

## KosherTorah School

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# P'tah Eliyahu

## The Prayer of the Prophet Elijah

from the:

### Tikunei Zohar of Rabbi Shimon Bar-Yohai

To be recited before all prayers and meditation.

Translated by Ariel Bar Tzadok.  
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### Introduction

*This famous prayer is traditionally cited in Sefardic circles prior to each tefilah, Shaharit, Mincha and Ma'ariv. It contains tremendous Kabbalistic secrets regarding the TRUE UNITY of HaShem (Havaya) and speaks about the flow of Divine radiance (shefa) through the realms of the sefirot. Merely to recite it is considered a contemplative meditation. There are a number of good commentaries on the prayer (all in Hebrew). One who has the language skills should seek them out.*

### Text

Eliyahu, of blessed memory began and said: "Master of the universe, You are a Unity that cannot be reckoned. You are above all those who are above and concealed more than any that are concealed. No thought is able to grasp You at all. You are the One who has brought forth "ten levels" (tikunim), which we refer to as the ten sefirot. By them do You guide all the worlds, both the revealed and the concealed. Through them are You concealed from the human race.

You are the One who unites them and joins them. You dwell within them. Therefore, anyone who would dare try to separate one of these ten sefirot from another is considered having tried to separate Your Unity. These ten sefirot all follow in accordance to their nature; one is long, one is short and one is in the middle. You are the One who guides them, though there is none who guides You, not from above, not from below, not from any side. You have ordained them to be garments, from which come forth the souls of human beings. How many are the bodies You have made? They are all called "bodies," for they clothe that which is concealed within them.

This is their order: Hesed is the right arm; Gevurah is the left arm; Tiferet is the torso; Netzah and Hod are the two legs. Yesod is at the end of the body; it is the sign of the holy covenant. Malkhut is the mouth; we refer to Her as the Oral Torah.

Hokhma is the brain, which is inner contemplation. Binah is the heart, for it is the heart that understands. Regarding these two (sefirot), it is written: "the hidden things belong to Adonai our G-d" (Devarim 29:28).

The Supernal Keter is the crown of Malkhut; of it is it said, "It tells the end from the beginning" (Yishaya 46:10). This is the skull, the place where the Tefillin rest. From within comes the Name Havaya D'MAH, this is the path of Atzilut. This Name is the provider of Water to all the Tree (of the sefirot), in all its limbs and branches. Like water that irrigates a tree, by this Water is this Tree strengthened and thus grows.

Master of the universe! You are above all and the Cause of all causes. You who waters the Tree with that great Flow. That great Flow is like the soul to the body. It is the life of the body. Yet, within You there is no image or form of body, not from anything inside or out.

You have created the heavens and the earth and brought forth with them the Sun and the Moon, the stars and the constellations. Upon the earth, You have brought forth the trees, the grass, the Garden of Eden, herbs, animals, birds, fish and human beings. All were brought forth in order that they may know that which is above. That all may know the order of operations of those things above and below, to recognize the relationship between above and below. Yet, none can know You. Aside from Your Unity, there is no unity, not above or below. You are known to be over all and L-rd of all things.

All the sefirot, every one of them has a known Name. You fill each of these Names. You are the One who completes each one. When You withdraw from them, their Names are left as bodies without a soul.

You are Wise, but not with a knowable wisdom. You understand, but not with knowable understanding. You have no known place, yet human beings will perceive Your strength and power, to show them how the world operates in accordance with mercy and severity, which are righteousness and justice, all in accordance with the actions of those below.

Judgment is severity; justice is the center column. Righteousness is the holy kingdom; the scales of justice are supported by truth. Righteousness is the sign of the covenant. All is to show how the world operates, not that there is not righteousness that is severe, or justice that is merciful, for within each are all.

Rise up, Rabbi Shimon! And let new things be revealed by your hands. For to you has permission been granted that by your hands shall be revealed the

most sublime of secrets that which no one has been allowed to reveal, until now.

Rabbi Shimon arose and began to say: "To You Adonai is the greatness and the severity, etc..." (I Divrei 29:11). Those above are listening, those who sleep in Hebron, as well as the Faithful Shepherd. Rise up from your sleep! "Awaken and sing, you who sleep in the dust" (Is. 26:19). These are the Righteous, who come forth from the side referred to as "I sleep, yet my heart is awake" (Shir HaShirim 5:2). These ones are not dead, therefore are they told to 'awake and sing.'

Faithful Shepherd, you and the fathers must awake and sing in order to arouse the Shekhina that sleeps in the exile. For up to now all the Righteous are asleep, the slumber is upon their eyes. Immediately the Shekhina cries out three times to the Faithful Shepherd, saying to him "Rise up! For of you it is written: "The voice of my beloved is knocking" (Shir 5:2), this by the four letters of the Name. It also says: 'Open to me, my sister, my beloved, my pure one" (ibid.), for "the punishment of your sins is fulfilled, O daughter of Zion, no more will you be carried away into exile" (Eika 4:22). For My Head is full of dew (Tal).

What does this mean "My Head is full of dew (Tal)? The Holy One, blessed be He answers and says: "You have thought that from the day the Temple was destroyed, that I have entered My (heavenly) house and dwelt there, but this is not so! I have not entered it at all! For as long as you are in exile, you have a sign: My Head is full of dew" (Tal). The final Hey of Havaya, She is the Shekhina in exile. Her life and Her completion comes from the "dew" (Tal). This "dew" is the letters of the Name Yod Hey Vav, (which numerically equals 39, or Tal, in Hebrew).

The final Hey of the Name Havaya D'MAH is not included in the value of "Tal." Only Yod Hey Vav alone equal "Tal." This is what flows down to the Shekhina (Hey) from all the supernal sources. Immediately arose the Faithful Shepherd and the holy fathers with him. This is all that can be revealed about the secret of Unity. Blessed be G-d, forever and ever. Amen and amen.

May God continue to bless you, and keep you.

Sincerely,

*Ariel B Tzadok*

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