

## Parashath Ha'azinu

Parashath Ha'azinu consists almost entirely of the poem Ha'azinu (Deuteronomy 32:1–44), with only a few prose verses at the end (Deuteronomy 32:44–52). As in other *parashiyyoth* that contain prominent poems – Beshallah and Balaq – he adopts a structure with a repeating fixed phrase at the beginning of each line; in this case, it is: “Who is like You?”, a phrase that does not appear in our *parasha*, but appears several places in Scripture, most prominently in the Song of the Sea (Exodus 15:11). The poem opens with general praise of God; then, in the second line, it states that God foretells future events beforehand; this is a fitting introduction to Parashath Ha'azinu, which is devoted mainly to describing future events, when the Israelites will sin, and God will send other nations to punish them, and eventually God will avenge the Israelites by punishing the other nations.

Aaron ben Joseph then spends several lines discussing how the heaven and earth are witnesses to the song's testimony, as stated in Deuteronomy 32:1, and then covers the main elements of the song: God's kindnesses to Israel in the wilderness; His knowledge of their actions (cf. Deuteronomy 32:19); His scattering of them to the corners of the universe, and, ultimately, His vengeance against their enemies. Our poet concludes his *piyyut* with praise of God as redeemer, leading into the *qedusha*-verse that follows the poem: *Our redeemer, Adonai Zeva'oth is His name, the Holy One of Israel.* (Isaiah 47:4)

פיוט פרשת האזינו

מי כְמוֹהַ אֵדִיר וְנוֹרָא | אֱלֹהֵי עוֹלָם:  
מי כְמוֹהַ הִמְגִיד מֵרֵאשִׁית אַחֲרֵית | וּמַגִּלָּה מִקֶּדֶם כָּל נִעְלָם:  
מי כְמוֹהַ רֵאשׁ דְּבָרָה אֱמֶת | בְּפִי כָּל הַיְצוֹר | כָּלָם:  
מי כְמוֹהַ גְּאֻמָּנוּ עֲדִיָּה | הַעֲדַת לְבַנֵי חָלָם וְהִנֵּה סֵלָם:  
מי כְמוֹהַ אִבְסֵהֲדוּ עֲתָה מִקֶּדֶם הַמְשִׁילָם:  
מי כְמוֹהַ גְּאֻדְרֵת בְּמַעֲשֵׂיָהּ | בְּפֶרֶטָם וּבְכָלָם:  
מי כְמוֹהַ יַעַד עֲדִים נְאֻמָּנִים | בְּלִי נִשְׁמַע קוֹלָם:  
מי כְמוֹהַ וְאַרְץ נְתֻנָּה יְבוּלָהּ | וְהַשְׁמִים תְּנוּ טֵלָם:  
מי כְמוֹהַ סִּבְבַת אוֹתוֹתֶיהָ | עַל פְּנֵי תַבַּל לְפָעֻלָם:  
מי כְמוֹהַ פִּדְהָ עֲמָהּ | וּמִבֵּית עֲבָדִים גְּאֻלָם:  
מי כְמוֹהַ בְּאַרְץ מִדְבָּר | פְּנִית מְסֻלּוֹלָם:  
מי כְמוֹהַ וּבְתֵהוּ יִלַּל יְשִׁימוֹן הִנֵּה שְׁמֶשֶׁם וְצֵלָם:  
מי כְמוֹהַ וַיִּדַע מַה יַעֲשֶׂה בְּמַעֲבָדָם וּבְמַפְעֵלָם:  
מי כְמוֹהַ וּמִפְּזַר בְּאַרְבַּע פְּאוֹת חֵילָם:  
מי כְמוֹהַ יִרְאֶה עֲנִים | לְעֵת תְּמוּט רַגְלָם:  
מי כְמוֹהַ יִרְנִינוּ גוֹיִם עִמוֹ | וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲווּ לְמוֹלָם:  
מי כְמוֹהַ וְאִמֵּר וְגִמֵּר בְּכָלָם:  
מי כְמוֹהַ חוֹתְמָהּ נִכְרָה | וְאַתָּה גְּאֻלָם:  
מי כְמוֹהַ וַיֹּאמְרוּ בְּשִׁיר הַלּוּלָם:  
קהל: **מִי כְמוֹהַ | אֲשֶׁר מִיַּד צָר גְּאֻלָם:**

חזן: וַיֹּאמְרוּ גְּאוּלֵי יְהִנֵּה | אֲשֶׁר גְּאֻלָם מִיַּד-צָר:  
קהל: גְּאֻלָּנוּ יְהִנֵּה צְבָאוֹת שְׁמוֹ | קְדוֹשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל:

## **Piyyuṭ for Parashath Ha'azinu**

Who is like You,

Noble and awesome, eternal God?

Who is like You,

Who tells, from the beginning, [what will happen at] the end, and reveals, from the start, every hidden [future event]?

Who is like You?

The beginning of Your word is truth, in the mouth of every creature, all of them.

Who is like You?

Your witnesses are faithful, which You had testify for the children of the one who dreamed of a ladder.

Who is like You?

In His call to testimony now, [He called the ones to whom] He had compared [the Israelites] long ago.

Who is like You?

You are ennobled in Your deeds, in their specifics and in general.

Who is like You?

He designated faithful witnesses, with their voice not being heard.

Who is like You?

The land gives forth its produce, and heaven gives forth its dew.

Who is like You?

You made Your wonders come about, on the face of the world, to put them into effect.

Who is like You?

Deliverer of Your people, who redeemed them from the house of bondage.

Who is like You?

In the wilderness land, You cleared their path.

Who is like You?

In the howling waste of the desert, He was their sun and their shade.

Who is like You?

He knew what they would do in the actions, their ways.

Who is like You,

who dispersed their legions to the four corners [of the universe]?

Who is like You,

who sees their affliction when their leg falters?

Who is like You?

Nations will gladden His people, and prostrate themselves to them.

Who is like You,

Who speaks and decrees definitely about [his words] in general?

Who is like You,

You whose seal is recognizable, and You are their redeemer?

Who is like You?

They say in their song of praise:

*Cong.* **Who is like You,**

**Who redeemed them from the foe's hand?**