

With Hashem's loving grace

Perek Shira

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Pereq Shira

Introduction

Rebbe (Yehuda Hanassi) said, "Anyone who engrosses himself in Pereq Shira in this world merits to learn and to teach, to observe and to fulfill and to perform (Torah and mitzvot), and his learning succeeds, and he is delivered from the Evil Inclination and from all harm, and from castigation of the grave and from the verdict of Gehennom, and from the birth pangs of Moshiach, and enjoys longevity of days, and merits life in the World-to-Come.

It is taught that Rabbi Eliezer said: Anyone who occupies himself with Pereq Shira in this world merits to recite it in the World to Come, for it is written, "Then, Moses shall sing" – it doesn't say "sang", but "shall sing" in the World to Come.

It is taught that Rabbi Eliezer the Great said: "Anyone who engrosses himself in Pereq Shira every day - I bear witness that he is destined for the World-to-Come, and is delivered from calamity, and from the Evil Inclination, and from severe judgment, and from the Satan, and from all types of evil and destruction. Commit with all your heart and with all your soul to know My ways, and to guard the gates of My holy shrine and to observe My laws and commandments. Hold My Torah in your heart and may the awe of Me be before your eyes. Guard your mouth and your tongue from all transgression and guilt, and I shall be with you wherever you

go, and I shall teach you wisdom and knowledge from everything. Know full well that everything The Holy One Blessed Be He created was created for His own glory, as it is said (Isaiah 43:7), 'Anything that carries My name was created in My honor – I created it, I produced it, I made it!'"

Our sages of blessed memory said that when King David completed the Book of Psalms, he had a feeling of self-satisfaction. He said before The Holy One Blessed Be He, "Is there any creation in Your world that says songs and praises more than I do?" That same hour, a frog appeared to him, and said to him: "David! Don't be complacent, for I say songs and praises more than you do. Not only that, but three thousand parables are said about every sonnet that I recite, for it is said (Kings I 5:12), "And he spoke three thousand parables and his songs were one-thousand and five." Not only that, but I involve myself in a great mitzvah, and this is the mitzvah that I involve myself with: There's a specie on the beach whose sustenance comes exclusively from (creatures that live) in the water, and when it's hungry, it takes me and eats me. I therefore fulfill the mitzvah of that what is said (Proverbs 25:21-22), "If your adversary is hungry, feed him; if he's thirsty, give him water to drink, for you shall heap hot coals on his head and Hashem shall reward you. Rather than reading "shall reward you", read "shall make you complete."

Chapter One

The Heavens say: "The Heavens tell of God's glory, and the firmament tells of His handiwork." (Psalms 19:2)

The Earth says: "Hashem's is the earth and all its entirety, the inhabited land and those who dwell therein" (Psalms 24:1). And it says, "We have heard songs from the edge of the earth, glory to the righteous." (Isaiah 24:16)

The Garden of Eden says: "Arouse, O North, and come, O South! Blow upon my garden, let its fragrance flow forth; let my beloved come to His garden and partake of its treasured fruit." (Song of Songs 4:16)

Gehennom says: "For He has satiated a longing soul and has filled the hungry soul with good." (Psalms 107:9)

The Desert says: "The desert and the wasteland shall rejoice, and the arid region shall rejoice and blossom like a rose." (Isaiah 35:1)

The Fields say: "Hashem founded the land with wisdom; He established the heavens with understanding." (Proverbs 3:19)

The Waters say: "The sound of His voice places the multitude of waters in the heavens and He raises the vapors from the end of the earth." (Jeremiah 51:16)

The Seas say: "More than the voices of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, Hashem is mighty on high." (Psalms 93:4)

The Rivers say: "Let the rivers clap their hands, together the mountains shall sing for joy!" (Psalms 98:8)

The Wellsprings say: "And as singers that are flutists, are all my wellsprings within you." (Psalms 87:7)

Chapter Two

The Day says: "The day to day utters speech and night to night expresses knowledge." (Psalms 19:3)

The Night says: "To tell of Your compassion in the morning, and of Your faithfulness by nights." (Psalms 92:3)

The Sun says: "The sun (covered by) the moon stands in its abode; they proceed by the light of Your arrows and by the flash of Your glittering spear." (Habakuk 3:11)

The Moon says: "He made the moon for the festivals; the sun knows its destination." (Psalms 104:19)

