

You, Adonai – My Defender (*Attah Adonai Magen Ba'adi*) | אַתָּה ה' מְגִן בְּעַדִּי

You, ADONAI—my Defender¹³—hold with Your right hand¹⁴ to support me.

A-TAH ado-NAI ma-GEN ba'a-DI / to-CHAZ yemine-KHA lesa'a-DI.

אַתָּה ה', מְגִן בְּעַדִּי¹ / תִּמְצַחַּוּ? מִיְמִינֶךָ²
לְסַעְדִּי.

Of you – my God – I ask for the liberty to go free from impoverishment and baseness. Replace the darkness before me with light,¹⁵ and prep my step along Your way, YAH.

Esh-AL, Elo-HAI, mimme-KHA de-ROR / la-TZET lechof-SHI me'o-NI u-VOR, Ta-SIM lefa-NAI macha-SHAKH le-OR / uvdarke-KHA, YAH, ta-KHIN tza'a-DI,

אֲשַׁאל, אֱלֹהִי, מִמֶּךָ דְרֹר / לְצַאת לְחַפְּשִׁי
מֵעֲנִי וּבֹר, תְּשִׂים לְפָנַי מַחְשֶׁךְ לְאוֹר³ / וּבְדַרְכְּךָ, יְהִי,
תְּכַוֵּן צַעְדִּי,

Please—hasten, and bind the glory of Your zealousness, and wear the glory of Your righteousness like a tune-ic¹⁶. Place the hood of redemption¹⁷ upon Your head, and redeem my congregation from the hand of the force that pillages me.

NA CHISH vesha-NES OZ kin'ate-KHA, ul-VASH keshir-YON HOD tzidkate-KHA
KO-va yeshu-AH SIM beroshe-KHA, / ug-AL ada-TI mi-YAD shode-DI!

נָא חִישׁ וְשִׂים עָלַי קַנְיָתְךָ, / וּלְבַשׂ כְּשִׁירְיוֹן
הוֹד צִדְקָתְךָ
כּוֹבַע יְשׁוּעָה⁴ שִׂים בְּרֹאשְׁךָ, / וּגְאֹל עַדְתִּי
מִיַּד שׂוֹדְדֵי!

YAH, quickly prop a hand by my enemy; release my multitudes from the prison¹⁸ of captivity! Let them go up to the land of the inheritance of the buck-like¹⁹; then the leopard and the goat shall crouch there together.²⁰

YAH, TEN mehe-RAH YAD be'oye-VI, / ho-TZE hamo-NAI mikke-LU she-VI!
Ya-LU le-E-retz nacha-LAT tze-VI, AZ yirbe-TZU SHAM na-MER IM ge-DI.

יְהִי, תֵּן מְהֵרָה יָד בְּאוֹיְבֵי, / הוֹצֵא הַמוֹנִי
מִכְּלוּא⁵ שְׁבִי!
יַעֲלוּ לְאַרְץ נַחֲלַת צְבִי⁶, / אֲזַי יִרְבְּצוּ שָׁם
נִמְרַ עִם גְּדֵי⁷.

Let them see Your glory face-to-face²¹; shield them²² amidst Your abode. As had been back then, let them drink from the stream of Your Edenism,²³ let the enemy²⁴ and my deceiver behold and be ashamed.

Pa-NIM befa-NIM yir-U hode-KHA / cho-FEF aley-HEM TOKH me'one-KHA,
Tash-KEM keme-AZ NA-chal edne-KHA, / yir-EH veye-VOSH TZAR¹²
uvoqe-DI.

פָּנִים בְּפָנִים⁸? יִרְאוּ הוֹדְךָ / חוֹפֵף עֲלֵיהֶם?
תּוֹף מְעוֹנְךָ,
תִּשְׁקֶם כְּמֵאֵז נַחַל עַדְנֶךָ¹⁰, / יִרְאֶה יַיְבוּשׁ
צָר¹¹ וּבוֹגְדֵי.

¹⁷ Compare with Isaiah 59:17.

¹⁸ Compare with Jeremiah 37:4.

¹⁹ Compare with Jeremiah 3:19.

²⁰ Compare with Isaiah 11:6.

²¹ Compare with Deuteronomy 5:4.

²² Compare with Deuteronomy 33:12.

²³ Another translation of עֲדָנְךָ (*ednekha*, “Your Eden[ism]”) could be “Your delight” or “Your joy.” Compare with Psalm 36:9.

²⁴ According to one manuscript, “the enemy” should be “my enemy.”

¹² According to one manuscript, this should be *tza-RI*.

¹³ Psalm 3:4.

¹⁴ Compare with Psalm 139:10.

¹⁵ Compare with Isaiah 42:16.

¹⁶ Shawat’s Hebrew קֶשֶׁרִיּוֹן (*keshiryon*) does not match up with Isaiah’s original קֶשֶׁרִיָּן (*keshiryān*) in Isaiah 59:17. The exact meaning of each word is elusive, but Isaiah’s term usually refers to some sort of garb, but Shawat’s might be a bit more musical in sound, even if ultimately God is being asked to wear something.

¹ תהלים ג: ד.
² כמו תהלים קלט: י.
³ כמו ישעיה מב: טו.
⁴ כמו ישעיה נט: יז.
⁵ כמו ירמיה לו: ד.
⁶ כמו ירמיה ג: יט.
⁷ כמו ישעיה יא: ו.
⁸ דברים ה: ד.
⁹ דברים לג: יב.
¹⁰ תהלים לו: ט.
¹¹ לפי כתב יד אחד: צרי.

