

יה אכסוף - Yah Echsof

Rabbi Aaron the Great of Karlin

About the Piyut

This Piyut is the only Shabbat text that originates from the Chasidut tradition. It is sung in several Chasidut traditions on the eve of Shabbat. The text carries with it an air of longing rooted in the Kabbalah. The Shabbat itself is described here as the partner of the people of Israel, becoming unified with G-d in His Torah and name. In the text the guardian of the Shabbat attempts to obtain a blessing of compassion from the Shabbat and from G-d.

Hebrew Text

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| Yah ekhsuf no'am Shabbat | יה אכסוף נעם שבת |
| Hamat-emet umitahedet bisgulatekha | המתאמת ומתאחדת בסגולתך |
| Meshekh no'am yiratekha le'am mevakshei retzonekha | משך נעם יראתך לעם מבקשי רצונך |
| Kadshem bikdushat haShabbat hamitahedet betoratekha | קדשם בקדשת השבת המתאחדת בתורתך |
| Petah lahem no'am veratzon liftoah sha'arei retzonekha | פתח להם נעם ורצון לפתוח שערי רצונך |
| Haya hoveh shemor shomrei umetzapim Shabbat kodshekha | היה הוה שמור שומרי ומצפים שבת קדשך |
| Ke-ayal ta'arog 'al afikei mayim | כאיל תערג על אפיקי מים |
| Ken nafsham ta'arog lekabel no'am Shabbat hamitahedet beshem kodshekha | כן נפשם תערג לקבל נעם שבת המתאחדת בשם קדשך |
| Hatzel me-aharei lifrosh min haShabbat | הצל מאחרי לפרש מן השבת |
| Livilti tihyeh sagur mehem | לבילתי תהיה סגור מהם |
| Shisha yamim hamkablīm kedusha miShabbat kodshekha | ששה ימים המקבלים קדשה משבת קדשך |
| Vetaher libam be-emet uve-emuna le'ovdekha | וטהר לבם באמת ובאמונה לעבדך |
| Veyihū rahamekha mitgolelim al midotekha al 'am kodshekha | ויהיו רחמיה מתגוללים על מדותיה / על עם קדשך |
| Lehashkot tzemei hasdekha | להשקות צמאי חסדך |
| minahar hayotzeh me'eden | מנהר היוצא מעדן |
| Le'ater et Israel betiferet hamefa-arim otekha al yedei Shabbat kodshekha | לעטר את ישראל בתפארת המפארים אותך על ידי שבת קדשך |
| Kol shisha yamim lehanhila Ya'akov behirekha | כל ששה ימים להנחילם נחלת יעקב בחיורך |

HaShabbat no'am haneshamot

Vehashvi'i 'oneg haruhot ve'eden hanefashot lehit'aden

Be-ahavatkha veyir-atekha

Shabbat kodesh nafshi holat ahavatekha

Shabbat kodesh nafshot Israel betzel kenafekha yehesayun

Yirveyun mideshen beitekha

הַשַּׁבָּת נֵעַם הַנְּשָׁמוֹת

וְהַשְּׂבִיעִי עֲנַג הַרוּחוֹת וְעֵדוֹן הַנְּפָשׁוֹת לְהִתְעַדוֹן

בְּאַהֲבַתְךָ וּבִירְאָתְךָ

שַׁבָּת קוֹדֵשׁ נַפְשִׁי חוֹלַת אַהֲבַתְךָ

שַׁבָּת קוֹדֵשׁ נַפְשׁוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּצֶל כְּנָפֶיךָ יִחְסִיוּ

יְרוּנוּ מִדְּשׁוֹן בֵּיתְךָ

English Translation

Yah! How I long for
the bliss of the Shabbat,
United in secret with Your own fervent wish.
Give way to Your own deep desire to love us.

May Shabbat in Torah be our sacred bliss.

Share Her with us who desire to please You-
Our deep thirst for union
be met with delight

Holy Presence, filling all time and space!
Keep safe those who keep Shabbat in their longing all
week.

Like a deer that seeks water by the banks of the river,
We seek Shabbat, the secret of Your sacred Name!
Grant us all week long
Her shimmering Presence,
So our hearts and our faith be pure service to You!
Warmly embrace us
with Your kind compassion,
Quench quickly our thirst for Your unending Grace.
Give us the bliss drink from Eden's own river.
Your praises we sing with joy on our face.

Translation by R. Zalman Schachter-Shalomi

Let Jacob's gift to us- echo all week long,
Infusing our lives with a Shabbat-filled trace.

Hail Shabbat, delight of our souls and our Spirits.
Ecstasy life-throb am awed by Your love,
Secure that Your caring grants safety and nurture-
You feed us sweet nectar from Your Source above.
As You embrace us
with Mothering comfort-
In You I take refuge
and pledge You my love.

Recording from the 2008 Piyut Festival