

## قِيَمَتِيْهِ بَلْدَ مِيقَادِيْهِ

### Joy at the Resurrection

*This poem was extracted from Sebastian P. Brock & George A. Kiraz book of Select Poems of Ephrem the Syrian. The original text was scripted in Syriac with English translation; this version is in Aramaic with slight modification to the interpretation of English translation.*

مِيقَادِيْهِ دِيَنْدَهِ بَلْدَ مِيقَادِيْهِ  
بَلْدَ شَكَّهِ دِيَنْدَهِ كَلْمَهِ دِيَنْدَهِ  
تَبَهِ دِيَنْدَهِ دِيَنْدَهِ بَلْدَ مِيقَادِيْهِ

مِيقَادِيْهِ دِيَنْدَهِ بَلْدَ مِيقَادِيْهِ

revealing to me something of Paradise,

مِيقَادِيْهِ دِيَنْدَهِ فَهِيَهِ لِفَقَادِيْهِ

which opened up this Paradise.

مِيقَادِيْهِ دِيَنْدَهِ بَهِ دِيَنْدَهِ

and carry back with me from Paradise

مِيقَادِيْهِ دِيَنْدَهِ تَبَهِ دِيَنْدَهِ

which are here scattered about for Your feast

مِيقَادِيْهِ دِيَنْدَهِ دِيَنْدَهِ دِيَنْدَهِ

Blessed is He who both gave and received the crown!

مِيقَادِيْهِ دِيَنْدَهِ كِهْ دِيَنْدَهِ

Your law has been my vehicle,

مِيقَادِيْهِ دِيَنْدَهِ كِهْ دِيَنْدَهِ

Your Cross has been to me the key

مِيقَادِيْهِ دِيَنْدَهِ كِهْ دِيَنْدَهِ

From the Garden of Delights<sup>1</sup> did I gather

مِيقَادِيْهِ دِيَنْدَهِ دِيَنْدَهِ

Roses and other eloquent blooms

مِيقَادِيْهِ دِيَنْدَهِ دِيَنْدَهِ

Amid songs [as they flutter down] on humanity.

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مِيقَادِيْهِ دِيَنْدَهِ دِيَنْدَهِ

of tongues and voices:

مِيقَادِيْهِ دِيَنْدَهِ دِيَنْدَهِ

sounding like trumpets and horns,

مِيقَادِيْهِ دِيَنْدَهِ دِيَنْدَهِ

resemble harps and lyres:

مِيقَادِيْهِ دِيَنْدَهِ دِيَنْدَهِ

as they read up together towards heaven,

مِيقَادِيْهِ دِيَنْدَهِ دِيَنْدَهِ

Blessed is He for whom the silent have thundered out!

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مِيقَادِيْهِ دِيَنْدَهِ دِيَنْدَهِ

heaven above roared with thunder:

مِيقَادِيْهِ دِيَنْدَهِ دِيَنْدَهِ

of those above and those below.

مِيقَادِيْهِ دِيَنْدَهِ دِيَنْدَهِ

The earth thunders out below,

مِيقَادِيْهِ دِيَنْدَهِ دِيَنْدَهِ

Nisan<sup>3</sup> has mingled together the two sounds -

سُكُونٌ مُلِيَّةٌ بِحُجَّةٍ سُجُونٌ  
The shouts from the holy Church  
وَسُكُونٌ مُلِيَّةٌ بِحُجَّةٍ سُجُونٌ  
and with the bright torches  
بِحُجَّةٍ مُلِيَّةٌ بِحُجَّةٍ سُجُونٌ  
with the rain came the tears of sorrow,

جَدْ مُلْتَ بِهِ جَدْ فِهْدَتْ  
 that in the Ark all voices cried out:  
 فَهَبَّتْ شَلَّى فَكَبِيَّ  
 but inside, lovely voices,  
 لَيْوَهْ شَهْ نَحِنَّهْ حَتَّىَهْ  
 uttered together in chaste fashion,<sup>5</sup>  
 فَهَدَهْ وَكَنْيَهْ مَهَدَهْ كَنْيَهْ  
 when unmarried girls and boys  
 لَمَذَّهْ شَهْ جَيْوَكَنْ  
 praise to the Lord of that Ark.

جِوْمَكْ بَيْهَةَ تَجْ  
It was in a similar way  
لَجْهَ مِنْهَ بَكَكَهْ جَسْكَهْ  
outside [the Ark] were fearsome waves,  
لَعْنَهْ وَهَتْ وَهَتْ  
tongues, all in pairs,  
كَهْ وَهَهْ جَهْنَهْ بَجَنْهْ  
thus serving as a type of our festival now  
وَمَذْهَهْ بَهْ بَعْجَنْهَهْ  
together in innocence sing

فَلِمَ مَنْ فَتَتَ بَدْرِي  
Who has seen flower-buds flourish  
وَمَلِكَ مَدْنَهْ بَحْفَهْ  
With them have chaste women filled  
فَلَكَ بَهْ بَهْ بَهْ  
The sound [of songs.] like a servant, has

