# Abraham Shlonsky

THREE OLD WOMEN · ŞALÓŞ ZKEYNÓT · שֶׁלשׁ וָקְנוֹת

בַּצֵרַב הָאָפֿר צֵל יֵד הַבַּיָת הַלְבַן יושבות שלש וקנות וצופיות אל נכחן. והם סביב.

כָּאָלוּ בָמְעוּפוֹ קָפָא פָּהָאם הָעַיִט. שלש זקנות יושבות על יד הבית.

ומִי־שֶׁהוֹא דוֹמָם סוֹרֵג מֵעֵל רֹאשָׁן פְּוְמָק כָּחֹל בַּגָפַח הַיִּשָּׁן. צְוַפַּת וָהָב בָּאפֶּק מִהְּוֹלֶלֶת. ב יֹּרְ׳ צֹה שׁלשׁ וַקְנוֹת רָאוּ לְפַתַע יֵלֶד.

שׁלשׁ זְקְנוֹת הָתְעוֹרְרוּ פָּתָאם ונאנחו: מִסְכֵּן... וַדְאִי יַתוֹם... נו וְאַחַר־כָּדְ נִגְשׁר. לְטְפּוּהוּ עַל הַלֶּחִי. 12 הַיֶּלֶד הִתְבּוֹנֵן – וְהִתְפָּרֵץ בְּבֶּכִי.

ואחר־כַּךְ בַּא לַיִל, כִּילֵד לא־מוּבַן.

רַק אֵיוָה עַלָבוֹן עוֹד הָתְחוֹגֵג כִּעַיִט מַעַל לְדַף סַפְּסָל, שֵׁנִתְרוֹקֵן עַל־יַד הַבַּיִת. Baérev haafór al yad habáyit halaván Yosvót salós zkeynőt vetsofiyőt el nihebán.

3 Vchas saviv. Keilu bim'ufó kafá pit'óm haávít. Salós zkeynót yosvót al yad habávit.

6 Umí-sehú dumám sorég meál rosán Puzmák kahól banúsah hayasán. Tsnefát zaháv baófek mitgolélet.

9 Salós zkeynót raú leféta yéled.

Salós zkeynót hit'orerú pít'óm Veneenhú: miskén . . . vadáy yatóm . . .

Veahár-kah nigsú. Litfúhu al haléhi. Hayéled hitbonén-vehitparéts bevéhi.

Veahar-káh ba láyil, keyéled lo-muván. וֹטָלשׁ וְקְנוֹת חָמְקוּ אֵל תּוֹךְ הַבֵּיִת הַלְבָּן. Salós zkeynót ḥamkú el toḥ habáyit halaván. מילים וְקְנוֹת חָמְקוּ אֵל תּוֹךְ הַבֵּיִת הַלְבָּן. Vehás savív.

Rak éyze ilavón od hithogég keáyit

18 Meál ledáf sassál, senitrokén al-yád habáyit.

Wretched 2.188

This poem comes from the last section of Stones of Chaos (Avnéy Bóhu, 1934). In contrast to the intimate, nostalgic tone of the 1927 volume in which "Toil" appeared, Stones of Chaos is permeated by the sense of crisis that pervaded Europe and Palestine in the thirties. The book contains Shlonsky's Paris poems (he had spent much time in that city), poems about building the homeland which are now darkened by the foreshadowing catastrophe, short introverted lyrics, and odes of an apocalyptic mood. For all of Shlonsky's meticulous riming, constructing, and skillful playing with verbal meanings, one senses a disrupting world. Then suddenly, in the last section, one finds poems of childhood that speak of the poet's growth as an artist in a milieu in which Jewish and non-Jewish influences interplay: "... Maimonides looks upon the portrait of Bakunin."

Placed between two autobiographical poems, "Three Old Women" seems out of context. Its atmosphere and its terms of reference are universal whereas the other poems move between the poles of childhood and old age. Our poem seems to be unique in balancing an epic-like sweep with immediate observation:

(1) In the gray evening, by the white house, (2) Three old women sit, looking (out) before them. (3) And silence (is all) around. (4) As though the hawk suddenly froze in (his) flight. (5) Three old women sitting by the house.

The first impression recalls a Dutch genre painting and line 3-rehás saviv ("silence all around")-confirms the static quality. But with the introduction of the hawk, the silence becomes charged with a sense of terror-the verb "froze" is hardly reassuring. Line 5 makes an effort to restore the quietude, repeating the first impression.

לְכְתוֹב, לְשָׁתוֹת, לֶמוֹת. חֶה הַקַּל.

