

The Whole Truth, Or Nothing But the Truth?

לִפְנֵי
נִקְרָא שְׁמָנוֹ
אָנְשֵׁי כְּנֶסֶת הַגְּדוֹלָה
שְׁחַחְצִירּוּ
עַטְרָה לְיוֹשְׁנָה
אָתָא מֹשֶׁה אָמַר
”הָאֱלֹהִים הַגָּדוֹל
הַגִּיבּוֹר וְהַנּוֹרָא”
אָתָא יְרַמְּיה וְאָמַר
נָכְרִים מִקְרָקְרִין
בְּהַיּוֹלֹן
אֵיה נֹרָא אֶתְתַּיו
לֹא אָמַר ”נֹרָא”
אָתָא דָנִיאֵל אָמַר
נָכְרִים מִשְׁתְּפָעָבָדִים
בְּבָנָיו
אֵיה גְּבוּרֹתַיו
לֹא אָמַר ”גְּבוֹר”
אָתוּ אַיִנָּהוּ וְאָמְרוּ
אַדְרָבָה
זֹה הִיא
גְּבוּרַת גְּבוּרָתוֹ
שְׁפֹבֵשׂ אַת ?צָרוֹ
שְׁפֹוֹתָן אָרְךׂ אַפִּים
לִרְשָׁעִים

Why
are they named
Men of the Great Gathering?
Because they restored
the crown to its original state.
Came Moses and said:
God, Great,
*Mighty and Awesome.**
Came Jeremiah and said:
Aliens revel
in His Temple!
Where is His awesomeness?
He did not say *Awesome.***
Came Daniel and said:
Aliens are enslaving
His children!
Where are His mighty deeds?
He did not say *Mighty.****
They came and said:
On the contrary
This is
the strength of His strength:
that He suppresses His impulse
and extends patience
to the wicked.

וְאֵלּוּ הָנָן נֹרְאֹתָיו
 שֶׁאַלְמָלִיא
 מָוֶרֶאוּ
 שֶׁהַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא
 הַיָּאֵךְ אֹוֹמֶה אַחֲת
 יִכְׁלֶה לְהַתְּקִיעִים
 בֵּין הָאֹוֹמֶות
 וּרְבָּנָן
 הַיְכִי עֲבָדִי הַכִּי
 וּעֲקָרִי מִקְנָתָא
 דְּתָקִין מִשָּׁה
 אָמַר רַבִּי אַלְעֵזֶר
 מִתּוֹךְ שְׁיֹודָעֵינוּ
 בֶּהַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא
 שֶׁאָמַתִּי הוּא
 לְפִיכְךָ
 לֹא כִּזְבּוּ בָּו

And herein is His awesomeness:
 Were it not for
 the awe of
 The Blessed Holy One
 how would a single people
 be able to sustain itself
 among the nations?
 And these 'Rabbis'
 How could they act this way
 uprooting an institution
 that Moses had instituted?
 Said Rabbi Eliezer:
 Because they knew
 that the Blessed Holy One
 is truthful.
 Therefore
 they could not lie to Him.

יומָא סֶט ב'

Yoma 69b

*Deuteronomy 10:17

**Jeremiah 32:17f

***Daniel 9:4ff