Azkir Tehillot

אזכיר תהלות

**Name:** Azkir Tehillot

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**Genre:** Poetry

**Occasion:** Passover

**Acrostic:** I am Yosef son of Yitsḥaḳ, *ḥazaḳ ve’emats* (“be strong and mighty!”), Amen  
 אני יוסף בר יצחק חזק ואמץ אמן

**Composer**: Yosef bar Yitsḥaḳ

**Year:** Nineteenth century

**Source:** Vilna Siddur, Volume IV, p. 131. (In the fourth line of the fourth stanza, the vocalization אַב in Vilna has been changed here to אָב, because the syntax requires an absolute, not a construct, form.)

**Heading in source:** זמר נאה לימי הפסח שחברו החכם מוהרר' יוסף בר יצחק יעמ"ש (=יחי עד מאה שנה)   
“A song for Passover written by the Sage Rabbi Yosef bar Yitsḥaḳ, may he live a hundred years”

**Visual Representation of Meter:** – – v – – – / – – v – –

**Description of Meter:** Each line consists of two half-lines: the first half-line contains two full vowels, followed by a vocal sheva and a full vowel, followed by two more full vowels. The second half-line consists of two full vowels, followed by a vocal sheva and a full vowel, followed by one more full vowel.

**Refrain:** נשגב (נשגב) שמו נקדש שוכן ברמים, “Lofty! (Lofty) is [God’s] name, sanctified, dwelling on high!”

**Note:**

In the fourth stanza, the expression *ḥiḳrē shelishav* (חקרי שלישיו) is obscure. We have translated it as “the deep meaning of his words,” understanding חקרי as from חקר “depth, contemplation”, and שלישיו as an allusion to Proverbs 22:20 “Have I not written *shalishim* for you, in counsels and knowledge,” where the word refers to words of wisdom.

In seventh stanza, the words “[the Egyptians] saw, in fear” may refer to the plagues, which are mentioned in the preceding words, but more likely they refer to the paschal lamb of the next line; the Egyptians saw that their sacred animal was being brought by the Israelites for sacrifice, and they were powerless to prevent them.