וּכְבֶּר אַתָּה פָעוּל, אָהוב, כְּחוּב.

עַר שֶעוֹשִׁים אוֹחְהָ: אַתְּה נִפְעָל: וַבְרָא, נִשְּבָר, נִנְמָר, נִמְאָא וְשׁוּב

שָלילוֹתֶיף מִחְתַוֹּלְוֹת כְּל־כָּךְ עד לַפְעַל: נַגַן, דַבֵּר, שַבַּר. עוֹלֵם הַמַעֲשִים כֹּה יָסָבּף:

פְעַל, שָׁבַּר, קבַץ, בְּלִי חוֹוַר.

אַחָה כַּפְעִיל: הָאֲחַרִים עוֹשִּׁים

וְשוֹב מָפְעָל בְּחָלוֹבֵי נִסִים,

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כאשר כתבתי שירים עור אולר הַבָּרָה־הְבָּרָה כל צליל כל ניב. וְלֹיא יִבְּתָב גַם עַכְשָּׁוּ.

אֱמֶת מְעָרְטֶלֶת מָדִי. וְאָם אֵכְהָבֵנוּ הַיּוֹם, יִהְיֶה שֶׁקֶרְ גָמוּר.

בּוֹאִי רְדִי אֵלֵי, בַּת הָאֵלִים, הַרְכִינִי עַלַי

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את ראשר המלבין. נשחק במלים -

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عودا رعاد عدم محدد المالد، عام J. V.S. IV. IV

מַשְׁנִיחַ וּמָשְׁנָח. מַלְהִיב. מָלְהָב. וָרַק בַּפוֹף אַתָּה חוֹוֵר אֶל פַּצְמְה

וּמְתְבָּרֵר וּמִתְלַחֵשׁ, הַכֹּל מְחְזָר. בָהְתְפַעל וְהָתְקַפֵּל עֵד שֶׁנִּנְמָר.

יד אָלהִים בָּעולָם:

יהוצה לאיתי

[8]

יַד אֱלֹהִים בְּעוֹלֶם פָיַד אָמִי בִּמְעִי הַתַּרְנְעֹל הַשְּׁחוּם בְעֶרֶב שַׁבָּת. מָה רוֹאֶה אֱלֹהִים מֵעַבֶּר לַחַלוֹן בְעַת יָדָיו נְתוּנוֹת בְּעוֹלָםז מָה רוֹאָה אָמִיוּ

[2]

כָּאָבִי כְּבָר טְב: יָלַד שְׁנֵי דּוֹרוֹת של כְּאַבִים הַדּוֹמִים לוֹ. מִקְוֹתֵי הַקִּימוּ שְׁכּוּנִים לְבָּנִים כרסק מן הדמק שָבִי.

נַעַרָתִי שְׁכְחָה אֶת אַהֲבְתָה עַל הַפִּּוְדְרָכָה כְמוֹ אוֹפַנֵים. כָל הַלַּיְלָה בַחוּץ וּבַטְל.

> יָלָדִים רוֹשְמִים אֶת תּוֹלְדוֹת הַיֵּי וְאֶת תּוֹלְדוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַיִם בְּנִיר יָרַתַ עַל הַכְּבִישׁ. יֵר אֱלֹהִים בָּעוֹלָם.

FIRE AL א סונם הבוננים setindal לְכְחוֹב, לְשְׁחוֹת, לָמוֹת. חֶה הַקַּל. "registered N3311 (2 אפן אל אָהוֹב, בּוּכְבָר אַתָּה פָעוּל, אָהוֹב, בְּתוּב. Passire -Ha) יוֹבַנְיַף עַר שֶעוֹשִים אוֹתְף. אַתָּה נִפְעָל: וְבְרָא, וְשְׁבָּר, וֹנְמָר, וִמְצְא וְשׁוּב הליקונים מעתוללות בּקבבּ!! הליקונים מעתוללות בּקבבּ!! = crestivity F8 3 עד לפעל: נגן, דבר שבר עוֹלָם הַנֵּוּצְשִׂים כֹה יָסְבַּך: Camplicated 283 פַעל, שֶׁבֶּר קבַץ, בְּלִי חוור. 1.100 אַתָּה מַפְעִיל: הָאַחַרִים עוֹשִּים Joo passive conserve F123 ושוב מפעל בְחִלוּהֵי נִסִּים, to fire (the inagination) מַשְׁנִיתַ וּמָשְׁנָת. מַלְהִיב. מֶלְהָב. 27/8N /50 וָרַק בַּסוֹף אַתָּה חוֹוֵר אָל עַצְּמְהּ ? 5100 Fr DOS X13. DN וֹמְתָבָּרֵר וֹמְתְלַחֵשׁ, הַכֹּל מְּחְנָר. 28500 100 - 200 בְּהַתְפַּעֵל וְהָתְקַפֵּל עַד שֶׁנִּנְסָר. ? SITAR ? PAILNE ISTEN FIR ON to be mared to edminition to be impressed, excited, to be done Shakeopearian sonnet : heroic couplet restored turned back JNC (7,6 5/1) 01/3 62/1,10 7 speak in whispers

