

1. Our Birth in Unity

Abwoon d'bwashmaya ܐܒܘܘܢ ܕܒܘܫܡܝܐ

(KJV version: *Our Father which art in heaven*)

O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos,
you create all that moves
in light.

O Thou! The Breathing Life of all,
Creator of the Shimmering Sound that
touches us.

Respiration of all worlds,
we hear you breathing—in and out—
in silence.

Source of Sound: in the roar and the whisper,
in the breeze and the whirlwind, we
hear your Name.

Radiant One: You shine within us,
outside us—even darkness shines—when
we remember.

Name of names, our small identity
unravels in you, you give it back
as a lesson.

Wordless Action, Silent Potency—
where ears and eyes awaken, there
heaven comes.

O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos!

Textual Notes

The prayer begins with an expression of the divine creation and the blessing that emanates from all parenting. The ancient Middle Eastern root *ab* refers to all fruit, all germination proceeding from the source of Unity. This root came to be used in the Aramaic word for personal father—*abba*—but still echoes its original ungendered root in sound-meaning. While *abwoon* is a derivative of this word for personal father, its original roots do not specify a gender and could be translated “divine parent.” These roots reveal many levels of meaning. *Bwn* shows the ray or emanation of that father/motherhood proceeding from potential to actual, here and now. In Aramaic, the character for *b* may also be pronounced *w* or include shades of both. An Aramaic scholar, the Reverend Mar Aprem (1981), notes that the same root (*ab*) may stand for personal father or spiritual father, depending on whether the *w* (for personal) or the *b* (for spiritual) is emphasized. No doubt, Jesus meant there to be an echo of both, as Aramaic is rich in this sublime wordplay.

Further, according to the mystical science of sounds and letters, common to both Aramaic and Hebrew, the word *abwoon* points beyond our changing concepts of “male” and “female” to a cosmic birthing process. At this level of interpretation, *abwoon* may be said to have four parts to its sound-meaning:

A: the Absolute, the Only Being, the pure Oneness and Unity, source of all power and stability (echoing to the ancient sacred sound *AL* and the Aramaic word for God, *Alaha*, literally, “the Oneness”).

bw: a birthing, a creation, a flow of blessing, as if from the “interior” of this Oneness to us.

oo: the breath or spirit that carries this flow, echoing the sound of breathing and including all forces we now call magnetism, wind, electricity, and more. This sound is linked to the Aramaic phrase *rukha d'qoodsha*, which was later translated as “Holy Spirit.”

n: the vibration of this creative breath from Oneness as it touches and interpenetrates form. There must be a substance that this force touches, moves, and changes. This sound echoes