

## TWO SUPPLICATIONS (בקשות) BY RABBI YEDIDYA MONSOÑEGO

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Rabbi Yedidya Monsoñego (1799-1867) lived in Fez, Morocco, where he served as a rabbi and dayan (religious court judge). He wrote many Halachic essays, and due to his rabbinical training also wrote *piyyutim* (liturgical poetry), though only a few of them have survived. Two of his *piyyutim* are published in this article: 'יהלל פי בניב שפה ברורה' (My Mouth Praises with Pure Speech) and 'ה' אלהים מחסי' (The Lord God my Refuge). Rabbi Yedidya defined each of these as a 'בקשה' (Supplication). The *piyyutim* in question differ from one another both in content and in form. 'ה' אלהים מחסי' (The Lord God my Refuge) is written according to the girdle-like (מעין אזור) strophic form and is in essence an appeal to God for national redemption. In this work, the poet uses structural, lexical and figurative elements, as well as morpho-syntactic and syntactic means, to support his appeal. The *piyyut* 'יהלל פי בניב שפה ברורה' (My Mouth Praises with Pure Speech) comprises two-column medleys and focuses on the Thirteen Attributes of Faith. This particular *piyyut* of Rabbi Yedidya is important because of its contribution to the critical discourse relating to the order in which the Thirteen Attributes of Faith appear in *piyyutim* from North Africa. The article describes a methodical deviation from the order of the Attributes that has practically become the norm. In this deviation, the Tenth Attribute is taken out of place and inserted after the Fifth Attribute. The repeating pattern in which the Tenth Attribute has been positioned in sixth place is of interest, particularly in light of the fact that today versions of the Thirteen Attributes of Faith in which the Tenth Attribute has been moved into the sixth place are becoming more widespread.