

Liturgical Poem (Piyut Parasha) for the Torah Portion "Bereshit"/

By the 13th century Karaite sage Aaron Ben Joseph "The Physician"

אֱתָהּ אֵל | לְכֹל רֵאשׁ מִתְנַשֵּׂא: כִּי מְעוֹן | נִמְצְאָתָּ לְכֹל וּמַחֲסֶה: שִׁמְתָּ
חֲבִיוֹן עֲזָה | הַכֹּסֵא: אֲשֶׁר נִסְתַּרְתָּ שָׁם בְּיוֹם הַמַּעֲשֵׂה: יִהְיֶה מְאֹרוֹת |
לְמַשֵּׁל בְּיוֹם וּבְלִילָה: בְּגֹדוֹל הַחַל | וּבְקִטּוֹן כְּלָה: קָדָם וְאַחֲרָה | מִי יִחְקֹר וּמִי
יִמְלֶלָה: הַעֲמִק שְׂאֵלָה אוֹ הַגְּבִיָּה לְמַעְלָה: רְצָה בְּטוֹבוֹ | לְבְרוּא אָדָם זָכָר
וְנִקְבָּה וּלְכַבְּדָם: וְכֹל שֵׁת | תַּחַת יָדָם: וְהֵם עָבְרוּ מִצְּוֹתָהּ | וְזֶה פִידָם וְאֵידָם:
וַיַּגְרֵשׁ אֶת הָאָדָם: גְּוֹה הַשָּׂרְפִים | יְהִי גֵן עֵדֶן לְמַעְרָכָתָּ: כִּי מַעְלָתָם | מִהוֹד
אֵל הוֹד נִמְשַׁכָּת: שָׁם יִשְׁכְּנוּ גִזְרָה | לְעֲצָמָה נִסְמָכָת: הַפְּרוּבִים וְאֵת לְהַט
הַתְּרַב הַמִּתְהַפְּכָת: נֶאֱדָר בְּרַבְבוֹת קִדְשׁ תְּרַשִּׁישִׁים: אִישׁ אִישׁ מִמְקוֹמוֹ |
לְהַקְדִישׁוּ דְרָשִׁים: אֶהְבִּי וְקִרוּבִי וְלֹא יִדְעוּ נְתִיבִי | הוֹדוּ מִבְּקֻשִׁים: אֵל
נִעְרֵץ בְּסוּד־קִדְשִׁים ◇

III: אֵל גִּבְעָרֵץ בְּסוּד־קִדְשִׁים רַבָּה | וְנוֹרָא עַל־כָּל־סְבִיבִי: ה' אֱלֹהֵי צְבָאוֹת |
מִי־כְמוֹד חֲסִינוּ יְהוָה | וְאֶמְוִנְתֶּךָ סְבִיבוֹתֶיךָ: אִין־קִדְוֹשׁ כְּה' כִּי־אִין בְּלִתְהָךְ | וְאִין
צוּר כְּאֱלֹהֵינוּ:

וְאֶתָּה קִדְוֹשׁ | יוֹשֵׁב תְּהִלּוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל:

You are God, exalted above every head,ⁱ because you were found [to be] a dwelling-placeⁱⁱ and a refuge for all. You made the hiding place of Your powerⁱⁱⁱ the throne,^{iv} **in which You hid yourself there in the day of work.**^v

He made lights to rule over the day and over the night: beginning with the big one, and leaving off with the small one.^{vi} Forward and backward,^{vii} who [can] search out [the creation] and who [can] express it?!^{viii} **Ask either in the depth, or in the height above.**^{ix}

He desired in His kindness to create a mankind - a male and a female, and to honor them. And He has put all things under their^x hand. [However], they transgressed His commandment;^{xi} and this is their ruin and calamity.^{xii} **So He drove out mankind.**

The angels' habitation will be The Garden of Eden, aligned; because their degree is drawn from dignity to dignity. There, He will let dwell a system which relies upon itself: **the cherubim, and the flame of the turning sword.**

He is glorious in myriads of holy angels. Every person from his place inquires to sanctify Him – those who love Him and the ones who are close to Him. They do not know His ways; they ask for His Honor. **A God admired in the assembly of the holy ones.**^{xiii} ◇

Hazan: **A God admired in the assembly of the holy ones**, and revered by all who are around Him.^{xiv} O Hashem of hosts, who is a mighty one, like unto You, O Hashem? And Your faithfulness is round about You.^{xv} There is none as holy as Hashem, for there is none beside You; neither is there any rock like our God.^{xvi}

You are holy, O You that are enthroned upon the praises of Israel.^{xvii}

ⁱ 1 Chron 29:11

ⁱⁱ Ps 90:1

ⁱⁱⁱ Hab 3:4

^{iv} Isa 66:1

^v 1 Sam 20:19

^{vi} Gen 44:12

^{vii} Job 23:8

^{viii} Ps 106:2

^{ix} Isa 7:11

^x Ps 8:7

^{xi} Deut 26:13

^{xii} Prov 24:22

^{xiii} Ps 89:8

^{xiv} *Id.*

^{xv} Ps 89:9

^{xvi} 1 Sam 2:2

^{xvii} Ps 22:4