The Stars say: "You alone are Hashem; You made the heavens, and the heaven of heavens and all their legions, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You give them all life; and the heavenly legion bows down to You." (Nehemiah 9:6)

The Rain Clouds say: "He made darkness His secret place; His surroundings are His shelter, the darkness of water the clouds of the heavens." (Psalms 18:12)

The Clouds of Glory say: "Even when it's clear, He troubles the rain cloud to form; the cloud shall spread its light." (Job 37:11)

The Wind says: "I will say to the north, relinquish; and to the south, do not withhold; bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth." (Isaiah 43:6)

The Lightning says: "He makes lightning for the rain; He brings forth the wind from His treasures." (Psalms 135:7)

The Dew says: "I shall be as dew to Israel, he shall blossom like a rose and shall cast forth his roots like the Lebanon." (Hoshea 14:6)

The Rains say: "You shall spray a rain of generosity, O Lord, to strengthen Your heritage when it falters." (Psalms 68:10)

Chapter Three

The Trees of the Field say: "Then shall the trees of the forest sing out at the presence of Hashem, for He comes to judge the earth." (Chronicles I, 16:33)

The Grapevine says: "So says Hashem: When the wine is found in the cluster, and one says, 'Do not destroy it, for it contains a blessing,' so I shall do for the sake of My servants, so as not to destroy everything." (Isaiah 65:8)

The Fig says: "He who guards the fig shall eat of her fruits." (Proverbs 27:18)

The Pomegranate says: "Your cheeks are like a slice of pomegranate under the lock of your hair." (Song of Songs 4:3)

The Palm says: "The righteous flower like the palm tree; they grow tall like a cedar in Lebanon." (Psalms 92:13)

The Apple says: "Like the apple among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. I yearned for and sat in his proximity, and his fruit is sweet to my palate." (Song of Songs 2:3)

The Sheaves of Wheat say: "A song of ascents; from the depths I have called out to You, Hashem." (Psalms 130:1)

The Sheaves of Barley say: "A prayer of the pauper when he swoons, and pours his supplications before Hashem." (Psalms 102:1)

The Other Sheaves say: "The meadows don sheep; the valleys wrap themselves in fodder, they shout for joy, they even sing!" (Psalms 65:14)

The Vegetables of the Field say: "The furrows are watered in abundance, the soil is settled, You soften it with showers, You bless its growth." (Psalms 104:31)

The Grasses say: "May the glory of Hashem endure forever; may Hashem rejoice in His works." (Psalms 104:31)

Chapter Four

The Rooster says: "When the Holy One, blessed be He, comes to the righteous in the Garden of Eden, all the trees of the Garden of Eden exude their fragrance, and they rejoice and praise, and then He arouses and praises." (Zohar, Vayakhel, 195)

In its first call it says: "Raise up your heads, O gates! Be uplifted, eternal portals, so that the King of Glory may enter! Who is He, the King of Glory? Hashem, the mighty and strong, Hashem, the mighty in battle!" (Psalms 24:7-8)

In its second call it says: "Raise up your heads, O gates, and raise up, eternal portals, so that the King of Glory may enter. Who is He, the King of Glory? Hashem, Master of Legions, He is the King of Glory, Selah!" (Psalms 24:9-10)

In its third call it says: "Stand, O righteous ones, and engross yourselves in Torah so that your reward will be double in the World-to-Come."

In its fourth call it says: "I have hoped for Your salvation, Hashem." (Genesis 49:18)

In its fifth call it says: "How long will you recline, O lazy one? When will you rise from your sleep?" (Proverbs 6:9)

In its sixth call it says: "Do not love sleep, lest you become poor; open your eyes and you shall be satiated with bread." (Proverbs 20:13)

In its seventh call it says: "It's time to act for Hashem, for they have violated Your Torah." (Psalms 119:126)

The Hen says: "He gives bread to all flesh, for His lovingkindness endures forever." (Psalms 136:25)

The Pigeon says: "Like a crane or a swallow, so do I chatter; I moan like a pigeon, my eyes weakened from looking upward; O Lord, I am oppressed, be my security." (Isaiah 38:14)

The pigeon says before The Holy One, blessed be He, "Master of the World, may my sustenance be as bitter as an olive in Your hands, rather than being sweet as honey in the hands of flesh and blood." (Gemorra, tractate Eruvin 18b)

