

My Innermost Thoughts ✨ R' Yehuda Halevi ✨  
 ✨ ספרד ✨ 11-12th Century ✨ מאה 11-12

My innermost thoughts rouse me	וְסוֹד לְבִי וּמִשְׁאָלוֹ	יְעִירוּנִי רַעֲיוֹנִי
To speak my pleas and sing God's praises	בְּזִמְרַת אֵל וּמִהֲלָלוֹ	הַגּוֹת דְּבָרֵי תַחֲנוּנֵי
For His sake I will not let my eyes sleep at midnight	חֲצוֹת לַיְלָה בְּגִלְלוֹ	וְלֹא אֶתֵּן שְׁנַת לַעֲיִנִי
To see the graciousness of God and visit His temple	וּלְבַקֵּר בְּהִיכְלוֹ	לְחַזוֹת בְּנֶעֱמֹה ה'
When I wake I think, "Who has woken me?"	מִי הוּא אֲשֶׁר הִקְיָצַנִי	הַקִּיצוֹתִי וְאַחֲשֵׁב
It is the holy one enthroned on praises who has roused me,	תְּהִלּוֹתָיו הָאֵיִצְנִי	וְהִנֵּה קְדוֹשׁ יוֹשֵׁב
Made me hear, strengthened me, and encouraged me	וְחִזְקָנִי וְאַמְצָנִי	וְנָתַן בְּאַזְנִי קוֹשֵׁב
So long as He restores my spirit I bless the one who guides me	אֲבָרַךְ אֲשֶׁר יַעֲצֵנִי	וְכָל עוֹד רוּחִי הַשֵּׁב
The rock— the soul is His, the body is His work	וְהַגּוּיָהּ מִפְּעֻלּוֹ	צוּר אֲשֶׁר הִנָּשְׁמָה לוֹ
I pray before Him and take pleasure in my prayer	וּבִתְפִלָּה אֶתְעַנֵּג	וְאֶתְפַּלֵּל לִפְנָיו
My tears pierce His clouds, sweeter than nectar and balsam	וּמִתְקוֹ מִצוּר וּפִנֵּג	וּבִקְעוֹ דְּמַעֵי עֲנָנָיו
My heart seems haughty in his eyes though truly it melts like wax	בְּעֵת נִמְס כְּדֹאֵג	וְגִבָּה לְבִי בְּעֵינָיו
Like a servant before his master melting with fear	מִפְּחָדוֹ יִתְמַוָּג	כְּעֶבֶד לִפְנֵי אֲדֹנָיו
When he remembers the object of his mercy he will forget his toil	יִנָּשֶׂה אֶת כָּל עֲמָלוֹ	וְכִי יִזְכֹּר מִחֲמָלוֹ
Night, be still and hold back dawn from coming	וְאַחֵר שַׁחַר מְבֹאֵ	דוֹם לַיְלָה וְהִכָּבֵד
Until the servant's request before his master is favored	בְּתַחֲנוּנָיו אֵל רַבּוֹ	עַד יִתְרַצֶּה עֶבֶד
Pouring out his heart and innards and speaking what plagues him	וְיִגִּיד נִגְעֵי לְבוֹ	וְיִשְׁפֹּף דָּם לֵב וְכִבֵּד
Then the servant will be unified with the king at his table	עִם הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּמִסְבּוֹ	וְיִתְיַחַד הָעוֹבֵד
He will sing, taking up his theme, to the name of his banner and tower	לְשֵׁם דָּגְלוֹ וּמִגְדָּלוֹ	וְיִשִּׁיר וְיִשָּׂא מִשְׁלוֹ
The lowest servant before the greatest king	לִפְנֵי מֶלֶךְ מְלָכִים	הֵנָּה עֶבֶד עֲבָדִים
Stands with heavy hands and tears falling	וְדַמְעָיו נִהְלָכִים	עוֹמֵד וְיָדָיו כְּבָדִים
Every part of him serves you as long as he lives	בְּעוֹד חַיּוֹ נִמְשָׁכִים	לְךָ יִצְרִיו נְעֲבָדִים
His limbs all give thanks, confess, and bless	וּמִתְוָדִים וּמְבָרְכִים	וְכָל אֲבָרָיו מוֹדִים
Forgive the evil he has done though it is heavy as the sand	אֲשֶׁר כְּחוֹל מִשְׁקָלוֹ	סֹלַח לְרַע מַעֲלָלוֹ

*Translated by Abigail Denemark with advisory support from Dr. Jonathan Decter*

ר' יהודה הלוי ✨ יעירוני רעיוני ✨ My Innermost Thoughts ✨ R' Yehuda Halevi  
11-12 מאה ✨ ספרד ✨ Spain ✨ 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Century

Notes:

3. See Psalms 132:4
4. Psalms 27:4
6. See Psalms 22:4
7. See Deuteronomy 3:28
8. See Psalms 16:7
9. Paraphrasing a line from the *Selihot* prayers- *The soul is Yours/ The body Yours/ Have mercy on Your creation*
11. For clouds interfering with prayers reaching God, see Lamentations 3:44
12. See Psalms 131:1 and 22:16
14. See Genesis 41:51
15. Similar to Joshua's request in Joshua 10:12
17. See I Kings 8:38 for the origin of bringing "what plagues him" before God (in the Temple)
18. See Song of Songs 1:12
19. See Numbers 24:3, 23 for "taking up his theme", Song of Songs 2:4 for "banner", and Psalms 61:4 for "tower"
20. See Genesis 9:25 and Ezekiel 26:7
23. Paraphrasing the prayer *Nishmat Kol Hai*- *Therefore the limbs which You formed within us and the spirit and breath which You blew into our nostrils and the tongue which You set in our mouths, they will thank and bless... Your name, our God.*
24. See Job 6:2-3