

Complas Para Noche De Frutas

Ladino text and translation into English

This is a poem/song for Tu B'Shevat (Hamisha Aser B'Shevat) by Jehuda Kalazh (as noted in the final verse). The Ladino text used was from Isak Moskona as published in Sofia 1972 in the Annual of the Social Cultural And Education Association Of The Jews In The Peoples Republic Of Bulgaria. Mr. Moskona sent all his writings to Allegra Levy Katz in the late 1970s when they corresponded about Ladino literature and language.

Mr. Moskona was the gabbai of the Great Synagogue in Sofia. His text note reads: <<The poem was taken from the collection by Jehuda Sh. Levi, „Traduction libera de siertos textos. . .”

Kraiova 1935, pp. 109-112. We have information that the same was printed before this in „Darhea-adam"-The road of man, Salonika, p. 148-153 (published in 1892 by the publishers Itshak Behor Amaradji and Iossef Ben Mair Sasson.>> This has also apparently been published in Spain in the volume Poesía in 1976.

We at the Sephardi Federation of Palm Beach County hope you enjoy these complas about a delightful holiday.

Ladino Text	English
<u>Complas Para Noche De Frutas</u>	<u>Verses For The Night Of The Fruits</u>
Razon es de alavar al Dyo noches i dias,	Our reason for being is to praise God nights and days,
Non son kosas de akavar las sus grandes maravias!	For His great miracles never cease!
Krio tierra i todo el resto, menester para el ombre,	He created the earth and everything else, for the service of the man.
Todo echo i bien kompuesto, trigo i todo lugumbre.	All had sprouted and was well put together, wheat and all vegetables.
Enkomedo a la tierra kitar todo en su punto,	Trusting the land to bring forth all at their time,
Trigo i sereales i arvoles de fruto!	Wheat and grains and fruit trees!
Kada koza en su tiempo su fruto deve kitar,	Each thing in its time, each fruit at the appointed time,
En la guerta o en el kampo el arvol deve espuntar.	In the garden or in the field the trees must flower.
I komo sinyal el Dyo pozo, de 15 Shevat ke empesen,	And as a sign from God, the source, it begins on 15 Shevat.
Del prisipio lo kompozo, en este rizho estesen!	From this principle I composed this work as follows:
Siendo este dia santo, a kada fruto bendigo,	On this holy day, I bless each fruit,
I loamos al Dyo alto, enprimero en el trigo!	And we offer praise to the great God, starting with the wheat!
De las frutas ir konmiendo kon bendision en kada una,	Of these fruits we are going to make a meal with a benediction for each one,
I beraha ir diziendo, empesar de la azetuna.	And blessings will be said, beginning with the olive.
Guezmemos komo las rozas i mos guarde el Dyo de males,	Let us be fragrant as the roses, and, our God, keep us from evil,
I yenos de buenas kozas, komo ramos de dateles!	And fill us with good things, like date branches!

Rogo al Dyo dekontino, komo la eskuma ke mos suva,	Praying to God continuously, as the tides that lift us,
Lo alavamos kon vino ke sale la buena uva!	We praise Him with wine that comes from the good grape!
Rogamos do alma aprofondida, a el Dyo nuestro abrigo,	We pray from the depths of our souls to our sheltering God,
Ke mos de buena anyada, komo el buen dulce igo!	That our good is increased, as the good sweet fig!
Kon nozotros abonigue, la tarde i la manyana,	Granting us prosperity, today and tomorrow,
I el nos munchigue, komo granos de mangrana!	And He fills us richly, as seeds of the pomegranate!
Mire el ombre en si mizmo de golerse komo el kinamon,	Look at man with the same scent as cinnamon,
I ke aga goler su boen guezmo, komo etrog i limon!	And let his good fragrance smell like the etrog and the lemon!
Esperamos al Goel komo luz de la manyana,	We wait in hope for the Redeemer as for the light of dawn,
Arelumbrara a Israel, komo la koroladez de la mansana!	Shower light upon Israel, as the reds of the apple!
Nuestra alma de maleres esta arta, mira Dyo kon despertez,	Our troubled souls are satiated, look God with vigilance,
Nuestro enemigo se parta, koma la kashka de la muez!	Our enemies shall be removed like the shell of the nut!
El ombre ke save bien prefarar, sin muncha palavra,	The man who knows how to discriminate well, without saying much,
Mire de saver merkar, alviana i almendra!	See, he knows how to buy hazelnuts and almonds!
Kuando aze muchos amigos, su korason se eleva,	When he makes many friends, his heart is increased,
I se agan sus enemigos sekos komo l'aharova!	And he makes his enemies dry as the carob!
Le venga todo lo ke dezea i bienes de toda manera,	Let all his wishes come true and grant him all sorts of good,
Mas eskaso ke no sea, duro komo la kruda pera!	But he should not be stingy and hard as the bitter pear!
Al prove se afalaga i no se le da estorva,	The poor is flattered and is not given difficulties,
Su korason ke tenga tierno komo la ashorva!	His heart is mellow as the wild pear!
Sera guardado de males, si de kalor, si de frio,	He will be kept from evil, whether of heat or of cold,
Kuvierto sera en rikos shales, komo se kuvre el bembrio!	He will be covered in rich shawls as cover the quince!
Siempre se vayan avriendo al espasio nuestras mezas,	We will always invite guests to our tables,
El bien mos vaya viniendo, komo vienen las sirezas!	Good will come to us as the cherries come!
Dulce komo miel de trandafires, sea nuestra anyada,	Sweet as rose petals jelly, we shall be increased,
Enflorescamos komo las flores i komo la safaifa colorada!	Blooming open like flowers and like the red safaifa!
Solo en la ley se roge el ombre, ke se avran sus riniones,	Only through the law does man's prayer open his heart,
Sigun so anchea i se avre la pinya de los piyones!	Though he is puffed with pride, he is opened as the pinecones of pinenuts!

