

Eilekha Adonai Ekra

אֵלֶיךָ יְיָ אֶקְרָא, וְאֶל אֲדֹנָי אֶתְחַנֵּן
שְׁמַע יְיָ וְחַנּוּנִי, יְיָ הִיָּה עֵזֶר לִי
לְמַעַן יִזְמְרָךְ כְּבוֹד וְלֹא יִדָּם
יְיָ אֱלֹהֵי לְעוֹלָם אֲוֹדְךָ*

Ei-le-kha a-do-nai ek-ra, v'el a-do-nai et-kha-nan.
Sh-ma a-do-nai v'kho-nei-ni a-do-nai he-yei o-zeir li.
L'ma-an y'za-mer-kha kha-vod v'lo yi-dom.
A-do-nai e-lo-hai l'o-lam o-de-ka.

To You Adonai I would call and to my Liege I would plead. . . . Listen Adonai and favor me, Adonai be a helper to me. . . , that my soul sing to You and not be silenced. Adonai, my God, forever I will thank you.

D'rash

To you Adonai I would call and to my Liege I would plead—I turn to You for the path to my redemption, reaching within myself to find all that You have given me in the past, that you may be giving me now, or that You may give to me in the future. **Listen Adonai and favor me**—Sustain my faith in our covenant, that as I listen for Your will, Your Creation listens for my mitzvot, allowing their effects to ripple to the farthest reaches, defining the meaning of my life. **Adonai be a helper to me**—Sustain the workings of Your Creation, so that one good deed continues to draw another in its train. **That my soul sing to You and not be silenced**—My heart sings praises to God in the awesome recognition that I am allied with the Creator, that we are partners in tikun olam. **Adonai, my God, forever I will thank you**—There is within me the utter certainty that you are the source of my every moment and the choice I have to fill each of them with divine purpose.

Iyun Tefilla

SONG WITHOUT WORDS

Like the psalmist,
I swear not
To be silent—
V'lo yidom—
Not ever.
But who
Could sing on
Forever?
And anyway,
What is a song,
But a robe
For doing?
If I want
To refuse silence,
Let me make
Myself
The garment

For this prayer,
And I will rise
And be a song
Forever.

* Psalm 30:9, 11, 13.

Go to <http://www.gatherthepeople.org> for more congregational development and organizing tools.

© 2007 Moshe ben Asher & Khulda bat Sarah