**Introduction:**This beautiful poem for the Sabbath offers greetings for the Sabbath day and compares the joys of the Sabbath to mundaneness of the remaining days of the week.

**Category:**Zemirot (Songs)  
  
**Genre:**Zemer for the Sabbath  
  
**Occasion:** Sabbath  
  
**Name:**על אהבתך  
 ‘Al ahavatecha  
  
**Composer:**  Yehuda Ha-levy  
  
  
**Source:**Vilna Siddur, Volume 4, page 110  
  
  
**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.  
  
  
**Karaite origin:** No

**Note:** The original version of Yehuda Ha-levy’s *‘Al Ahavatecha* only had six stanzas. Later Rabbanites added two more stanzas. Versions of these two stanzas appear in Volume IV of the Vilna Karaite prayerbook. The Karaite transmission of the seventh stanza (one of the added ones) changed some of these added words to remove references to Rabbanite theology. For example, in the rabbinic printings the seventh stanza has the following references to three meals on Shabbat:

אָשִׁיר לְךָ שַׁבַּת שִׁיר הַיְדִידוֹת

גַם יָאֲתָה לָךְ אַתְ יוֹם הַחֲמוּדוֹת

יוֹם תַעֲנוּגִים יוֹם שָׁלֹשׁ סְעוּדוֹת

תַּעֲנוּג לְשֻׁלְחָנִי תַּעֲנוּג יְצוּעִי

The Karaite printings instead read

אָשִׁיר לְךָ שַׁבָּת : שִׁיר יְדִידוֹת:

גַּם טוֹב לְזַמֵּר בָּךְ : גַּם טוֹב לְהוֹדוֹת:

לָאֵל אֲשֶׁר קִדֵּשׁ : יוֹם הַחֲמוּדוֹת:

תַּעֲנוּג לְנִשְׁמָתִי : מַרְפֵּא לְנִגְעִי: