

## The Whole Truth, Or Nothing But the Truth?

לָמָּה	Why
נִקְרָא שְׁמוֹ	are they named
אֲנָשֵׁי כְּנֶסֶת הַגְּדוּלָּה	Men of the Great Gathering?
שֶׁחֲזִירוּ	Because they restored
עֲטָרָה לְיוֹשְׁנָהּ	the crown to its original state.
אָתָּא מֹשֶׁה אָמַר	Came Moses and said:
"הָאֵל הַגָּדֹל	<i>God, Great,</i>
הַגִּיבּוֹר וְהַנּוֹרָא"	<i>Mighty and Awesome.*</i>
אָתָּא יֵרֵמְיָהּ וְאָמַר	Came Jeremiah and said:
נְכָרִים מְקַרְקְרִין	Aliens revel
בְּהִיכְלוֹ	in His Temple!
אֵיךְ נּוֹרְאוֹתָיו	Where is His awesomeness?
לֹא אָמַר "נּוֹרָא"	He did not say <i>Awesome.**</i>
אָתָּא דָּנִיֵּאל אָמַר	Came Daniel and said:
נְכָרִים מְשַׁתְּעֵבְדִים	Aliens are enslaving
בְּבָנָיו	His children!
אֵיךְ גְּבוּרוֹתָיו	Where are His mighty deeds?
לֹא אָמַר "גְּבוּר"	He did not say <i>Mighty***</i>
אֲתוּ אֵינְהוּ וְאָמְרוּ	They came and said:
אֲדִרְבָּה	On the contrary
זוֹ הִיא	This is
גְּבוּרַת גְּבוּרָתוֹ	the strength of His strength:
שֶׁכּוֹבֵשׁ אֶת יָצְרוֹ	that He suppresses His impulse
שְׁנוֹתָיו אַרְךְ אַפַּיִם	and extends patience
לְרָשָׁעִים	to the wicked.

וַיֵּלֶךְ הוֹרְאוֹתָיו	And herein is His awesomeness:
שְׂאֵלְמָלְאָה	Were it not for
מוֹרְאוֹ	the awe of
שֶׁהַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא	The Blessed Holy One
הֵי אֵךְ אוֹמְהָ אַחַת	how would a single people
יְכוּלָה לְהִתְקַיֵּם	be able to sustain itself
בֵּין הָאוֹמוֹת	among the nations?
וְרַבָּנָן	And these ‘Rabbis’
הֵיכִי עֲבָדֵי הָכֵי	How could they act this way
וְעִקְרֵי תִקְנֵתָא	uprooting an institution
דְּתִקֵּין מֹשֶׁה	that Moses had instituted?
אָמַר רַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר	Said Rabbi Eliezer:
מִתּוֹךְ שִׂידְעִין	Because they knew
בְּהַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא	that the Blessed Holy One
שֶׁאֱמַתִּי הוּא	is truthful.
לְפִיכָךְ	Therefore
לֹא כָזְבוּ בוֹ	they could not lie to Him.

יומא סט: ב

Yoma 69b

\*Deuteronomy 10:17

\*\*Jeremiah 32:17f

\*\*\*Daniel 9:4ff