

**Simḥa ben Shelomo ha-Kusdini (“of Istanbul”) (Eupatoria, Crimea, Istanbul, Turkey, d. 1810) / Shabbat Menuḥa**

There are several Karaite scholars by the name of Simḥa ben Shelomo. According to Jacob Mann, however, the author of the poem *Shabbat Menuḥa* was the Karaite scholar Simḥa ben Shelomo, who passed away in Turkey in 1810. He was born in Eupatoria (Gozlow/Gözlewe) in the Crimean Peninsula and studied under Simḥa Yitshaq Lutski. After the Russian invasion of the Crimea in 1772, he moved to Istanbul. His wife Berucha was the sister of the Crimean scholar Yitshaq ben Shelomo (1755–1826), the author of *Or hal-Levana* (“The Light of the Moon”, Zhitomir 1872) on the Karaite calendar reform.

Simḥa ben Shelomo corresponded with the Karaites in Damascus, Crimea, Jerusalem and Cairo. Some of the correspondence deals with the rebuilding of the Karaite synagogue in Hasköy, Istanbul, after it was destroyed in a fire. In addition, these letters inform that his wife and their two sons, Shelomo and Yehuda, died prematurely, which caused him great anguish. Simḥa authored several literary works, including a commentary on the philosophical work *Ets ḥayyim* by Aharon ben Eliyahu (c. 1328–1369), an exposition on ritual slaughter, and a commentary on the Ten Principles of Karaite Jewish faith.

שַׁבַּת מְנוּחָה וְאוֹרָה	Shabbat menuḥa ve’ora
מַטָּנָה הִיא מֵאֵל נוֹרָא	Mattana hi me’El nora

<p>הֶלְלוּ כִּי טוֹב זְמֵרָה</p> <p>מִזְמוֹר שִׁיר לַיּוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת</p>	<p>Hallelu ki tov zammera</p> <p>Mizmor shir leyom hash-Shabbat</p>
<p>הֶלְלוּ כִּי טוֹב זְמֵרָה</p> <p>מִזְמוֹר שִׁיר לַיּוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת</p>	<p>Hallelu ki tov zammera</p> <p>Mizmor shir leyom hash-Shabbat</p>
<p>מִכֹּל יָמִים הִיא הַשׁוּבָה</p> <p>וְתוֹכוֹ רָצוּף אֶהְבָּה</p> <p>שְׁשׂוֹן שְׂמֵחָה יִמָּצֵא בָּהּ</p> <p>כִּי קֹדֶשׁ שַׁבָּתוֹן שַׁבָּת</p>	<p>Mikkol yamim hi hashuva</p> <p>Vetocho ratsuf ahava</p> <p>Sason simḥa yimmatse' vah</p> <p>Ki kodesh Shabbaton Shabbat</p>
<p>הֶלְלוּ כִּי טוֹב זְמֵרָה</p> <p>מִזְמוֹר שִׁיר לַיּוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת</p>	<p>Hallelu ki tov zammera</p> <p>Mizmor shir leyom hash-Shabbat</p>
<p>חֲנוּן אֵל בָּרוּךְ וּמְבוֹרָךְ</p> <p>לֶחֶם יוֹמַיִם בּוֹ עָרָךְ</p> <p>לִקְרָא עוֹנֵג עַל כֵּן בִּרְךְ</p> <p>יְיָ אֵת יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת</p>	<p>Hannun El baruch umvorach</p> <p>Leḥem yomaim bo 'arach</p> <p>Likro 'oneg 'al ken berach</p> <p>Adonay et yom hash-Shabbat</p>
<p>הֶלְלוּ כִּי טוֹב זְמֵרָה</p>	<p>Hallelu ki tov zammera</p>