Kon su parte este contente i nunca tendra mufina,	Let him be content with his lot and never hold a grudge,
Ke non sea indiferente i agro komo la vishna?	Nor be indifferent nor sour as the morello.
El ke guarda lo ke siente, sera guardado de alila,	He who can keep a secret will be kept from slander,
I kerido de la djente, komo la buena mushmula!	And be beloved of the people as the good medlar!
Sera guardado de pena, relumbrara como la luna,	He will be kept from penalties as the sparkling moon,
Savrozo komo la sena ke echan en eya pruna!	Tasty as a dish that is topped off with plums!
En echo del Dyo madruge, de mansevo asta viejo,	Completely in service of the unsleeping God from youth till old age,
Aun kon todo ke se aruge, komo se aruga el bermejo!	Even when he is all wrinkled like the wrinkles of the cornel!
Kerido del Dyo sera i le baldara su sanya,	God will want him and he will still God's rage,
Su enemigo saltara, komo salta la kastanya!	His enemy jumping as the chestnut jumps,
Malos presto se atemen i se agan komo sisko,	Unprepared and afraid they are ground to dirt.
Djudios i todo su semen, sean komo el buen brisko!	Jews and all their progeny will be as the good apricots!
Ya lo vamos esperando al Goel de ora en ora,	And now, we will wait in hope for the Redeemer from hour to hour.
Los kueros se van aziendo pretos komo la amora!	Our skins have been made dark as the mulberry.
El prinsip del Djudaizmo, kada uno de non pensar solo por si	The principle of Judaism, each one not to think only of himself.
I dar buen guezmo, komo el guezmo del kaisi!	And have a good fragrance, as the scent of the peach!
Estas frutas todas tome, ke de todas dimos nota,	We dealt with all these fruits, we noted them all,
I beat a el ke kome fistikes i alveota!	And blessings to him who eats pistachios and alveota!
Komiendo todo esto, a la claridad de las luzes,	Eating all this, in the clear candle light,
Akavando todo sin apreto, non se olviden i de los altramuzes!	Finishing all without pressure, none are forgotten, not even the beans!
Todas las frutas mentimos i non faltimos ni una,	All fruits have been mentioned, we have not missed one.
Agora nozotros diremos lo ke pensa kada una:	Now we will say what each one thinks:
El trigo avlo primero i dio su buena repuesta:	The wheat spoke first and gave its good part:
„Roskas i pates es primero en kada fiesta!	"In rolls and pies it is first in each holiday!
En los antigos shanim (anyos), tenia mijor abrigo,	In the old days, it had better help,
Ke el lehem-apanim (panes santificados) azian del mijor trigo"	For the show bread was made of the better wheat"
La azetuna avlo valiente: „Ke mijor de mi valera,	The olive spoke bravely: "What is more valuable than I
De mi kitavan azeite para asender la almenara!"	Of me they pressed oil for use in the menorah!"
El datelar mijor avlo, ke tiene otra valor con el,	The date palm spoke well, that it has other value,
Ke su arvol se asemejo a la compania de Israel!	That its tree is found in the countryside of Israel!
„Mi fruta muncho vale," disho la uva en secreto,	"My fruit is very dear," said the grape secretly,
„Ke de mi fruta sale vino blanco i preto!"	"From my fruit comes white and red wine!"
El igo corajosamente disho: „Yo non tengo kueshko,	The fig said courageously: "I do not have a stone,
Invierno so plaziente, el enverano so fresko!	In winter I am pleasant, in the summer I am fresh!
La mangrana es mas abundenta i grandeza le	The pomegranate is very abundant and is greatly

