Yona Le’edech Re’i / יונה לאידך ראי

**Category:** Liturgy

**Genre:** Liturgyical Poetry

**Sub-genre:** Qinot (lamentations)

**Occasion:** First Shabbat of the Weeks of Mourning in Tammuz

**Source:** Vilna Siddur vol. 1, p. 110

**Name:** Yona Le’edech Re’i

יונה לאידך ראי

**Karaite Origin**: Yes

**Author:** Yosef ben Moshe

**Acrostic:** Yosef ben Moshe, be Strong!

**יוסף בן משה חזק**

**Notes:** The “dove” in the poem is an epithet for the Jewish people, based on Song of Songs 2:14, where the female character, traditionally understood as the Jewish people, is called “my dove.” In the stanza beginning ספקי “Clap”, the word אי *i* appears twice; the first time it definitely means “oh, alas,” and the second time it has been translated here in the same way, but it may actually be intended in some other (totally unclear) meaning. In the stanza beginning הכי “smite”, the Roman Empire is called Lotan, a chiefdom of Edom (see Genesis 36:20), because of the traditional identification of Rome with Edom. In the stanza beginning חזקי “Be mighty,” there is an allusion to Isaiah 22:6: *And Kir (an ancient city) uncovered the shield*; the meaning of Hebrew is uncertain both in the Biblical verse and here. In the stanza beginning נדה “Stay apart”, the word תעה is vocalized as it appears in the printing in Vilna Siddur vol. 4, not here in the Vilna Siddur vol. 1.