מִזְמוֹר שִׁיר לַיּוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת	Mizmor shir leyom hash-Shabbat
הַגּוּף בּוֹ יִמְצָא מְנוּחָה בְּרֵאוֹת כִּי הֵיְתָה הַרְוָחָה גַּם נֶפֶשׁ תּוֹסִיף תֵּת כֹּהֵן לְקַדֵּשׁ אֶת יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת	Hagguf bo yimtsa menuḥa Bir'ot ki hayeta harvaḥa Gam nefesh tosif tet koḥah Leḳaddesh et yom hash-Shabbat
הַלְלוּ כִּי טוֹב זִמְרָה מִזְמוֹר שִׁיר לַיּוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת	Hallelu ki tov zammera Mizmor shir leyom hash-Shabbat
בַּחַר אֵל שׁוֹכֵן מְעוֹנַי בְּנֵי שְׁלֹשֶׁת אֵיתָנִי שִׁמְעוּ וּרְאוּ כִּי יוֹי נָתַן לָכֶם אֶת יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת	Baḥar El shochen me'onay Bené sheloshet etanay Shim'u ur'u ki Adonay Natan lachem et yom hash-Shabbat
הַלְלוּ כִּי טוֹב זִמְרָה מִזְמוֹר שִׁיר לַיּוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת	Hallelu ki tov zammera Mizmor shir leyom hash-Shabbat
נִזְהַר בְּזָכוֹר וְשָׁמוֹר סוּדוֹ נוֹדֵף כִּצְרוֹר הַמּוֹר	Nizhar bezachor veshamor Sodo nodef kitsror hammor

<p>עַל כֵּן חוֹבָה לָנוּ לְשִׁמּוֹר וְלַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת</p>	<p>'Al ken ḥova lanu lishmor Vela'asot et yom hash-Shabbat</p>
<p>הַלְלוּ כִּי טוֹב זִמְרָה מִזְמוֹר שִׁיר לְיוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת</p>	<p>Hallelu ki tov zammera Mizmor shir leyom hash-Shabbat</p>
<p>שְׁלַחֵהוּ הָאֵל בְּכַבּוֹד מִנוּחָה הַיּוֹם מִעֲבוֹד כִּי שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תַּעֲבֹד וְיוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי שַׁבָּת</p>	<p>Shelaḥo ha'El bechavod Menuḥa hayyom me'avod Ki sheshet yamim ta'avod Veyom hash-shevi'i Shabbat</p>
<p>הַלְלוּ כִּי טוֹב זִמְרָה מִזְמוֹר שִׁיר לְיוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת</p>	<p>Hallelu ki tov zammera Mizmor shir leyom hash-Shabbat</p>
<p>חֲדוּשׁ עוֹלָמוֹ וְיִכְלָתוֹ מְצִיאֹת אֵל וְאַחֲדוּתוֹ מִזְרָה לָנוּ יוֹם שַׁבָּתוֹ כִּי הַיּוֹם לַיְיָ שַׁבָּת</p>	<p>Hiddush 'olamo vicholto Metsi'ut El ve'ahduto Moreh lanu yom Shabbato Ki hayyom lAdonay Shabbat</p>

<p>הַלְלוּ כִּי טוֹב זְמַרָה מִזְמוֹר שִׁיר לְיוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת</p>	<p>Hallelu ki tov zammera Mizmor shir leyom hash-Shabbat</p>
<p>זֹאת מַתָּנָה נְחֻלֵי־אֵל קָבַע אֹת לְבַנְי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְהוֹדִיעַ מַה־לֵּל אֵל וְזָכֹר אֶת יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת</p>	<p>Zot mattana nahli'el Kava' ot livné Yisra'el Lehodia' mahalal El Vezachor et yom hash-Shabbat</p>
<p>הַלְלוּ כִּי טוֹב זְמַרָה מִזְמוֹר שִׁיר לְיוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת</p>	<p>Hallelu ki tov zammera Mizmor shir leyom hash-Shabbat</p>

The Sabbath day is contentment and light,  
A gift from the awesome God.  
Praise Him! For it is good to sing  
The psalm and the song for the Sabbath day.

It is the noblest day  
Within, decked with love,  
You will find joy and delight,  
For it is the holy Sabbath of the Lord.

Merciful God, blessed and extoled,  
Prepared two days' bread for one day:  
"Call it delight". Therefore  
The Lord blessed the Sabbath day.

On that day, the body finds rest  
And learns that there is relief.  
The soul will carry on yielding its strength  
To hallow the Sabbath day!

The One dwelling above chose  
The children of our three noble ones.  
Hear and learn how the Lord  
Gave you the Sabbath day!

[For] those who remembered and observed with care  
His secret will spread like a bag of myrrh!  
Thus, it is our duty to keep  
And observe the Sabbath day.

God in His glory sent this:  
Relief from labor on this day!  
For six days you may work,  
And the seventh day is the Sabbath.

The creation of His world and His rule,  
Divine existence and unity:  
His Sabbath day shows them to us –  
For today is the Sabbath day of the Lord.

This gift of God's inheritance  
He set as a sign to the children of Israel:  
To proclaim the praise of God,  
To remember the Sabbath day.

As it is written: Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy (Ex. 20:8).