יצר האל, Yatsar Ha’el

**Introduction:** A short and concise poem for the Sabbath by an unknown author, calling upon the Karaites to imitate God by resting on the seventh day. Everyone is encouraged to enjoy the Sabbath with songs and wine and declare God’s unity.

**Category:** Zemirot (Songs)  
  
**Genre:** Zemer for the Sabbath  
  
**Occasion:** Sabbath  
  
**Name:** יצר האל, Yatsar Ha’el  
  
**Composer**: Ya‘aḳov (otherwise unknown)  
  
**Acrostic:** יעקב, “Ya‘aḳov”  
  
**Meter:** Eight syllables per line; with each vocal sheva counting as a full syllable  
  
**Source:** Vilna Siddur, Volume 4, page 106  
  
**Davidson number:** י 3552  
  
**Karaite origin:** Uncertain

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| Yatsar ha’el et ha‘olam  Sheshet yamim killa chullam  Yom shevi‘i mikkelalam  Ḳiddesh oto gam berechahu | יָ֒צַר הָאֵל אֶת הָעוֹלָם  שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים כִּלָּה כֻלָּם  יוֹם שְׁבִיעִי מִכְּלָלָם  קִדֵּשׁ אוֹתוֹ גַּם בֵּרְכָהוּ: |
| God created the world.  In six days, He completed everything.  The seventh day amidst them,  He hallowed and blessed. | |
| Yatsar ha’el et ha‘olam  Sheshet yamim killa chullam  Yom shevi‘i mikkelalam  Ḳiddesh oto gam berechahu | יָצַר הָאֵל אֶת הָעוֹלָם  שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים כִּלָּה כֻלָּם  יוֹם שְׁבִיעִי מִכְּלָלָם  קִדֵּשׁ אוֹתוֹ גַּם בֵּרְכָהוּ: |
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| ‘Al ken tsivva livné ‘ammo  Lishbot bayyom hahu lishmo  Ulhishtaḥavot el hadomo  ‘Im shevaḥot shabbeḥuhu | עַ֒ל כֵּן צִוָּה לִבְנֵי עַמּוֹ   לִשְׁבּוֹת בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לִשְׁמוֹ  וּלְהִשְׁתַּחֲווֹת אֶל הֲדוֹמוֹ  עִם שְׁבָחוֹת שַׁבְּחוּהוּ: |
| Hence, He commanded His people  to cease from labor on that day for His sake  and to bow before His Temple.  Glorify Him with praises! | |
| Yatsar ha’el et ha‘olam  Sheshet yamim killa chullam  Yom shevi‘i mikkelalam  Ḳiddesh oto gam berechahu | יָצַר הָאֵל אֶת הָעוֹלָם  שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים כִּלָּה כֻלָּם  יוֹם שְׁבִיעִי מִכְּלָלָם  קִדֵּשׁ אוֹתוֹ גַּם בֵּרְכָהוּ: |
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| Ḳir’u shirim banne‘imim  Ushtu yenot ‘im mat‘imim  Ya‘an zé yom yom ta‘atsumim  Ki ḳadosh hu ḳaddeshuhu | קִ֒רְאוּ שִׁירִים בַּנְּעִימִים  וּשְׁתוּ יֵינוֹת עִם מַטְעִימִים  יַעַן זֶה יוֹם יוֹם תַּעֲצוּמִים  כִּי קָדוֹשׁ הוּא קַדְּשׁוּהוּ: |
| Recite songs gracefully,  and drink wines with delicacies.  For this is a day of intense wonders.  As it is holy, so shall you hallow it! | |
| Yatsar ha’el et ha‘olam  Sheshet yamim killa chullam  Yom shevi‘i mikkelalam  Ḳiddesh oto gam berechahu | יָצַר הָאֵל אֶת הָעוֹלָם  שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים כִּלָּה כֻלָּם  יוֹם שְׁבִיעִי מִכְּלָלָם  קִדֵּשׁ אוֹתוֹ גַּם בֵּרְכָהוּ: |
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| Berach ha’el et hash-shabbat  Ya‘an ki vo beyom shavat  Moré el ḳadmuto shabbat  Ki eḥad hu yaḥaduhu | בֵּ֒רַךְ הָאֵל אֶת הַשַּׁבָּת  יַעַן כִּי בוֹ בְּיוֹם שָׁבַת מוֹרֶה אֶל קַדְמוּתוֹ שַׁבָּת  כִּי אֶחָד הוּא יַחֲדוּהוּ: |
| God blessed the Sabbath because,  on that day, He rested.  The Sabbath shows his ancientness.  As He is one, declare His oneness! | |
| Yatsar ha’el et ha‘olam  Sheshet yamim killa chullam  Yom shevi‘i mikkelalam  Ḳiddesh oto gam berechahu | יָצַר הָאֵל אֶת הָעוֹלָם  שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים כִּלָּה כֻלָּם  יוֹם שְׁבִיעִי מִכְּלָלָם  קִדֵּשׁ אוֹתוֹ גַּם בֵּרְכָהוּ: |
| God created the world.  In six days, He completed everything.  The seventh day amidst them,  He hallowed and blessed. | |
| Kakkatuv: shema‘ yisra’el adonai elohenu adonai eḥad. | כַּכָּתוּב: שְׁמַ֖ע יִשְׂרָאֵ֑ל יְהֹוָ֥ה אֱלֹהֵ֖ינוּ יְהֹוָ֥ה ׀ אֶחָֽד׃ (דברים פרק ו,ד) |
| As it is written: Hear, O Israel! Adonai is our God, Adonai alone (Deut. 6:4). | |