The Eagle says: "And You, Hashem, Lord of Hosts, Lord of Israel, arouse to punish the nations; do not pardon the wicked traitors, Selah." (Psalms 59:6)

The Crane says: "Give thanks to Hashem with the lyre; play for Him with the ten-stringed harp." (Psalms 33:2)

The Bird says: "A Bird has also found its home and the sparrow a nest for herself where she placed her young; Your altars, Hashem of Hosts – my King and my God." (Psalms 84:4)

The Swallow says: "So that my soul shall sing Your honor and shall not be silent, Hashem my God – I shall forever thank you." (Psalms 30:13)

The Swift says: "My help is from Hashem, Maker of Heaven and Earth." (Psalms 121:2)

The Petrel says: "Light is sown for the righteous, joy for the straight-of-heart." (Psalms 97:11)

The Bat says: "Be comforted, My people, be comforted, says your God." (Isaiah 1:40)

The Stork says: "Speak to the heart of Jerusalem, and call to her that her sentence is over since her sins have been pardoned, for she has received double from Hashem's hand for all her sins." (Isaiah 40:2)

The Crow says: "Who prepares food for the crow, when his young ones cry out to Hashem?" (Job 38:41)

The Starling says: "Their descendants shall be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall recognize them, that they are the seed that Hashem has blessed." (Isaiah 61:9)

The Domestic Goose says: "Give thanks to Hashem and call His name, inform the nations of His works! Sing to Him, chant to Him, speak of all His wonders!" (Psalms 105: 1-2)

The Wild Goose that flies in the wilderness, when it sees Israel engrossed in Torah says: "A voice cries, Make way for Hashem, straighten a path in the desert for our God" (Isaiah 40:3). And upon finding its subsistence says: "Cursed is the man who trusts in a human; blessed is the man who trusts in Hashem, and Hashem shall be his assurance." (Jeremiah 17: 5, 7)

The Ducks say: "Trust in Hashem forever, for in God Hashem is the everlasting rock." (Isaiah 26:4)

The Bee-Eater says: "I will whistle to them and gather them, for I have redeemed them, and they shall multiply as they multiplied." (Zechariah 10:8)

The Grasshopper says: "I lift my eyes to the mountains, from where shall my help come?" (Psalms 121:1)

The Locust says: "Hashem, You are my God; I will exalt You and give thanks to Your Name for You have done wonders; Your counsel from afar is faithfulness and trust." (Isaiah 25:1)

The Spider says: "Praise Him with sounding cymbals! Praise Him with clashing cymbals!" (Psalms 150:5)

The Fly says, when Israel is not engrossed in Torah: "The voice said, 'Call out'. And he said, 'What shall I call out? All flesh is grass and its kindness is like the blossom of the field.' The grass withers and the blossom fades, but the word of God shall endure forever" (Isaiah 40:6,8). "I create the expression of the lips: Peace, peace for the far and for the near says Hashem, and I will heal him." (Isaiah 57:19)

The Giant Sea Creatures say: "Praise Hashem from the earth, the giant sea creatures and the depths." (Psalms 148:7)

The Whale says: "Give thanks to Hashem for He is good, His kindness endures forever." (Psalms 136:1)

The Fish say: "The voice of Hashem is upon the waters, The God of glory thunders; Hashem is upon a multitude of waters." (Psalms 29:3)

The Frog says: "Blessed is the Name of His glorious Kingdom forever and ever!" (Talmud, tractate Pesachim 56a)

Chapter Five

The Sheep and Goats say: "Who is like You among the might ones, Hashem, who is like You, adorned in holiness, awesome in praise, worker of wonders!" (Exodus 15:11)

The Cattle say: "Rejoice unto God, our strength, applaud the God of Jacob!" (Psalms 81:2)

The Swine say: "Hashem is good to the upright and the straight of heart." (Psalms 128:2)

The Beast of Burden says: "If you eat the fruit of your labors, how happy and fortunate you are." (Psalms 128:2)

The Camel says: Hashem roars from upon high and sounds His voice from His holy Abode, and roars His agony about His Temple. (Jeremiah 25:30)

The Horse says: "Behold, as the eyes of the servants to their master's hand, as the eyes of a maid to her mistress's hand, so are

our eyes to Hashem our God until He will favor us." (Psalms 123:2)

