

## Parashat Shoftim

אָהָבוּ אֶת יְהוָה | דֹּר יִשְׂרָאֵל:  
הִתְקוּשְׁשׁוּ וְקוּשׁוּ | וְאַחֲזוּ צֶדֶק וּמִשְׁפָּט וּמִיִּשְׂרָאֵל:  
רְצוֹן אֵל עֲשׂוּ | וּתְנוּ בְשָׁעָרִים:  
גָּאֲמְנֵי לֵב | שְׁפֹטִים וְשֹׁטְרִים:  
בְּיֶשֶׁר יִרְדְּפוּ | וְלֹא יִהְיוּ פָּנִים מִפְּרִים:  
נִשְׂאָ שֹׁחַד יִמָּאֶסוּ | פֶּן יִמְשְׁשׁוּ קִיר כְּמוֹ עוֹרִים:  
וַיִּסְלְפוּ | דְּבָרֵי צְדִיקִים וּבְרוּרִים:  
וַיִּשְׁבִּיתוּ מִצְבָּה | וְחֲמָנִים וְאַשְׁרִים:  
וְעָבַד צָבָא שְׁמִים | וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לְאֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים:  
יִסְקַל | עַל פִּי עֵדִים כְּשֹׁרִים:  
וּפְלְאֵי מִשְׁפָּטִים | חֲמוּרִים:  
כִּי־דִין לְדִין | רִיבוֹת דְּבָרִים:  
יִבְאוּ | לְחֲכָמֵי מִחֻקִּים:  
וּמִלֶּךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל | לֹא יִהְיֶה מְאַנְשִׁים נְכָרִים:  
וְלֹא יִמָּצְאוּ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל | יְלִדֵיהֶם בָּאֵשׁ מְעַבְרִים:  
וְשִׂאל אוֹב וַיְדַעְנֵי | וְחִבֵּר חֻבָּרִים:  
נָבִיא מִבִּינֵי יָקִים יְהוָה | מַגִּיד נִסְתָּרִים:  
וּכְמִלְחָמַת רְשׁוֹת | לֹא יֵצְאוּ חֲמֻשָּׁה נִסְפָּרִים:  
כִּי בְמִלְחָמַת חוֹבָה | יֵצֵא חֲתָן מִחֻדְרִים:  
וְלִקְרָא בְּשֵׁלֹם | לְכָל עָרִים:  
וְאִם לֹא יִשְׁלִימוּ | יָפוּ הַנְּכָרִים:  
וְחָלַל נִמְצָא | בֵּין הַכְּפָרִים:  
עִיר הַקְּרוּבָה בְּחָלָל | זְקֻנִיָּה יִקְחוּ עֲגֹלַת בְּקָרִים:  
לֹא מְשֻׁכָּה בְּעַל | וְאִם הָרִים:  
וְהַשֵּׁם יִבְעַר דָּם הַנָּקִי | אִם נַעֲשֶׂה דְרָכֵי בָרִים:  
אִין כָּאֵל, יִשְׁרוֹן | וּמִי כְמוֹהוּ מוֹרָה מִמוֹרִים:  
נִשְׁפָּחְנוּ | בְּזִמְרוֹת וְשִׁירִים:  
וְקָהַל: כִּי גִבַּה בְּצַדִּיקָה | מִשְׁפִּיל וּמְרִים:

חֲזוֹן: וַיִּגְבַּה יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת בְּמִשְׁפָּט | וְהָאֵל הַקְּדוֹשׁ נִקְדָּשׁ בְּצַדִּיקָה:  
קָהַל: קְדוֹשׁ קְדוֹשׁ קְדוֹשׁ | יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת | מִלֵּא כָל־הָאָרֶץ כְּבוֹדוֹ:

## Piyyut for Shoftim

Love ye Adonai, O generation of upright people,  
Gather yourselves, aye, gather, and take hold of righteousness, and justness, and uprightness.  
Do God's will, and place in the gates  
People who are faithful in their heart as judges and officers.  
They should pursue [justice] uprightly, and not show partiality.  
They should reject taking bribes, lest they fumble around the wall like the blind,  
And pervert the words of the righteous and the clear.  
[The Israelites] must get rid of all standing-pillars and *hammanim* and *asherim*;  
And whoever worships the host of heaven, and prostrates to foreign deities,  
Shall be stoned, according to the word of two fit witnesses.  
And extraordinary [cases] of severe laws,  
Between judgment and judgment – quarrels regarding matters,  
Shall be brought to wise people of investigation.  
And the king of Israel shall not be from foreign men.  
And there shall not be found in Israel people who pass their children through fire,  
Or one that consults of ghosts or lots, or a whisperer of whisperers.  
Adonai will bring up a prophet from among them, who will tell secret things.  
In an optional battle, five numbered [categories of people] must not go,  
But in an obligatory battle, [even] a groom must go from his [marital] chamber.  
[The Israelites] must call to [offer] peace to all cities,  
And if [the inhabitants of the city] do not settle, then all the males shall be smote.  
And [if] a corpse is found between the towns,  
The city that is nearest to the corpse – its elders shall take a female calf of the cattle,  
Which has never pulled a yoke, even if it has lifted one.  
And the Name<sup>1</sup> will purge the blood of the innocent [victim], if we act in ways of purity.  
There is none like God, O Jeshurun! What teacher, of [all] teachers, is like Him?  
We praise Him with hymns and songs –  
*Cong.* For He is lofty in justice, He brings down and raises up.

*Cantor.* And Adonai Zeva'oth is towering high in justice; and the holy God is sanctified in righteousness. (Isaiah 5:16)

*Cong.* **Holy, holy, holy is Adonai Zeva'oth; the entire world is full of His glory. (Isaiah 6:3)**

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<sup>1</sup> **The Name.** Hebrew *ha-shem*, an epithet for God.

