

# Sing a Song of Creation

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*Perek Shira*, chapter of Song, is a beautiful *midrash*. Attaching an appropriate verse to the elements of creation, it recounts how everything in the world sings: the lion sings, and the stars, and the trees. The medieval Christian spiritualist Thomas a Kempis beautifully wrote: "If you cannot sing like the nightingale and the lark, then sing like the crows and the frog, which sing as God meant them to." This is the lesson of *Perek Shira* — all of Creation bears a song.

Moses had trouble speaking, but at the sea, "So sang Moses and the children of Israel." His impediment did not block his song. There is even a Talmudic tradition that the worthy King Hezekiah might have proved himself the Messiah, but when the time came to sing to God, he could not sing. Redemption itself requires a song.

*Shira* in Hebrew means both poetry and song; so each day there is a *shir shel yom*, a Psalm of the day, or we might say, a song of the day. In the Temple the Psalms were accompanied by music. We sing just like creation, a tribute to the Creator of all. As *Shir Hakavod* put it one thousand years ago: "I sing hymns and weave songs because my soul yearns for You."