

תתברך צורנו מלכנו וגואלנו בורא קדושים ישתבח
 שמך לעד מלכנו. יוצר משרתים ואשר משרתיו כלם
 עומדים ברום עולם. ומשמיעים ביראה יחד בקול דברי
 אלהים חיים ומלך עולם. כלם אהובים כלם ברורים כלם
 גבורים וכלם עושים באימה וביראה רצון קונם. וכלם
 פותחים את פיהם בקדשה ובטהרה בשירה ובזמרה.
 ומברכים ומשבחים ומפארים ומעריצים ומקדישים
 וממליכים –

אתשם האל המלך הגדול הגבור והנורא קדוש הוא:
 וכלם מקבלים עליהם על מלכות שמים זה מזה. ונותנים
 רשות זה לזה להקדיש ליוצרים בנחת רוח. בשפה ברורה
 ובנעימה קדשה כלם באחד עונים ואומרים ביראה.

קדוש קדוש קדוש יי צבאות. מלא כל הארץ כבודו:
 והאופנים וחיות הקדש ברעש גדול מתנשאים לעמט
 שרפים. לעמטם משבחים ואומרים.
 ברוך כבודי ממקומו:

*Kadosh, kadosh, kadosh, Adonai tz'vaot,
 M'lo hol ha-aretz k'vodo.
 Baruh k'vod Adonai mi-m'komo.*

MORE PRECIOUS THAN CHANTS OF ANGELS

Our Sages declared: For God, worship by human beings takes precedence over worship by the angels! (Hullin 91a)

Why? Because human morality is fashioned out of the struggle between our impulses, on the one hand, and an heroic exercise of will and decision, on the other. Human worship is sweeter to God than even "the chant of the angels" precisely because whereas angels are, by nature, "pure and eager to do God's will," we mortals must struggle to achieve some measure of virtue and purity (Shabbat 88b).

In the tension out of which human morality emerges, the Sages see our potential for nobility.

(Adina N. Samuelson & Max Arzti)

A MYSTICAL VISION OF GOD'S HOLINESS

You shall be praised forever, our Rock, our Sovereign, our Redeemer, Creator of celestial beings. You are the creator of ministering angels in the firmament on high. With awe they proclaim in chorus the words of the living God, the eternal Sovereign. They are all beloved, pure, and mighty, reverently doing the will of the Creator. In holiness and purity, they raise their voices in jubilant song, as they bless, praise, glorify, revere, and acclaim—

The name of the great, mighty, awe-inspiring holy God and Sovereign. In mutual acceptance of the yoke of God's sovereignty, they call to one another to hallow their Creator; with clear, gentle, and pure tones, they sing in unison, reverently proclaiming:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
The whole world is filled with God's glory."

Then other celestial beings, soaring on high, lift their voices and respond with a chorus of praise:

"Praised be the glory of the Lord throughout the universe."

THE HOLINESS OF GOD

O God, whom we acclaim as holy,
Human reason cannot fathom You.

*Though we strive to sense Your presence,
Yet You remain ever above and beyond us.*

Though You reveal Yourself in the marvels of nature,
And have manifested Yourself in the glory of Your law,
*Yet are these revelations but as flashes of lightning
From the cloud of mystery which ever enshrouds You.*

In vivid imagery, Prophets and Psalmists of old
Sought to convey their reverence and awe,
*Drawing visions of You enthroned on high,
With hosts of celestial beings singing Your praise.*

For the words of mortals are so woefully wanting,
Mere human utterance so sadly inadequate.

*Our limitations make all praise seem trivial;
Our impurity sullies even noble speech.*

So, let angels, pure beyond human attainment, adore You,
And imagined seraphim utter their flaming praise.

*Let our prayer rise to You on their wings,
Let their mouths give voice to it in heavenly harmonies:*

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
The whole world is filled with God's glory."

E. Kohn & B. Saul