

אעופה אשכונה - Aufa Eshkona

Rabbi Isaac Abihatzera

About the Piyut

This Piyut, of the Moroccan tradition, was written by R. Isaac Abihatzera, the fourth and youngest son of R. Ya'akov Abihatzera, the grandfather of the Baba Sali. The author wrote in Morocco in the final years of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. The Piyut is clearly influenced by the Song of Songs. This can be seen both by the use of language found in the biblical text and by the quotation of actual verses from the same. However, unlike the Song of Songs, this Piyut ends with an optimistic air, referencing the meeting and unification of the two lovers.

Hebrew Text

A'ufa eshkona v'-archika n'dod
Ba-midbar alina v'-ulai emtza dod
Nashek ahavato b'-libi bo'era
Miyom predato nafshi alai mara
Y'did meni barach halach azavani
Eyzo derech arach v'elcha gam ani
Yatzati l'vakesh dodi beyn chaverim
Nilkad'ti b'-mokesh hikuni ha-shom'rim
Tzipiti l'-dodi matai yavo elai
Yalbisheini adi'i v'-y'rachem alai
Chasof z'roacha l'kabetz p'zurim
Galeh ketz yish'acha v'dagl'cha harem
Kumi y'chidati v'-shuvi bi-t'shuva
Achoti ra'ayati hineh go'alach ba
Chamuda y'kara rabat ha-ma'alot
Gam mi-paz nivchara tz'i na vimcholot
Zacharti lach chesed n'urayich n'urim
Heichalech ayased b'avnei sapirim
Kol dodi hineh ba m'daleg al ha-harim
Kumi lach ahuva ki ba katz d'rorim

אעופה אשכנה וארכיקה נדד
 במדבר אלינה ואולי אמצא דוד
 נשק אהבתו בלבי בערה
 מיום פרדתו נפשי עלי מרה
 ידיד מני ברח הלך עזבני
 איזו דרך ארח ואלכה גם אני
 יצאתי לבקש דודי בין חברים
 נלכדתי במוקש הכוני השמרים
 צפיתי לדודי מתי יבוא אלי
 לבישני עדיי וירחם עלי
 חשף זרועך לקבץ פזורים
 גלה קץ ישעך ודגלך הרם
 קומי יחידתי ושובי בתשובה
 אחותי רעיתי הנה גואלך בא
 חמודה יקרה רבת המעלות
 גם מפז נבחרה צאי נא במחולות
 זכרתי לך חסד נעוריך נעורים
 היכלך איסד באבני ספירים
 קול דודי הנה בא מדלג על ההרים
 קומי לך אהובה כי בא קץ דרורים

English Translation

I will fly away and rest, wandering far
I will sleep in the desert and perhaps find my lover
His loving kiss burns in my heart
My heart has been bitter since the day he left

My love has run from me, left me
Which way did he take – I too will follow it
I went out to find my lover among friends
I was caught in a trap, the watchmen hit me

I watched for my lover, when will he come to me,
Dress me in my jewels and have mercy on me?
Bare Your arm to gather the scattered ones
Reveal Your final salvation and raise Your banner

Get up, my unique one, and return in repentance
My sister, my love, Your redeemer is coming
Desirable and precious, often thought of
More valued than gold, go out and dance for joy

I have remembered the kindness of your youth
I will build your Temple on sapphire foundations
My beloved's voice is coming, skipping over the mountains
Get up, my love, the final redemption is coming

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