

## The Song of the Ocean



יָמִים אֹמְרִים: מִקְלֹת מַיִם רַבִּים אֲדִירִים מִשִּׁבְּרֵי יָם אֲדִיר בְּמָרוֹם ה' (תהילים צג, ד)

The seas say: **More than the sounds of the great, mighty waters and the breaking ocean waves, mighty on high is Hashem.**

Since the creation of the world, the ocean has enthralled humanity. It has challenged sailors, inspired artists, and amused beach-goers. Few, though, are aware of the ceaseless divine song behind the ocean's awesomeness.

Originally, the Earth was entirely covered with water. Then, the ocean was the sole singer of the Song of Existence. Only on the third day did Hashem push back the ocean and divide it. He decreed that henceforth the waters should not cross the seashores and flood over the land. Since then, the ocean approaches threateningly, only to crash upon the impassable border and obediently retreat. Across the ocean's entire surface, its constant shifting waves express its trembling awe of its Almighty Creator.

In the generation of Noach, when society became utterly corrupted, Hashem flooded the world and returned it to its prior state. Although the oceans were later sent back to their borders, the sea-line remains to this day a dramatic testimony of Hashem's might and intolerance of evil. At the same time, it testifies to His compassion over His creatures and His desire for their existence.



Our lives depend on innumerable factors. For example, if the plates of the Earth's crust would shift even slightly, it could cause an undersea earthquake and catastrophic, cross-country tsunami waves. We owe our lives to the Almighty, Who imprisons the ocean within its shores. The ocean itself see

As the waves of the sea travel hundreds of miles, tower higher and higher, and fall defeated upon the shore, they are singing that their immense might is nothing more than a representation of the unfathomable strength of the ocean's Creator. As mighty as the ocean is, mightier still is He who controls it with His winds, from light breezes to hurricanes. And it is He Who restrains the ocean from overrunning the earth. The ocean is saying: **"More than the sounds of the great, mighty waters and the breaking ocean waves, mighty on high is Hashem."**

## *Living with Song*

The ocean's song has a special meaning for the Jewish people. Its inability to conquer the land is a portrayal of how we, too, have been threatened by countless waves of formidable foes throughout history, yet the One above has protected us. The nations are actually powerless in their own right, and act only according to the will of Hashem. They have oppressed us in the exiles only for our own discipline and betterment, but they have always fallen like waves on the shore and left the eternal nation still standing.

When you bless Hashem every morning with the bracha "רוקע הארץ על המים" ["Rokah Ha'aretz Al HaMayim"], that He give us firm ground to stand upon, literally and figuratively, think about this song of the ocean. Appreciate that Hashem pushed back and holds back three hundred million cubic kilometers of churning oceans that surround us on all sides so that we may serve Him in the meagre earthly way that we can. He is showing that He desires in our own praises more than the roaring chorus of the oceans.

And when you have the opportunity to visit the sea, listen carefully to its song. It can inspire within you awe of Hashem, in the same way that sailors of old, who lived in the midst of the ocean and its storms, tended to be God-fearing. We are no less reliant upon Hashem for our daily survival and wellbeing.

Learn from the ocean's obedience not to overstep the boundaries Hashem has set us. Do not allow your own desires to run over a decree of the Almighty. The next time you feel an emotional tidal wave about to overflow onto someone who defies you, remember that you, too, have the ability to stop on your tracks and retreat.

Most of all, no matter how much power you and others may wield, realize that there is only One Almighty God in this world. Trust that He is in firm control of your life and that He is likewise leading the entire world, according to His singular will, towards its final rectification. Then, all will comprehend the ocean's awesome song.

