

Seder HaAvodah, music by Ishai Rigbo, adapted English lyrics by Spencer Garfield

Went into the place he went in, and he stood in the place where he stood
He washed his hands and feet, immersed himself and patted dry
He came from the place that he came, and he walked in the place that he walked
He shed his daily wear, and donned a garb of white

And then he spoke aloud,

“Almighty G-d, forgive all my mistakes and the laws I forsake,

“All the damage I have caused You, and all who joined me,

“And if a man could point them out,

“My endless flaws and every falling short,

“And all of my sins, and how I’ve done You wrong,

“Oh, the man would surely count:

‘One, one and one, one and two, one and three, one and four, one and five, one and six, one and seven,’

He would surely despair

The pain far too much to bear

The bitterness of baneful sin

The pain of loss, the sting of shame, the failed attempts.”

And the priests and the crowd

In the court, they stood around

And when they heard the name of G-d

The highest priest had said aloud,

The crowd would fall upon their knees,

And place their faces on the ground before them,

“baruch shem k’vod malchuto l’olam va’ed”

(“Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever!”)

פסע למקום שפסע

He would step unto the place where he had stepped

פניו לקדש אחריו להיכל

His face turned to the holiness, his back to the Sanctuary

בלא רבב היו שוים פיו ומעשיו

Sinlessly, his mouth and deeds are at one

בא ממקום שהוא בא

He would come from the place that he came

והלך למקום שהלך

And go unto the place to which he went

פשט בגדי לבן

Stripped off his white garments

לבש בגדי זהב

Put on golden garments

וכך היה אומר

And thus he would say

אנא ה, 'כפר להטאים לעוונות ולפשעים

Please, O God, forgive the sins, the wrongdoings and the transgressions

שחטאתי לפניך אני וביתי

which I have sinned before You, I and my house

ואם אדם היה יכול לזכר

And if a man could remember

את החסדים את הטובות

the graces, the favors

את כל הרחמים את כל הישועות

All the mercies, all the salvations

בטח כך היה מונה

Thus he would surely count;

אחת אחת ואחת אחת ושתיים

One, one and one, one and two

אחת מאלף אלפי אלפים ורב רבי רבבות

One of the thousand thousand, thousands of thousands and myriad myriads

נסים נפלאות

of miracles and wonders

שעשית עמנו

which You have done for us

ימים ולילות

days and nights

והכהנים והעם העומדים בעזרה

And the priests and the people standing in the courtyard

כשהיו שומעים את שם ה' המפירש

when they would hear God's name explicated

יוצא מפי כהן גדול

coming out of the high priest's mouth

היו כורעים משתחוים ונופלים על פניהם

would bend their knees, bow down and fall on their faces

ברוך שם כבוד מלכותו לעולם ועד

"Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever!"

Went out from the place he went out,

And he'd shake on the ground where he stood

Removing all his gold, now with clothing of his own

And all the priests and all the crowd would step in to bring him home to his home

A good day with those he loved in a nation forgiven again

"Ashrei ha'am shekacha lo, ashrei ha'am she'Adonai Elohav"

"Happy is the people that is in such a case, happy is the people to whom Adonai is God"

כאהל הנמתח בדרי מעלה מראה כהן

Even as the expanded canopy of heaven, was the countenance of the priest

כברקים היוצאים מזיו החיות מראה כהן

As the lightning that proceedeth from the splendor of the angels, was the countenance of the priest

כדמות הקשת בתוך הענן מראה כהן

As the appearance of the bow, in the midst of the cloud, was the countenance of the priest

כחסד הנתן על פני התן מראה כהן

As the amiable tenderness depicted on the face of the bridegroom, was the countenance of the priest

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