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## Amir Gilboa

MOSES · MOSÉ משה

s in our opening poem, "Moses" depends on a dream quality, a highly individual use of biblical material, and a counterpointing of adult and childhood experience. But there all likenesses end.

In the opening stanza the speaker imagines himself a child who is imagining himself an adult. In this role, he approaches the great general to offer him some strategic advice.

(1) I went up to Moses and said to him: (2) Place the armies thus and thus. (3) He looked at me (4) And placed them as I told him to.

(5) And who did not see me then in my glory? (6) Sara from childhood was there (7) In whose name I had planned to build a city. (8) The long-

legged one from the girl-workers' farm was there. (9) And Melvina from Rabbat in Malta. (10) Dina from the Italo-Yugoslav border. (11) And Ria from the Lowlands in the North.

(12) And very proud, I hurried to Moses (13) To show him the right way (14) When suddenly it became clear to me (15) That she who within my name (16) Is carved and rightly (firmly) emplaced -(17) Was not [present].

(18) Moses Moses lead the people. (19) Look, I am so tired and I wish to sleep some more (20) I am still a boy.

The tone in which all this is recounted is playful, and the effect is not simply that of a child seriously telling about a fantasy of

נגשתי אל משה ואמרתי לו: צַרֹך אֶת הַמַּחַנוֹת כַּךְ וְכָּךְ. הוא הסתכל בי וערך לפי שאמרתי

Nigásti el mosé veamárti lo: Aróh et hamahanót kah vehah.

3 Hu histakél bi

Vearáh lefí seamárti.

וֹמִי לֹא רָאָה אָז בִּכְבוֹרִין שָׁהַ שָׁם שַּׁרָה מִן הַיַּלְדוּת 🕛

ישעל שמה תבנתי לבנות עיר. γ Seál sma tikánti livnót ir. יהָיְתָה שָׁם אֲרָכַּת־הָרַגְלִיִם מַחַנַתֹּדְהַפּוֹצֵלוֹת.

Umí lo raá az bihvodí! Haytá sam sára min hayaldút

Haytá sam arukát-haragláyim

ſmehavát-hapoalót. Haytá melvína merabát asér bemálta.

פּ הַיָּתָה מֵלְוִינָה מֵרַבַּת אֲשֶׁר בְּמַלְטָה. ינה מהובול האיםלקי-היוגוסלבי. Dína mehagvúl haitalkí-hayugoslávi.

יוריה מהשפלה שבצפון. Veriya mehasfela sebatsafon. Netherland

וְגֵאֶה מְאֹד מִהַרְתִּי אֵל מֹשָה ו להורותו הַדֶּרֶךְ הַנְכוֹנָה // Lehorotó hadéreḥ hanḥoná suddenly become clear

והחור לי לפתאם

ני זוֹ אשׁר בּתוֹךְ שׁמִי Ki zo aşér betóḥ şmi

איננה.

Vege'é meód mihárti el mosé

Vehohvár li lefit'óm

- הַרוֹתָה וּנְכוֹנָה Ḥarutá unhoná

Eynéna.

משה משה הנחה את העם. עוֹד פּל־כָּךְ עְיֵף וְרוֹצֶה לִישׁן עוֹד Re'é, ani kol-káḥ ayéf verotsé lisón od אני עודי נער.

Mosé mosé hanhé et haám.

Aní odí náar.

glory, but of a man recognizing the child alive within him and adopting the voice appropriate to that child. For the adult is the child-and yet the disarming naïvete is paradoxically mixed with a detachment that is present not only in the initial playfulness but also in everything that follows.

