

## אָדוֹן עוֹלָם – Adon Olam

“ADON OLAM is the most popular hymn added to our Liturgy since Bible times. Because of its beauty of form, simplicity of language and sublimity of religious thought, it has been embodied in the various Rites all over the world. Its author is said by some to be Solomon ibn Gabriol (1021–1055), the renowned Spanish-Jewish poet, hymn-writer and philosopher.”

Joseph H. Hertz, *The Authorized Daily Prayer Book*  
(New York: Block Publishing Co., 1948, 1965), 7–9

Along with the hymn “Yidgal” (based on Maimonides’s [Thirteen Principles of Faith](#)), “Adon Olam” is widely used during Shabbat synagogue services, either during Shacharit (morning) or Concluding (Mozi) times. It is also prominent in the evening Kol Nidrei (“all vows”) service at Yom Kippur. It is even a wedding song in Morocco.

אָדוֹן עוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר מֶלֶךְ  
בְּטָרַם כָּל־יְצִיר נִבְרָא  
לְעֵת נַעֲשָׂה בְּחִפְזוֹ כָּל  
אֲנִי מֶלֶךְ שְׁמוֹ נִקְרָא:

**Lord of Eternity** who reigned

before the birth of creation.

At the time when His will brought all  
into being

Then as “King” was His name  
declared.

וְאַחֲרַי בְּכִלּוֹת הַכֹּל  
לְבַדּוֹ יִמְלֹךְ נוֹרָא  
וְהוּא הָיָה וְהוּא חוּהָ  
וְהוּא יִהְיֶה בְּתַפְאָרָה:

After everything has finished,

He alone will rule in awesomeness.

He was, He is,

He will be in majesty.

וְהוּא אֶחָד וְאֵין שֵׁנִי  
לְהַמְשִׁיל לוֹ לְהַחְבִּירָה  
בְּלִי רֵאשִׁית בְּלִי תְּכֵלִית  
וְלוֹ הֶעֱז וְהַמְשָׁרָה:

He is One, there is no second

To compare to be His equal.

Without beginning, without end,

His is the power and the dominion.

וְהוּא אֱלֹהֵי יְחִי גּוֹאֲלִי  
וְצוּר חֲבִלִי בְּעֵת צָרָה  
וְהוּא נֶסִי וּמְנוּס לִי  
מִנֶּת כּוֹסֵי בְּיוֹם אֶקְרָא:

For He is my God and living  
Redeemer.

And the Rock (over) my pain in time  
of distress.

And He is my Banner and a Refuge  
for me.

(He is) the portion of my cup in the  
day I call.

בְּיָדוֹ אֶפְקִיד רוּחִי  
בְּעֵת אִישָׁן וְאִשָּׁרָה  
וְעִם־רוּחִי גּוּיָתִי  
יְיָ לִי וְלֹא אִירָא:

Into His hand I will entrust my spirit.

At the time when I sleep and awake,

Even with my spirit and my body,

The Eternal [Adonai] is for me,  
so I will not be afraid.