

“Save me from the pit of despair, from the plague”

(in Hebrew)

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English abstract: “In your hands my times, save me from the pit of despair, from the plague” is a *piyyut* sung by the Jews of Thessaloniki and included in their *piyyutim* books for over one hundred and fifty years. In this article, the author traces the path of the *piyyut*, about which the author and the circumstances of its writing are known very little, and seeks to go into depth.

This *piyyut*, of a request for protection, echoes the Psalm 91: “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,” which is considered a “song of (protection from) injuries” and of rescuing from lesions, pests and plagues, and the Jewish conception that transitional moments in life are more prone to damage or injury.

The *piyyut* is signed with the words: “God will save you from all evil and will save your soul.”

Keywords: *piyyut*, Thessaloniki, transitional moments, psalms, plague.