# מִי כָמֹכָה

מִי כָמֹכָה בָּאֵלִם יְיָ

מִי כָּמֹכָה נֶאְדָּר בַּקֹּדֶשׁ

נוֹרָא תְהִלֹּת עֹשֵׂה פֶלֶא

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# מִי כָמֹכָה

**Root: א – ל – (ה)**

**Meaning - Root for the names of God and also the word "god"**

**Word in the prayer with the same root:** בָּאֵלִם

**Related words with the same root:** אֵל אֵלִים אֱלֹהִים אֱלֹהֵנוּ

**Name of God as it appears in the Torah:** יְהוָה

**Abbreviation of the name of God:** יי

The מִי כָמֹכָה is found at the end of the second section, "The שְׁמַע and Its Blessings," just before the Amidah. Parts of the prayer are recited out loud by the leader, and other parts are recited out loud by all.

The מִי כָמֹכָה expresses our absolute faith in one God. We make it clear that historically and today we trust in God to protect us, to see us, and to be our support in all times of our lives and in all situations.

A midrash tells this story of the parting of the Red Sea. As the Israelites escaped from Pharaoh and Egypt they became trapped between the Egyptian army and the Red Sea. Even though Moses raised his staff, as instructed by God, the waters did not part. Moses then plunged his staff into the water, and still the waters did not part. The people cried and prepared themselves to be slaughtered by the Egyptian army. At that point, one man, Nachshon, showed that he had complete faith in God. He began singing the מִי כָמֹכָה and walked into the great sea. As he walked the water reached his knees. He still sang and kept walking. The water reached his waist, but still he sang and kept walking. The water reached his shoulders and he continued. The water reached his chin, and he could still be heard singing, and he still walked on. At the moment the water completely covered Nachshon's mouth and nose, so that he could not breathe, God parted the waters. Shown the way by Nachshon, the Israelites began singing, and passed through the divided waters on the dry seabed.

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**Vocabulary**

| | |
|---|---|
| Who - מִי | is like you - כָּמֹכָה/כָּמֹכָה |
| in/with holiness - בַּקֹּדֶשׁ | awesome - נוֹרָא |
| doing - עֹשֵׂה | wonders (miracles) - פֶּלֶא |

**Past Roots**

| | |
|---|---|
| ב-ר-כ bless | ש-י-מ place, put |
| ב-ח-ר choose | |

**Translation**

Who is like You among the gods, Adonai
Who is like You, majestic in holiness,
Awesome in splendor, doing wonders

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