

## Wholly Complete And Holy Incomplete

וַיִּכְלּוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְהָאָרֶץ וְכָל צְבָאָם. וַיִּכַּל אֱלֹהִים בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וַיִּשְׁבֹּת בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מִכָּל מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה. וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶת יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי וַיְקַדְּשׁ אֹתוֹ כִּי בּו שַׁבַּת מְכַל מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים לַעֲשׂוֹת.

And the heaven and the earth and all of their ranks were finished. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done and rested on the seventh day from all of the work that he had done. And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it for upon it he ceased from all the work that he had created. (Genesis 2:1-3)



דָּאָמַר רַב הַמְּנוּנָה כָּל הַמְּתַפְּלִל בְּעֶרֶב שַׁבַּת וְאוֹמֵר "וַיִּכְלּוּ" מַעֲלָה עָלָיו הַפְּתוּבָה כְּאִילוֹ נִעְשָׂה שׁוֹתֵף לְהַקְדוּשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא בְּמַעֲשֵׂה בְּרֵאשִׁית, שְׁנֵאמַר: "וַיִּכְלּוּ." אֶל תִּקְרִי "וַיִּכְלּוּ" אֶלָּא וַיִּכְלּוּ.

Rabbi Hamnunah said: Everyone who prays on erev Shabbat and says, *Va-yechulu*, Scripture accounts him as a partner with the Blessed Holy One in the acts of creation, as it says: *Va-yechulu*. Don't read it as *Va-yechulu, the heaven and earth and all of their ranks were finished*; rather, read it as *Va-yechalu*, they [God and reciter] finished the heaven and the earth and all of their ranks.

Babylonian Talmud Shabbat 119b



אֶל תִּכְלֶה כְּכֹלֹת שָׁמַיִךְ,  
כְּכֹלֹת אֲבָק צְבָאָם.  
בְּבְלִימְתֶךָ אֶתְקַדְּשׁ.

Don't finish like the finishing of your heavens,  
like finishing the starry dust of their ranks.  
In your incompleteness I will be sanctified.

Rivka Miriam

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