

# Ashrei, the Great & Holy Psalm

By HaRav Ariel Bar Tzadok

Copyright © 2010 by Ariel Bar Tzadok. All rights reserved.

In loving memory of Moshe Ben Chaim Alter (z"l), dedicated by his son Mr. Michael Alter

**Gadol Adonai U'mehulal Meod V'lig'dulato Ayn Heker**

Gimel, Yod, Vav, Mem, Vav, Alef, Het = 74, gematria Ehd (witness)

**Great is G-d and very much praised and His Greatness is beyond investigation.**

Psalm 145:3

G-d is great, but is this so just because we say so? I think not! Greatness is a state of being, not a subject of opinion. Yet, some can see this clearly, while others cannot.

G-d is very much praised, but by whom, only humans and angels? What about the rest of creation? And what exactly is praise? Surely it is more than just music and song!

Praise is the appreciation every sentient thing has for being what it is and functioning the best it can. When a sentient being is and thrives at what it is, this is its praise - its best performance of its best attributes are its praise to The One who made it be what it is.

Praise is action. Praise is not just song or music. Praise is a state of being, a state of harmony with all around you where you participate freely in the dance of life, moving along to the beat of the Great Drummer.

Praise therefore is dance, as it was in the ancient Holy Temple, when the Levites acted out the natural order and danced before the Holy of Holies. The Levitical songs, the Psalms of Ascent enabled the soul to ascend and to join in the sacred dance in this world (physical) alongside the invisible one (spiritual).

King David, author of many Psalms, also established the Kingdom of G-d here on Earth. The Kingdom is Malkhut, the Olam HaAsiyah, the Domain of Doing. What David did and how he established the Kingdom here on Earth is expressed through the words of this poem (Psalm) and the others he wrote.

David was the anchor for the Great Rope (Torah) cast down from Heaven. David grabbed the Rope and tied it tight here on Earth by establishing righteousness and justice, enabling everything to take its right place and to perform its natural service.

Praise is the song of the soul and all the universe dances to it - indeed G-d is greatly praised for the Natural Order of the universe (the Shekhina) is itself Praise to G-d.



Those who know Torah will thus know the Kingdom and the King, David below and G-d above. This knowing is not of the mind but of the heart. This knowing heart and the acting upon its enlightenment is the true praise, inherent in the nature of all things.

These actions are the praise and they reveal to us "His" Greatness that underlies everything, everywhere. And yet, His Greatness is beyond investigation, for G-d's Greatness is in everything and what part of the puzzle can ascend to see the whole?

All in existence are parts of the great mosaic of life, each contributes to the whole, but each can never see or perceive the whole. Therefore who can investigate the Greatness which is the Source of Life and Sentience? We are all witnesses to the Divine Greatness, concealed as it is in the Natural Order (the Shekhina) that surrounds us.

Even the numerical values of the initial letters of the original Hebrew words in this verse add up the 74, the value of the Hebrew word for witness, Ehd, to remind us of this subtle truth.

ללמוד תורת הפרד"ם  
הרב אריאל ב"ר צדוק, ראש הישיבה

www.KosherTorah.com

ליקצ"ו - שיל"ת

ללמוד תורת הפרד"ם  
הרב אריאל ב"ר צדוק, ראש הישיבה

www.KosherTorah.com

ליקצ"ו - שיל"ת

ללמוד תורת הפרד"ם  
הרב אריאל ב"ר צדוק, ראש הישיבה

www.KosherTorah.com

ליקצ"ו - שיל"ת

ללמוד תורת הפרד"ם  
הרב אריאל ב"ר צדוק, ראש הישיבה

www.KosherTorah.com

ליקצ"ו - שיל"ת

ללמוד תורת הפרד"ם  
הרב אריאל ב"ר צדוק, ראש הישיבה

www.KosherTorah.com

ליקצ"ו - שיל"ת

ללמוד תורת הפרד"ם  
הרב אריאל ב"ר צדוק, ראש הישיבה

www.KosherTorah.com

ליקצ"ו - שיל"ת