conviene,	convinced,
Ke tiene granos sin kuenta, lo ke otra fruta non tiene!	That its seeds are beyond counting like no other fruit!
El etrog (kitra) kon modestia disho koza liviana,	The citron said in a light modest way,
„Jo aprovecho para la liturgia i mi sumo avre la gana!"	"I am used at services and my juice quickens the appetite!"
Escuchad i veresh lo ke dize la mansana:	Listen and see what the apple says :
„Con mi plazer tendresh, ke mi fruto el mal sana!"	"You shall have me with my pleasure, and my fruit heals evil!"
Salto la muez de su buraco: „Mezmo ke son godras mis cashcas.	The nut jumped from its hiding place: "It is the same with my thick shells.
Kon mil se inche el saco! Delisiozas son en freskas i sekas!"	With a thousand swelling the sack, they are delicious fresh and dry!"
La almendra i alviana, avlaron kon altigieza:	The almond and hazelnut, spoke with hauteur:
„Somos fruta sana, mos pueden meter en kada meza!"	"We are a healing fruit, let them put us on each table!"
L'aharova dio consejo: „Escuchad todos ami,	The carob gave counsel: "Listen to me everyone,
El ombre kuando es viejo, el se aze, komo mi!"	When man is old, he becomes like me!"
La pera muy bien penso I avlo muy fino:	The pear thought very well and spoke very finely:
„Mezmo ke un poko entravo la boka io, kon mi se beve vino!"	"Although I am a little tart, wine is drunk with me "
La mushmula respondio una avla kurta:	The medlar answered with a curt speech:
„Me puedo alavar io, ke viejos les plaze mi fruta!"	"I can praise myself , that old men are pleased by my fruit!"
Kon grandeza empeso i disho el bimbrío:	With grand dignity, the quince said:
„Miradme ami komo so, komo dukado amario!"	"Behold me as I am, as royal gold!"
La sereza kon su grasya, eya disho otra koza:	The cherry with its grace said something else:
„Mi fruta non enfasya, ke mi color es ermoza!"	My fruit is not bunched together, so my color is beautiful!"
La safayfa blandika i eya se contenta:	The tender safaifa was content:
„A mi me proteja la viejezika, ke de mi kome i se arta!"	"My protection is for the old lady, that eats of me and is filled!"
El pinyon otra dizia: „A mi merkad ke vos tura,	The pinenut said another thing: "Buy me to roast,
Con mi se djuga i ke ria ninyo i criatura!"	Child and teenager want me and play with me.
„Todos merkad a mi, disho la vishna con gozo,	"All buy me said the morello with joy,
I tendresh gusto de mi, ke vos do un vishnap ermozo!"	And will have pleasure from me, for I give a beautiful syrup!"
La pruna avlo tambien: „I yo do a la djente un aport,	The plum also spoke: "And I give the people a contribution,
Kudiad por mi bien, ke de mi se aze buen compot!"	Care for me well, a good compote is made from me!"
Sintid lo ke disho el bermejo: „Todos estavos kayados,	Hear what the cornel said: "All of you be quiet,
De mi fruta goza el viejo i se kome kon punyados!"	The old enjoy my fruit and it is eaten by handfuls!"
La kastanya verdadera disho: „A mi non me deshesh asolada,	The true chestnut said: "Do not leave me isolated,
Sintid mi palabra, de komerme cocha or tostada!"	Hear my word, eat of me cooked or toasted!"
El brisko respondio: „Endesparte ke so ermozo.	The apricot answered: "Not only am I beautiful,
Puedo alavarme yo, ke mi kueshko es milizinozo!"	I can praise myself, my stone is a cure!"

Un poko kedo kayada, la amora, povretica,	The poor mulberry remained quiet a little while,
Porke la blanka no es tanto savorada, pero la preta es koza rika!	Because the white is not very tasty, but the dark is rich thing!
El kaisi so alavo con su valor: „Todos a mi me tomen,	The peach praised its own value: "All who take me,
Aprovechadvos de mi savor i color i mis kueshkos por demazia ke se komen!"	You will approve my flavor and color, and my stones are cures for overeating!"
Los fistikes entorados, non avlan con tanta cara:	The roasted pistachios do not speak with as much forcefulness:
„Porke devon de ser salados i es fruta cara!"	Because they have to be salty and their fruit is dear!"
La alveota kedo tarde, pero avlo bravamente:	The alveota was late, but spoke bravely:
„So glorioza ke Jacov, nuestro padre, ami mando a su ijo presente,"	"I am glorious since our father Jacob sent me as a gift to his son,"
El altramuz avlo con gana: „Ninguno de mi se arta,	The bean spoke with desire: "No one gets filled up from me,
Ke so barato i bueno I do color plaziente!"	Since I am inexpensive and good and I have a pleasant color!"
Todas las frutas ya nombrimos, kada una por su nombre,	All the fruits have now been named, each one for Your Name,
A el Dyo bendiziremos grandes, chicos, mujer i ombre,	We will bless God greatly, little children, men and women,
Kontentadvos djente ermoza, de estas complas ke compozi yo,	Be content beautiful people, with these verses that I composed,
Cantaldalas en la meza i alavad a Dyo!	Songs for the table and praises for God!
(Con temor lo ize oslo por ke goste el ke siente, aun ke esto compuesto del minor de toda djente, entre canav i eda bendigo lael sali. Mi nombre es Jehuda, mi alkunya es Kalazh.	(With trembling I set this before you for the enjoyment of those gathered, although this is composed by the least of all people, before elders and community I bless my God. My name is Jehuda, my lineage is Kalazh.
El dio mande el Goel i mos escape de suzhefto i tornaran Israel al Betamkidash con gusto.)	May God order the Redeemer and let us escape subjugation and return Israel to the Holy Temple in joy.)