

Where shall I find you? ((by Yehuda Halevi )

יְהוָה, אַנְהּ אֲמַצְאָךְ?  
מִקּוֹמָךְ נִעְלָה וְנִעְלָם!  
וְאַנְהּ לֹא אֲמַצְאָךְ?  
כְּבוֹדְךָ מְלֵא עוֹלָם!  
Yah, where shall I find you?  
High and hidden is your place;  
And where shall I not find you?  
The world is full of your *kavod*.<sup>[1]</sup>

הִנֵּמְצָא בְּקִרְבִּים  
אֶפְסֵי אֶרֶץ הַקִּיּוֹם,  
הַמְּשֻׁבָּב לְקִרְוֵיבִים,  
הַמְּבֹטָח לְרַחֲוִיקִים,  
Found in the innermost being,  
He established the ends of the earth:  
Refuge for the near,  
Safe Haven for those far off.

אַתָּה יוֹשֵׁב כְּרוּבִים,  
אַתָּה שׁוֹכֵן שְׁחָקִים.  
– תִּתְהַלֵּל בְּצַבְאָךְ  
וְאַתָּה עַל רֹאשׁ מַהֲלָלִים,  
You dwell amid the Keruvim,  
You abide in the clouds;  
You are praised by your angelic legion  
Yet are raised above their praise.

גִּלְגַּל לֹא-יִשְׁאָךְ  
אֵף כִּי חֲדָרֵי אוֹלָם!  
וּבְהִנָּשְׂאָךְ עֲלֵיהֶם  
עַל כֵּס נִשְׂאָ וְרֹם,  
The whirling worlds cannot contain you;  
How then the chambers of a temple?  
And though you be uplifted over them  
Upon a throne high and exalted,

אַתָּה קְרוֹב אֵלֵיהֶם  
מְרוּחָם וּמִבְּשָׂרָם,  
פִּיהֶם יְעִיד בְּהֶם,  
כִּי אִין בְּלִתְךָ יוֹצֵרָם.  
Yet are you near to them,  
Of their very spirit and their flesh.  
Their own mouth testifies for them  
That you alone are their Maker.

– מִי זֶה לֹא יִרְאָךְ  
וְעַל מַלְכוּתְךָ עֲלֵם?  
– אוּ מִי לֹא יִקְרָאָךְ  
וְאַתָּה נוֹתֵן אֲכָלָם?  
Who shall not revere you,  
Since the yoke of your kingdom is their yoke?  
Or who shall not call to you,  
Since you give them their food?

דָּרַשְׁתִּי קִרְבְּתְךָ,  
בְּכָל-לִבִּי קִרְאתִיךָ,  
– וּבְצֵאתִי לְקִרְאתְךָ  
לְקִרְאתִי מִצֵּאתִיךָ,  
I have sought your nearness,  
With all my heart have I called you,  
And going out to meet you  
I found you coming toward me,

וּבְפִלְאֵי גְבוּרָתְךָ  
בְּקִדְשׁ חֲזִיתִיךָ.  
מִי יֹאמֵר לֹא רָאָךְ?  
Even as, in the wonder of your might,  
In the sanctuary I have beheld you.  
Who shall say they have not seen you?—

הֵן שָׁמַיִם וְחַיִּלָּם  
יְגִידוּ מוֹרָאָךְ  
אֲבָלִי נִשְׁמַע קוֹלָם!  
Lo, the Heavens and their constellations  
Declare reverence of you,  
Though their voice is not heard.<sup>[2]</sup>

הֲאֵמָנָם כִּי יֵשֵׁב  
אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הָאָדָם?  
וּמָה יִחְשַׁב כָּל-חֹשֵׁב,  
– אֲשֶׁר בְּעֶפְרָס יִסּוּדָם –  
וְאַתָּה קְדוֹשׁ יוֹשֵׁב  
אֲמִד לְתוֹלְדוֹתָם וּכְבוֹדָם!  
How then, in reality, can  
Elohim dwell with humanity!?  
What can they think—every thinking being,  
Whose foundation is in the dust—  
How you, Holy One, are dwelling  
Amid **their** praises and **their** *kavod*!?

חיות יודו פלאך      Angels adore your wonder,  
העומדות ברום עולם, Standing in the everlasting height;  
על ראשיהם כסאך – Over their heads is your throne,  
ואתה נושא כלם!      Meanwhile, you uphold them all!

<https://opensiddur.org/prayers/lunisolar/commemorative-days/purim-qatan/yah-where-shall-i-find-you-a-piyyut-by-yehudah-halevi-ca-early-12th-c/>

(10<sup>th</sup> August, 2023)