 20th century. It is commonly sung on the occasion of the birth of a daughter or at a Bat Mitzvah celebration. In the Moroccan community, this Piyut is also included in the traditional *bakashot* recited on Shabbat when the Bo Torah portion is read. It is also sung on many other occasions due to its moving lyrics and captivating melody.

*Yaala yaala boi legani,
henetz rimon parcha gafni*

הַנֶּץ רִמּוֹן פָּרַחָה גַּפְנִי

יַעֲלָה יַעֲלָה בּוֹאִי לִגְנִי

*Yavo dodi yachish tzeadav,
ve'yochal et pri megadav*

וַיֹּאכַל אֶת פְּרִי מִגְדָּיו

יָבוֹא דּוֹדִי יַחֲשֵׁשׁ צִעְדָּיו

*Im yedidi archu nedudav
Eich yechida eshev al kani*

אֵיךְ יַחֲדָה אֶשֶׁב עַל כַּנִּי

אִם יִדְיִי אָרְכוּ נְדוּדָיו

*Shuvi elai, at bat ahuva
shuvi at, va'ani ashuva*

שׁוּבִי אֵלַי, וְאֲנִי אֶשׁוּבָה

שׁוּבִי אֵלַי, אֶת בֵּת אַהוּבָה

*Hineh imi zot ot ketuvah
ki betochech eten mishkani*

כִּי בְּתוֹכְךָ אֶתֶן מִשְׁכָּנִי

הִנֵּה עִמִּי זֹאת אוֹת כְּתוּבָה

*Re'i dodi nafshi padita
u'levat me'az oti kanita*

וּלְבַת מֵאֵז אוֹתִי קִנִּיתִי

רְעִי, דּוֹדִי, נַפְשִׁי פָּדִיתִי

*Atah li ven amim zerita
ve'eich tomar ki ahavtani*

וְאֵיךְ תֹּאמַר כִּי אֶהְבֵּתָנִי

עַתָּה לִי בֵּין עַמִּים זָרִיתִי

*Ayumati le'tov zeritich
ve'lithila u'letov saritich*

וּלְתַהֲלָה וּלְטוֹב שְׂרִיתִיךָ

אֵימָתִי, לְטוֹב זָרִיתִיךָ

<i>Ki ahavat olam ahavtich</i> <i>Al ken oshivech al duchani</i>	עַל כֵּן אֹשִׁיבְךָ עַל דּוֹכָנִי	כִּי אֶהְבֵּת עוֹלָם אֶהְבֵּתִיךָ
<i>Lu yehi chidvarecha yedidi</i> <i>atah maher te'esof nedudi</i>	עֲתָה מַהֵר תֵּאֲסֹף נְדוּדִי	לֹא יִהְיֶה כְדָבָרְךָ יְדִידִי
<i>U'letoch tziyon ne'che gedudi</i> <i>ve'sham akviv lach et korboni</i>	וְשָׁם אֶקְרִיב לָךְ אֶת קֹרְבָנִי	וּלְתוֹךְ צִיּוֹן נָחָה גְדוּדִי
<i>Chizki raya chikech ke'yen tov</i> <i>ki tzitz yishi ra'aanan ve'ratov</i>	כִּי צִיץ יִשְׁעֵי רַעְנָן וְרֹטֵב	חֲזִקִי רַעְיָה חֲכֶךָ כִּיִּין טוֹב
<i>U'lesirayich echrot ve'echtov</i> <i>Ve'chish eshlach lach et segani</i>	וְחִישׁ אֶשְׁלַח לָךְ אֶת סִגְנִי	וּלְסִירְיֶךָ אֶכְרוֹת וְאֶחָטֵב

English Translation

My doe come to my garden
 The pomegranates are in bloom and my vines have flowered
 Come my beloved hasten your steps
 Eat of the choicest fruits
 If my lover's wanderings have been extended
 How shall I sit alone in my position
 Return to me you are the loved one
 Return to me and I shall return to you
 Behold I have with me a written word
 That you shall be my dwelling place
 My darling my beloved you have redeemed my soul
 And have since taken me to be your wife
 And now among other nations you have dispersed me
 So how can you say that you love me
 My awesome one it is for the good that I dispersed you
 For your glory and your benefit
 For my love for you is eternal
 Thus I will seat you upon my dais
 May that it be as you say my love

Now quickly gather me from my wanderings

And into Zion lead my regiment

And there I will sacrifice my offering to you

Be strengthened my wife your mouth is like choicest wine

For the bud of my salvation fresh and moist

Your enemies I will fell and cut down

And I will speedily send to you my deputy (the messiah)