Drisha, Shavuot 2021 Dr. Tzvi Novick "A Talmudist Writes Poetry: On *Yatzim Pitgam* and its World"

## A. Text

יָצִיב פִּתְגָּם לְאָת וּדְגָם בְּרָבּוֹ רִבְוּוָן עִירִין עַנָה אָנָא בְּמִנְיָנָא דְּפָסְלִין אַרְבְּעָה טוּרִין

**ק**ַדִמוֹהִי לְגוּמּוֹהִי נְגֵיד וּנְפֵיק נְהַר דְּנוּרִין בְּטוּר תַּלְגָּא נְהוֹר שְׁרַגָּא וְזִיקִין דְנוּר וּבָעוֹרִין

בָּרָא וּסְכָא, מַה בַּחֲשׁוֹכָא וְעִמֵּהּ שַׁרְיַן נְהוֹרִין רְחִיקִין צְפָא בְּלָא שִׁטְפָא וְגַלְיַן לֵהּ דְּמִטַּמְרִין

בְּעִית מִנֵּיהּ יָת הוּרְמָנֵיהּ וּבַתְרוֹהִי עֲדֵי גּוּבְרִין יָדְעֵי הִלְּכָתָא וּמַתְנִיתָא וְתוֹסֶפְתָּא סִפְּרָא וְסִפְּרִין

**ֶמֶ**לֶךְ חַיָּא לְעָלְמַיָּא יְמַגִּד עָם לֵיה מְשַׁחֲרִין אֲמִיר עֲלֵיהוֹן כְּחָלָא יְהוֹן וְלָא יִתְמְנוּן הֵיךְ עַפְרִין

יָחַנְרוּן כְּעָן לְהוֹן בִּקְעָן יְטוּפוּן נַעֲווֵי חַמְרִין רעוּתָהוֹן הַב וְאַפֵּיהוֹן צְהַב יְנַהֲרוּן כָּנְהַר צַפְרִין

ּוְלִי הַב תְּקוֹף וְעֵינֶךְ זְקוֹף חֲזִי עָרֶךְ דְּבֶךְ כַּפְרִין יְהוֹן כְּתִבְנָא בְּגוֹ לִבְנָא כְּאַבְנָא יִשְׁתְּקוּן חָפְרִין

> כְּקָאֵימְנָא וְתַרְגַמְנָא בְּמִלּוֹי דִּבְחִיר סַפְרִין יְהוֹנָתָן, גְּבַר עִנְוְתָן, בְּכֵן לֵה נַמְטֵי אַפְרִין

## **B.** Translation

- 1. Firm is the word / of the Sign and Mark // among myriad myriads of Watchers.
- 2. Where does He dwell? / Amid the numbers // that hew four mountains.
- 3. In front of Him, / into its basins, // a river of fires extends and streams.
- 4. On a mountain of snow / is a flaming light // and flashes of fire and torches.
- 5. He made and saw / what is in the dark, // for with Him lights reside.
- 6. He spies things distant / without forgetting, // and to Him are revealed hidden things.
- 7. I seek from Him / His leave, // and after Him, of these men,
- 8. Who know law / and Mishnah, // and Tosefta, Sifra, and Sifre.
- 9. May the King who lives / forever and ever // bestow fruit on the people that seek him.
- 10. It is said of them, / they will be as sand, // and innumerable be like the dusts.
- 11. White as sheep / may their dales become; // may their presses drip with wines!
- 12. Grant their desire, / and brighten their faces; // Let them shine like the light of mornings!
- 13. And to me give strength, / and raise Your eyes: // See the enemies that deny You!
- 14. May they be as straw / inside a brick; // may they be silent as stone, ashamed.
- 15. When I arise / and I translate // with the words of the choicest of scribes,
- 16. Jonathan, / that most humble man, // we thus render him graces.