This double point of view-of naïvete and detachment, of childlikeness and maturitygives the special flavor to the listing of girlfriends; they are invoked in order to witness the man-child's influence over his hero. Not only is the tone adult in its playfulness; the catalogue itself could hardly have been compiled by an inexperienced youth. Ranging from the childho weetheart to the "long-

legged one from the girl-workers' farm" (havát poalót: the pioneer farms which trained women for agricultural work)-whose name has evidently slipped from the speaker's memory—the parade of amatory experiences is both considerable and varied. References to Malta, the Italo-Yugoslav border, and the Netherlands Plain indicate that the speaker has spent a good deal of his life in wandering homelessly from one part of the globe to another, specifically from the North down to the Mediterranean.

Although the recollections hardly recount an easy or secure existence, the tone throughout the poem is bright and exultant. There is joy in this piling of memory upon improve

#### Lea Goldberg 1954

AFTER TWENTY YEARS · AHAREY ESRÍM SANÁ · אַחַרִי עֶשִּׂרִים שֶׁנָה

עֶשְּׂרִים שָׁנָה - וּכְמוֹ שֵׁנוֹהְגִים לוֹמֵר « כֵּן, מַשֶּׁהוּ קָרָה בֵּינְתַיִם בָּעוֹלָם » וָרֵגֶשׁ זָה אֵינֵנוּ יַיִן מְשָׁמָּר: הוא לא נְהְיָה חָרִיף יוֹתֵר, אַף לא יוֹתֵר מְשְׁלֶם.

> - לא, הַאֲמֵן, לא שֵּׁיבָתְךּ הִיא וֹאת אוּלֵי רַק מַבָּטְךּ אָדִישׁ וְלֹא נִכְלָם, רק בו הן מגלות חַיֵּינוּ הַגְנוּזוֹת וָכָל אֲשֶׁר « קָרָה בֵּינְתַיִם בָּעוֹלָם ».

שׁנֵי אַנָשִׁים, אָכֵן, שִׁנֵי אַנָשִׁים זָרִים מִשְׁנֵי עֶבְרֵי הַתְּהוֹם שֶׁל הֶרֶס וְאֵימָה. וו אַפְלוּ עַל קְבְרֵי מֵחֵינוּ הַיְקְרִים Afilu al kivréy meytéynu haykarím לא עוד נאמר היום אותה תפלה עצמה.

Esrím saná—uḥmó senohagím lomár "Ken, másehu kará beyntáyim baolám"-

Veréges ze eynénu yáyin meşumár: Hu lo nihiyá haríf yotér, af lo yotér muşlám.

Lo, haamén, lo seyvathá hi zot-Uláy rak mabathá adís veló nihlám,

Rak bo hen megilót hayéynu hagnuzót Vehól aşér "kará beyntáyim baolám".

Sney anaşım, ahen, şney anaşım zarım Mișnéy evréy hathóm șel héres vecymá.

Lo od nomár hayóm otá tfilá atsmá.

The poetry of Lea Goldberg shows strong A affinities for the Symbolists of both Eastern and Western Europe. Born in Kovno, Lithuania, and educated at the Universities of Kovno, Bonn, and Berlin, she became thoroughly familiar with Russian and German literatures. (She has also done a great deal of translating from these languages and from Italian, English, and French as well.) She settled in Israel early in her career, joining Shlonsky's circle (see p. 75) soon after her arrival in 1935.

Although associated with the modernist movement of the thirties, Lea Goldberg uses traditional verse forms. Her modernism is reflected in the conversational style of her work and in her rejection of both the rhetoric of her predecessors and the bombast of some of her contem ries. A taste for simplicity

leads her to limit her symbolic vocabulary to the familiar, investing everyday words, images, rhythms, and even rimes with astonishing freshness.

She is one of the few poets of her generation to eschew ideological versifying. She writes about such universal matters as childhood, nature, love (especially mature love), aging, and death. And her poems are highly personal and introspective.

"After Twenty Years" is an encounter between two estranged lovers. The point of view is the woman's, and the first part of the poem is conversational in the extreme. The lines are long and for the most part hexameters, but the predominant iambic meter is varied sufficiently to give the illusion of living speech. The opening is a refully executed pastiche of clichés:

הייתי כשה, שחור 1-11/11/ מוכר

חמרתי שוב לחמף הלבן. ני פים או שווצף אין הוא שלחות רגביה בחפן. סו מפלש ומובן נוֹהַר, כִשְׁדֵרוֹת אֶל הַאֹּפֶק.

be tranquil, restful נו ישלו בחיקה משבנות ודירים, אשכב גם אני ואוחילה לְלֶשֶׁף יָדְף, אֱלֹהִים אַדִּירִים. הָיִיתִי שָּׁדֶה שֶׁהִשְׁבִּילֵה.

