

Tzadik Katamar

צָדִיק כְּתָמָר יִפְרַח, כְּאַרְז בַּלְבָּנוֹן יִשְׁגָּה:
שְׁתוּלִים בְּבֵית יי, בְּחִצְרוֹת אֱלֹהֵינוּ יִפְרִיחוּ:
עוֹד יִנּוּבוֹן בְּשִׁיבָה, דְּשָׁנִים וְרַעֲנָנִים יִהְיוּ:
לְהַגִּיד כִּי יֵשֶׁר יי, צוּרֵי וְלֹא עוֹלָתָהּ בּוֹ:

Tza-dik ka-ta-mar yif-rakh, k'e-rez bal-va-non yis-geh.
Sh'tu-lim b'veit a-do-nai b'khatz-rot e-lo-hei-nu yaf-ri-khu.
Od y'nu-vun b'sei-va, d'shei-nim v'ra-a'na-nim y'hi-yu.
L'ha-gid ki ya-shar a-do-nai, tzu-ri v'lo av-la-ta bo.

The righteous will blossom like a date palm, grow tall like a cedar of Lebanon. Planted in the house of Adonai, in the courtyards of our God they will flourish. They will yet be fruitful in old age, vigorous and fresh they will be—to tell that Adonai is just, my Rock, and that there is no wrong in God.

D'rash

The righteous will blossom like a date palm, grow tall like a cedar of Lebanon—*When we strengthen ourselves through the struggle to do God's will, our good works have both longevity and notable effect. Planted in the House of Adonai, in the courtyards of our God they will flourish*—*The will to righteousness grows slowly, but when matured it resists corruption of the mind or spirit. They will yet be fruitful in old age, vigorous and fresh they will be*—*Service to God is reciprocated; in return we receive limitless spiritual sustenance. To tell that Adonai is just, my Rock, and that there is no wrong in God*—*Choosing to live in the image of God, we find the shortest path, always the most efficient means to Kiddush Hashem.*

Iyun Tefilla

LATE BLOOMER

Like the palm
Let me store up
Moisture
For the drought.
Let me bloom
In spite of the desert
And even bear fruit
In old age,
Sowing deeds
Like children.
Knowing
What I know now—
That children grow
To live beyond
Our reach—
I will raise them

Carefully.
May my deeds
Go forth in the world
Like beloved children.

* Psalm 92:13-16.

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

© 2007 Moshe ben Asher & Khulda bat Sarah