تَدْكِبُهُمْ بِعِلْمِ يَوْمٍ  
catch them with your senses,  
تَذَبَّبُهُمْ بِعِلْمِ حَكَمٍ  
blessed is he who is garlanded with his  
نَبِيٌّ تَذَبَّبَهُمْ بِعِلْمِ مَذَبَّةٍ  
these flower-buds are sacred,  
نَبِيٌّ تَذَبَّبَهُمْ بِعِلْمِ مَذَبَّةٍ  
just as our Lord [caught] Mary's  
unguent.[John 12:1-3]

بَذَّهُ بَذَّهُ تَهْبِه مَلَكٌ  
have the children scattered before the  
King: [Matt 21:7]

بَذَّهُ مَيْهَه مَيْهَه مَلَكٌ  
the path was filled with them;

بَذَّهُ بَذَّهُ بَذَّهُ  
their songs [of joy] like lilies.

بَذَّهُ بَذَّهُ بَذَّهُ لَهُ مَذَّهُ  
does the crowd of children scatter for You,  
Lord,

بَذَّهُ جَيْهَه بَذَّهُ بَذَّهُ  
Blessed is He who was acclaimed by  
young children [Matt 21:15-15]

فَهَتَّهُ فَهَتَّهُ مَلَكٌ  
Fair and eloquent flower-buds

بَذَّهُ مَيْهَه بَذَّهُ جَلَّهُ  
the colt was garlanded with them,

بَذَّهُه بَذَّهُه بَذَّهُه  
they scattered praises like flower-buds

نَذَّهُه بَذَّهُه بَذَّهُه  
Now too at this festival

بَذَّهُه بَذَّهُه بَذَّهُه  
halleluiahs like blossoms.

سَمَدَّهُمْ كَمَدَّهُمْ نَبْعَثُ  
his homilies like blossoms,  
مُعْتَدِّهُمْ كَمَدَّهُمْ نَبْعَثُ  
deacons of their reading,  
كَلْمَنَّهُمْ كَمَدَّهُمْ نَبْعَثُ  
children of their psalms,  
كَبُّرَهُمْ كَمَدَّهُمْ نَبْعَثُ  
strong young men of their jubilant shouts,

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

chief citizens of their benefactions,

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ كَمْ يُوْسَطِي

Blessed is He who gave us so many opportunities for good!

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

chaste women of their songs,

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

ordinary folk of their manner of life.

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بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

the martyrs, apostles and prophets,

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

and flower-buds shine out

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

so fragrant are their lilies:

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

and they bring back fair [bunches of] blossoms

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

O praise to You from the [saints who are] blessed!

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

Let us summon and invite the saints,

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

Like themselves their blossoms

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

such a wealth of roses they have,

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

from the Garden of Delights do they pluck them,

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

to crown our beautiful feast.<sup>8</sup>

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بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

compared with the wealth of Your crown

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

in which faith shines out,

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

and holiness is mingled in,

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

O great King of all blossoms,

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

Blessed is He who gave it us to weave!

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

Royal crowns appear poor

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

into which purity is intertwined,

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

humility shine forth

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

and great love is resplendent.

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

how perfect is the beauty of Your crown.

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بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

and in return grant us salvation;

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

rebuild the churches that were burnt,

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

we may plait You a great wreath,

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

Receive our offering, O our King,

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

give peace to the land that has been devastated,<sup>9</sup>

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

so that when deep peace has returned

بَشِّرْنَا مُهَمَّدَ بِنَيْسَارِ

with blossoms and [people] to plait it, coming in from all sides  
**تَذَبَّرْتُ مُنْذَهًا مِّنْ جَيْدَةٍ**  
 blessed is He who has acted and is able to so that the Lord of peace may be crowned.  
 act!

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نَسْرٌ

1. *Garden of Delight* (جَيْدَة): An obvious play on Eden (not present in the Septuagint's of gar den by *paradeisos tes truphes*, "Garden of Delight")
2. *joyful*: There is a word play between (قُبَيْتَنَ), "Joyful," and (قُبَيْتَنَ) "Passover."
3. *Nisan*: i.e., April
4. *pasturage*: Provided by the fresh green grass of spring.
5. *in chaste fashion*: Lit, "purely." Ephrem probably alludes to the tradition (of Jewish origin) that both Noah's family and the animals preserved (جَنَاحَةَنَ) and refrained from intercourse in the Ark.
6. *dear Lord* (أَبَدَنَ): Ephrem uses this word, taken from John 20:16 (Mary Magdalene's recognition of the risen Christ), as a term of intimate relationship to Christ.
7. *chief pastor*: i.e., bishop.
8. *Delights...feast*
9. *devastated*: It is not clear to which of the sieges of Nisibis Ephrem refers.

Notes:

أَغْنُسْ كَاسْتُوسْ – *Agnus-castus*. A willowlike tree, used at a religious festival. The chaste tree.

جَنَاحَةَنَ - *Chaste* – refraining from sexual intercourse that is regarded as contrary to morality or religion