Let the Will³⁴ be a shield to coronate me,³⁵
granting peace to me as well as to my
helper.³⁶

Let my substance blossom and bear fruit;
then will the travail traverse to reverse
me.

I will arouse joy on the day that You return
the nation of Your congregation to Your
house—

Seeing the pleasantness³⁷ of the brow of
Your glory. That nation will there thank
You, rock who encourages me.³⁸

Singular One, pour out Your wrath over
Edom, and emulsify, (un)like a snail
melting and beyond.³⁹

Clasp onto Your lovingkindness for the
sake of those who know You; let them
go, redeemed, towards the house of my
meeting.

Strong one! Answer me from Your heavens;
with lovingkindness, take my song in
exchange for a sacrificial gift.⁴⁰

Anew in my midst⁴¹ the spirit of Your
holiness;⁴² dwell around me, my Rock
who trains me.^{43, 44}

Ra-TZON ketzi-NAH CHISH le'atte-RI,
/ sha-LOM ya'a-SEH LI GAM le'oze-RI,
Yif-RACH kevo-DI ya'a-SEH fe-RI, / AZ
yih-YEH TZAR RATZ lekhabbe-DI.

Gi-LAH a'o-RER YOM, leveyte-KHA /
ta-SHIV sha-VOT ET AM adate-KHA
Lacha-ZOT be-NO-am ZIV kevode-
KHA, / SHAM yehode-KHA TZUR
me'ode-DI,

Ya-CHID charone-KHA AL e-DOM she-
FOKH, / va-RAV keshabbe-LUL TE-mes
yaha-LOKH,

Ulyode-E-kha—chasde-KHA me-
SHOKH, / yele-KHU ge'u-LIM le-VEYT
mo'a-DI!

Cha-ZAK a-NE-ni mizzevule-KHA / shi-
RI te-MUR SHAI KACH bechasde-KHA
Cha-DESH bekir-BI RU-ach kodshe-
KHA / tish-KON sevi-VI, TZUR
melamme-DI!

רָצוֹן כְּצִנָּה חֵישׁ לְעֵטְרִי²⁵, / שְׁלוֹם יַעֲשֶׂה
לִי גַם לְעוֹזְרִי²⁶,
יַפְרַח כְּבוֹדִי יַעֲשֶׂה פְרִי, / אֶז יִהְיֶה צַר רַךְ
לְכַבְּדִי.

גִּילָה אֶעוֹרֵר יוֹם, לְבִיתְךָ / תְּשִׁיב שְׁבוֹת
אֶת־עַם עַדְתְּךָ
לְחִזּוֹת בְּנַעַם²⁷ זִיו כְּבוֹדְךָ, / שָׁם יְהוּדְךָ
צוֹר מְעוֹדְדִי²⁸,

יַחֲדָה, חֲרוֹנְךָ עַל אָדָם שֶׁפָּדָה, / וְעַרְב
כְּשֶׁבֶלֶל תִּמְסַ יִהְלֶךְ²⁹,
וּלְיוֹדְעֶיךָ—חֲסִדְךָ מְשֻׁד, / יִלְכוּ גְאוּלָּיִם
לְבֵית מוֹעֲדִי!

חֲזַק, עֲגַנִּי מִבּוֹלְךָ / שִׁירֵי תִמּוֹר שִׁי³⁰ קַח
בְּחֲסִדְךָ
חֲדַשׁ בְּקִרְבִּי³¹ רוּחַ קֹדֶשְׁךָ³² / תִּשְׁכֹּן
סְבִיבִי, צוֹר מְלַמֵּדִי³³!

⁴⁴ The kabbalist Fradji Shawat (the author of this poem) was born in Fes (פֶּס), Morocco, and later moved to Béja (בֵּאֲיָה), Tunisia. Béja's locals evidently did not at first care much for him but later grew fond of him (Hazan, p. 14). Leopold Zunz dated Shawat to the mid-16th century (*Literaturgeschichte der synagogalen Poesie* [Berlin, 1865], p. 550). Shawat lived into the start of the 17th century. Jews who later wrote Tunisian Judeo-Arabic folk-songs about him yearly visited Shawat's grave in Testour, Tunisia him. Rabbi Shawat's songs were forgotten for nearly half a millennium (Hazan, p. 14).

ineffable and least tangible aspect: *Keter* (כֶּתֶר, "Crown").

³⁵ Compare with Psalm 5:13.

³⁶ I Chronicles 12:19.

³⁷ Compare with Psalm 27:4.

³⁸ Compare with Psalm 147:6.

³⁹ Psalm 58:9.

⁴⁰ Compare with Psalm 69:30–31.

⁴¹ Psalm 51:12.

⁴² Psalm 51:13.

⁴³ Psalm 144:1.

²⁵ כמו תהלים ה : יג.

²⁶ דברי הימים א יב : יט.

²⁷ כמו תהלים כז : ד.

²⁸ כמו תהלים קמוז : ו.

²⁹ תהלים נח : ט.

³⁰ כמו תהלים סט : ל-לא.

³¹ תהלים נא : יב.

³² תהלים נא : יג.

³³ כמו תהלים קמד : א.

³⁴ The word "Will" (רָצוֹן, *ratzon*) is a synonym in Kabbalah (הוֹצֵאת קַבְּלָה), Jewish mysticism) for God's most