Yaḥid Be‘olamo

יחיד בעולמו

**Name:** Yaḥid Be‘olamo

יחיד בעולמו

**Genre:** Poetry

**Occasion:** Passover (Perhaps specifically the seventh day, given the focus on the miracles at the sea)

**Acrostic:** Yitsḥaḳ, *ḥazaḳ ve’emats* (“be strong and mighty!”)

יצחק חזק ואמץ

**Composer**: Yitsḥaḳ ben Shelomo

**Year:** Around 1800

**Place:** Chufut-Kale

**Source:** Vilna Siddur, Volume IV, p. 134. (In the first line of the fourth stanza, the vocalization יַד in Vilna has been changed here to יָד, because the syntax requires an absolute, not a construct, form.)

**Heading in source:** זמר נאה לפסח להר"ר יצחק בעל אור הלבנה בנגון כי אשמרה

“A nice song for Passover by Rabbi Yitsḥaḳ author of *Or Hallevana*, to the tune of ‘Ki Eshmera’”

**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:** כי העלה מים רעה וצאנו, “When he brought up the shepherd and his flock out of the sea”

**Note:** The poem speaks of God’s “refining” the Israelites in the “crucible of the iron”; this is a reference to Deuteronomy 4:20: *But you hath the LORD taken and brought forth out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be unto Him a people of inheritance, as ye are this day.* Added by the poet is the word “refined”; while the Biblical verse may mean only that Egypt was as painful as a hot furnace for smelting metal, the poet understands it as meaning that just as a furnace refines metal of its impurities, so did the oppression in Egypt purify Israel. In the second line of the second stanza, the meaning of the word *hammin veha’ish‑shur* is unclear, and it is likely corrupt; the translation here, “a type of happiness”, understands the words literally as “the type and the happiness,” but this is merely a guess.