

# יעירוני רעיוני - Yairuni Raiyoni

## Rabbi Yehuda Ha-levi

### About the Piyut

This is a supplicatory Piyut, authored by Rabbi Yehuda Ha-levi (1075-1141), one of the great *Paytanim* (liturgical poets) recognized throughout history. The author's name can be seen in the first letters of each verse. In the Piyut the author likens himself to a servant standing before his master in the darkness of the night and requesting mercy for his actions. According to testimonials of Rav Kook's students, the famed Rabbi would sing this Piyut with a unique melody each year at the end of the Simchat Torah holiday. When he sang the words "To see the graciousness of God and visit His temple", the Rabbi seemed to his students like a true angel of God.

### Hebrew Text

<i>Yairuni raiyoni / v'-sod libi u-mish'alo</i>	וְסוֹד לְבִי וּמִשְׁאָלוֹ	יעירוני רעיוני
<i>Hagut divrei tachanuni / b'-zimrat El u-m'halelo</i>	בְּזִמְרַת אֵל וּמְהַלְלוֹ	הַגּוֹת דְּבָרֵי תַחֲנוּנֵי
<i>V'-lo eten sh'nat l'-eynai / chatzot laila biglalo</i>	חֲצוֹת לַיְלָה בִּגְלָלוֹ	וְלֹא אֶתֶן שָׁנַת לַעֲיֵנִי
<i>Lachazot b'noam Adonai / u-l'vaker b'-heychalo</i>	וּלְבַקֵּר בְּהִיכָלוֹ	לְחַזּוֹת בְּנֹעַם ה'
<i>Hekitzoti va-achshov / mi hu asher</i>	מִי הוּא אֲשֶׁר	הִקִּיצוֹתִי וְאַחֲשֵׁב
<i>V'-hineh kadosh yoshev / t'hilotav he'itzani</i>	תְּהִלּוֹתָיו הָאֵינֶנִּי	וְהִנֵּה קָדוֹשׁ יוֹשֵׁב
<i>V'natan b'-oznai keshev / v'-chizkani v'-imtzani</i>	וְחִזְקָנִי וְאַמְצָנִי	וְנָתַן בְּאַזְנֵי קֶשֶׁב
<i>V'-chol od ruchy hashev / avarech asher ya'atzani</i>	אַבְרָךְ אֲשֶׁר יַעֲצָנִי	וְכָל עוֹד רוּחִי הַשֵּׁב
<i>Tzur asher ha-n'shama lo / v'-ha-g'viya mif'alo</i>	וְהַגּוֹיָה מִפְּעָלוֹ	צוּר אֲשֶׁר הַנְּשָׁמָה לוֹ
<i>Va-etpalel l'fanav / u-v't'fila etaneg</i>	וּבִתְפִלָּה אֶתְעַנֵּג	וְאֶתְפַּלֵּל לִפְנָיו
<i>U'vaku d'ma'ai ananav / u-mat'ku mi-tzuf u-fanag</i>	וּמִתְקוֹ מִצוּר וּפָנֵג	וּבָקְעוּ דְמַעֵי עֵינָיו
<i>V'-gava libi b'-eynav / b'et namas kadonag</i>	בַּעַת נֶמֶס כְּדוֹנֵג	וְגָבַהּ לְבִי בְּעֵינָיו
<i>K'-eved lifnei adonav / mi-pachdo yitmogeg</i>	מִפְּחָדוֹ יִתְמוֹגֵג	כְּעֶבֶד לִפְנֵי אֲדֹנָיו
<i>V'-chi yizkor machmalo / yinshe et kol amalo</i>	יִנְשֶׂה אֶת כָּל עַמְּלוֹ	וְכִי יִזְכֹּר מַחְמָלוֹ
<i>Dom lail v'-hikaved / v'-achar shachar mi-bo</i>	וְאַחַר שַׁחַר מִבּוֹא	דוֹם לַיִל וְהִכָּבֵד
<i>Ad yitratzeh eved / b'-tachanunav el rabo</i>	בְּתַחֲנוּנָיו אֶל רַבּוֹ	עַד יִתְרַצֶּה עֶבֶד
<i>V'-yishpoch dam lev v'-chaved / v'-yagid nig'ey libo</i>	וְיִגִּיד נִגְעֵי לְבוֹ	וְיִשְׁפֹּךְ דָּם לֵב וְכָבֵד
<i>V'-yityached ha-oved / im ha-melech bi-m'sibo</i>	עִם הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּמִסְבּוֹ	וְיִתְיַחַד הָעוֹבֵד
<i>V'-yashir v'-yisa m'shalo / l'-shem diglo u-migdalo</i>	לְשֵׁם דִּגְלוֹ וּמִגְדָּלוֹ	וְיִשִּׁיר וְיִשָּׂא מִשְׁלוֹ
<i>Hineh eved avadim / lifnei melech m'lachim</i>	לִפְנֵי מֶלֶךְ מַלְכִּים	הִנֵּה עֶבֶד עֲבָדִים
<i>Omed v'-yadav k'vedim / u-d'ma'av nehelachim</i>	וְדַמְעֵיו נִהְלָכִים	עוֹמֵד וְיָדָיו כְּבָדִים
<i>L'cha yetzurav ne'evadim / b'od chayav nimshachim</i>	בְּעוֹד חַיָּיו נִמְשָׁכִים	לְךָ יִצְרִיו נִעֲבָדִים

*V'-chol evarav modim / u-mitvadim u-m'varchim*  
*S'lach l'roa ma'alalo / asher ka-chol mishkalo*

וְכָל אֲבָרָיו מוֹדִים      וּמִתְוָדִים וּמְבָרְכִים  
סֵלַח לְרֹעַ מַעַלְלוֹ      אֲשֶׁר כָּחוֹל מִשְׁקָלוֹ

## English Translation

My innermost thoughts rouse me

To speak my pleas and sing God's praises

For His sake I will not let my eyes sleep at midnight

To see the graciousness of God and visit His temple

When I wake I think, "Who has woken me?"

It is the holy one enthroned on praises who has roused me,

Made me hear, strengthened me, and encouraged me

So long as He restores my spirit I bless the one who guides me

The rock— the soul is His, the body is His work

I pray before Him and take pleasure in my prayer

My tears pierce His clouds, sweeter than nectar and balsam

My heart seems haughty in his eyes though truly it melts like wax

Like a servant before his master melting with fear

When he remembers the object of his mercy he will forget his toil

Night, be still and hold back dawn from coming

Until the servant's request before his master is favored

Pouring out his heart and innards and speaking what plagues him

Then the servant will be unified with the king at his table

He will sing, taking up his theme, to the name of his banner and tower

The lowest servant before the greatest king

Stands with heavy hands and tears falling

Every part of him serves you as long as he lives

His limbs all give thanks, confess, and bless

Forgive the evil he has done though it is heavy as the sand

*Translation by Abigail Denmark*

**Recording by Aharon Amram**