לחתני מבחר בני, Laḥatani Mivḥar Banai

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Simḥa Yitsḥaḳ ben Moshe Lutski

(Lutsk, Volhynia, and Chufut-Kale, Crimea; c. 1716–1760)

**Introduction:** A poem for the groom and bride, blessing them and praying for the future success of the young couple. The refrain of the poem alludes to the priestly benediction.

**Category:** Zemirot (Songs)  
**Genre:** Zemer for a Wedding  
**Occasion:** Weddings  
**Name:** לחתני מבחר בני, Laḥatani Mivḥar Banai  
**Composer**: Simḥa Yitsḥaḳ ben Moshe Lutski  
**Acrostic:** יצחק חזק “Yitsḥaḳ, be strong!”  
**Source:** Vilna Siddur, Volume 4, page 98  
**Fixed word:** יהוה, “Adonai”  
**Meter:** The first three lines of each stanza consist of eight syllables each, where a sheva counts as a full syllable (this accords with the first half of the refrain). The fourth line consists of nine syllables, where, again, a sheva counts as a full syllable (this accords with the second half of the refrain).  
**Davidson number:** ל 656  
**Karaite origin:** Yes

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| Laḥatani mivḥar banai  or befanav ya’er adonai | לַחֲתָנִי מִבְחַר בָּנַי:  אוֹר בְּפָנָיו יָאֵר יְהֹוָה: |
| Upon my bridegroom, the choicest of my sons  may Adonai shine His face! | |
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| Yizkor tsuri kol minḥotav  Gam yedash-shen et ‘olotav  Bizchut av et toledotav  Na yevarech yishmor adonai | יִ֒זְכֹּר צוּרִי כָּל מִנְחוֹתָיו  גַּם יְדַשֵּׁן אֶת עוֹלוֹתָיו  בִּזְכוּת אָב אֶת תּוֹלְדוֹתָיו  נָא יְבָרֵךְ יִשְׁמֹר יְהֹוָה: |
| May the Rock receive his meal offerings  and also approve his burnt offerings.  Through the ancestral merits,  may Adonai bless and keep his offspring! | |
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| Tsav letsav ḳav bishu‘ato  Ḥish yetsavvé et birchato  Yar‘if lo mish-shemé shivto  Tal beracha me’et adonai | צַ֒ו לְצַו קַו בִּישׁוּעָתוֹ  חִישׁ יְצַוֶּה אֶת בִּרְכָתוֹ  יַרְעִיף לוֹ מִשְּׁמֵי שִׁבְתּוֹ  טַל בְּרָכָה מֵאֵת יְהֹוָה: |
| Precept by precept, for those awaiting His salvation,  He will speedily order His blessing.  From His heavenly abode,  He will pour the dew of blessing from Adonai. | |
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| Upon my bridegroom, the choicest of my sons  may Adonai shine His face! | |
| Ḥen vechavod yitten elav  Ki betamim kol maslulav  Af yemallé et mishalav  Ya’amin lirot tuv adonai | חֵ֒ן וְכָבוֹד יִתֵּן אֵלָיו  כִּי בְּתָמִים כָּל מַסְלוּלָיו  אַף יְמַלֵּא אֶת מִשְׁאָלָיו  יַאֲמִין לִרְאוֹת טוּב יְהֹוָה: |
| God will supply grace and glory to him when all his paths are righteous!  And God will fulfill his every wish:  he has faith in seeing the kindness of Adonai. | |
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| Upon my bridegroom, the choicest of my sons  may Adonai shine His face! | |

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| Ḳal mehera yaḥish tuvo  Tov ve‘arev mo‘il nivo  Kol retsono ḥesheḳ libo  Lahaḡot et torat adonai | קַ֒ל מְהֵרָה יָחִישׁ טוּבוֹ  טוֹב וְעָרֵב מוֹעִיל נִיבוֹ  כָּל רְצוֹנוֹ חֵשֶׁק לִבּוֹ  לַהֲגוֹת אֶת תּוֹרַת יְהֹוָה: |
| Quick as a flash, God will rush His goodness:  his lips’ expression will yield goodness and sweetness.  All his will and his heart’s desire  is to contemplate the Torah of Adonai. | |
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| Upon my bridegroom, the choicest of my sons  may Adonai shine His face! | |
| Ḥai veḳayyam tsur ‘olamim  Ya’arich yamav banne‘imim  ‘Im ḥaverto kol hayyamim  Habberucha yirat Adonai | חַ֒י וְקַיָּם צוּר עוֹלָמִים  יַאֲרִיךְ יָמָיו בַּנְּעִימִים  עִם חֲבֶרְתּוֹ כָּל הַיָּמִים  הַבְּרוּכָה יִרְאַת יְהֹוָה: |
| Living and enduring is the everlasting Rock,  may He multiply the groom’s days with pleasantness,  All his days with his spouse.  She is blessed, and she fears Adonai. | |
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| Upon my bridegroom, the choicest of my sons  may Adonai shine His face! | |
| Zé vezot tamid yismaḥu  Veyatsliḥu veyafriḥu  Bimḥoz haḥayyim yelechu  Venafsho taḡil badonai | זֶ֒ה וְזאֹת תָּמִיד יִשְׂמָחוּ  וְיַצְלִיחוּ וְיַפְרִיחוּ  בִּמְחוֹז הַחַיִּים יֵלֵכוּ  וְנַפְשׁוֹ תָּגִיל בַּיהֹוָה: |
| May husband and wife always rejoice,  prosper and be fruitful!  May they always walk among the living,  and may his soul rejoice in Adonai. | |
| Laḥatani mivḥar banai  or befanav ya’er adonai | לַחֲתָנִי מִבְחַר בָּנַי  אוֹר בְּפָנָיו יָאֵר יְהֹוָה: |
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| Ḳarno tarum berov kavod  Ki ḥanano el yeter hod  Vahadar mif‘alo ya‘amod  Yiré zera‘ berach adonai  Or befanav ya’er adonai | קַ֒רְנוֹ תָּרוּם בְּרוֹב כָּבוֹד  כִּי חֲנָנוֹ אֵל יֶתֶר הוֹד  וַהֲדַר מִפְעָלוֹ יַעֲמוֹד  יִרְאֶה זֶרַע בֵּרַךְ יְהֹוָה  אוֹר בְּפָנָיו יָאֵר יְהֹוָה: |
| His horn will be exalted in ample glory,  for God has shown him abundant grace.  And his glorious deeds shall abide;  may he see his offspring blessed by Adonai!  May Adonai shine His face! | |
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| Kakkatuv: Yiré zera‘ ya’arich yamim veḥefets adonai beyado yitslaḥ. | כַּכָּתוּב: יִרְאֶ֥ה זֶ֖רַע יַֽאֲרִ֣יךְ יָמִ֑ים וְחֵ֥פֶץ יְהוָ֖ה בְּיָד֥וֹ יִצְלָֽח׃ (ישעיהו פרק נג,י) |
| As it is written: He might see offspring and have long life, and that through him Adonai’s purpose might prosper (Is. 53:10). | |