The Mule says: "All the kings of earth shall acknowledge You, Hashem, for they have heard the sayings of Your mouth." (Psalms 138:4)

The Donkey says: "To You, Hashem, is the greatness and the might and the triumph and the glory for everything in heaven and earth is Yours; To You, Hashem, is the monarchy and the sovereignty over every leader." (Chronicles I, 29:11)

The Ox says: "Then sang Moses and the Children of Israel this song to Hashem, and they said, 'I shall sing to Hashem, for He has risen above the arrogant; He threw the horse and its rider into the sea.'" (Exodus 15:1)

The Wild Animals say: "Blessed is the Good One Who does good." (Talmud, Berachos 48b)

The Deer says: "And I shall sing of Your might and I shall rejoice of Your kindness in the morning, for You were a fortress for me and refuge on the day of my oppression." (Psalms 59:17)

The Elephant says: "How great are your works, Hashem; Your thoughts are extremely deep." (Psalms 92:6)

The Lion says: "Hashem shall go forth as a mighty man; as a warrior arouses zeal, He shall shout, even roar; He shall overcome His enemies." (Isaiah 42:13)

The Bear says: "The wilderness and its cities shall lift raise their voices, the courtyards where Kedar dwells, the rock-dwellers shall rejoice, they will shout from the mountain peaks. They will give

glory to Hashem and tell of His praise on the islands." (Isaiah 42:11-12)

The Wolf says: "For every criminal act – for the ox, the donkey, the lamb, the garment, for every lost item which he says, 'This is it!', shall they both come with their claim to the judge; he who the judge finds guilty shall pay double to his fellow." (Exodus 22:8)

The Fox says: "Woe to him that builds his house without righteousness and his upstairs rooms without justice; he employs his fellow with no wages, and will not pay him his due." (Jeremiah 22:13)

The Greyhound says: "Let the righteous rejoice in Hashem; glory befits the upright." (Psalms 33:1)

The Cat says: "I shall pursue my enemies and overtake them, and I shall not return until they are destroyed." (Psalms 30:2)

Chapter Six

The Insects say: "May Israel rejoice in his Creator; may the children of Zion be joyful in their King." (Psalms 149:2)

The Reptiles say: "Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the chambers of your house, your children like olive seedlings around your table." (Psalms 128:3)

The Snake says: "Hashem supports the fallen and straightens the bent over." (Psalms 145:14)

The Scorpion says: "Hashem is good to all, and His mercy is upon all His handiwork." (Psalms 145:9)

The Snail says: "Like a snail that melts away, a stillbirth that does not see the sun." (Psalms 58:9)

The Ant says: "Go to the ant, sluggard; see its ways and become wise." (Proverbs 6:6)

The Mouse says: "And You are just for all that comes upon me, for You have acted in truth and I have been wicked." (Nehemia 9:33)

The Rat says: "Let every soul praise Hashem, Halleluja!" (Psalms 150:6)

The Dog says: "Come, let us prostrate ourselves and bow, let us kneel before Hashem our Maker." (Psalms 95:6)

Conclusion

Rabbi Yeshaya, the student of Rabbi Chanina ben Dosa, fasted eighty-five fasts; he said, Dogs, about which is written, "And the dogs are brazen of spirit that do not know satiation" (Isaiah 56:11) – shall they merit to recite song? An angel responded from Heaven and said to him, "Yeshaya, until when will you fast on this matter? It is an oath from The Holy One, blessed be He: From the day He revealed His secret to the prophet Habbakuk, He has not revealed this matter to anyone in the world. But, since you are the pupil of a great man, I have been sent from Heaven to assist you, to tell you that the dogs have merited to recite song by virtue of that what is written about them, "But against the Children of Israel, no dog shall whet its tongue" (Exodus 11:7). Furthermore, they merited that hides tanned with their excrement are made into

parchment upon which Torahs, tefillin, and mezuzas are written. Therefore, they merited to recite song. And regarding your question that you asked, go back on your way and don't continue in this matter, for it is written, "He who guards his mouth and tongue, guards from afflictions of his soul" (Proverbs 21:23) [Yalkut Shimoni, Bo, 187].

Blessed be Hashem forever, amen and amen. Blessed be Hashem from Zion, Dweller of Jerusalem, halleluyah! Blessed is Hashem The God, God of Israel, worker of wonders Him alone. And blessed is the Name of His glory, and His glory shall fill the entire land, amen and amen.