Cresks 160

עַל דַעַת עִינַי שֶׁרָאוּ אֶת הַשְׁכוֹל וָעָמָסוּ זְעָקוֹת עַל לִבִּי הַשָּׁחוֹחַ צַל דַּעַת רַחְמֵי שֶׁהוֹרונִי לְמְחֹל עַד בָּאוּ יָמִים שֶׁאָיָמוּ מִלְּסְלֹחַ נַדְרָתִּי הַנֵּדֶר: לִוְכֹּר אֶת הַכֹּל לְזְכֹּר – וְדָבָר לֹא לִשְׁעֹחַ.

נדר

דָבָר לא לִשְּׁכֹחַ – עַד דור עֲשִּׁירִי עַד שׁךְ שֶּלְבּוֹנֵי עַד כֻלָּם עַד כֻּלְּחַם עדי יכלו כל שבטי מוסרי. קונָם אִם לָרִיק יַעֲבֹר לֵיל הַזָּעֵם קוֹנָם אָם לַבֹּקֶר אֶחָוֹר לְסוּרִי ומְאוֹם לֹא אֶלְמַד נֵם הַפָּעַם.

.45

(1) Twenty years—and as it's customary to say
— (2) "Yes, something has happened meantime
in the world"— (3) And this feeling isn't preserved (aged) wine: (4) It doesn't gain in strength
or perfection [lit. become stronger or more perfect].
With the unobtrusive reference to "preserved
wine" (3), the religious symbolism that will
soon dominate the poem is introduced. The
ydyin hamesumár is that wine which, before the
earth was created, had been prepared for the
righteous to enjoy in the world to come.

European poets, before the rise of secularism, could write about love as they would of a religious sacrament, and in Romantic poetry love would become a substitute for the sacred. But with the collapse of such "secular religion," love lost its eternal dimension: the metaphor broke down. And yet the fact that love is now seen as ephemeral cannot deprive it of emotional poignancy:

- (5) No, believe [me], it's not your aging hair— (6) Perhaps only your indifferent and unembarrassed expression, (7) Only in it are the hidden scrolls of our lives (8) And all that "has happened meantime in the world."
- (9) Two people, yes, two strange people (10) On either side of the abyss of destruction and terror. (11) Even over the graves of our dear dead (12) Today we'll no longer recite the very same prayer. There is only one repository for the memory of the lovers and of their tragic history that followed the "indifferent and unembarrassed expression" of his face. And the memories themselves are "hidden scrolls"—apocrypha rather than the authentic thing. Personal tragedy, moreover, is connected with the European tragedy common to both (11), but, ironically, time and history (10) have drawn an everwidening gulf between them.

With the second part of the poem, the

D'125 : 2016 שׁנֵי מְנֵינִים שׁל שׁנִים Sney minyanim sel sanim לְגִיוֹנוֹת שֶׁל יָמִים לְבָנִים, Ligyonót sel yamím levaním, שני מנינים של שנים Sney minyanim sel sanim שַׁהֵיוּ לִמְדְבַּר־שְׁמְמָה. Sehayú lemidbár-smamá. pla: "pele אַל תַּתְחִיל, לְמַצֵּן הַשֵּׁם! Al tathíl, lemáan hasém! אין לָדַעַת מִי הָאָשֵׁם. Eyn ladáat mi haasém. יף כְּתְמִיד: אַתְה אָשֵׁם וּ Ketamíd: atá aṣém ואני אשמה. Vaaní asemá. כַּךְ מִטֶּל בִּינֵינוּ הַוְמַן, Kah mutál beynéynu hazmán, הַשַּׁנִים אֲשֵׁר זָב דָמָן, Haşanım aşer zav daman, נו הַמֵּת הַיְקַר, הַוְמַן, Hamét hayakár, hazmán, תָהָא נִשְּׁמֶתוֹ צְרוּרָה... בַ אוֹל אלא רחאימוֹ Tehé nismató tsrurá ... וֹאַנַחְנוּ מִשְׁנֵי עֲבָרָיוּ Vaanáhnu misnéy avaráv 1つアイ : アフア כָּאוֹיִבִים אַחֲרֵי הַקְּרָב, Keoyvím aharéy hakráv, ים המתינו בשורה הקקב Umeytéynu bisdé hakráv ואין כַפָּרָה. Veéyn kapará.

conversational hexameters shift into a ritualistic three-beat staccato which

istic three-beat staccato which can barely contain the swell of emotion. The lines grow clipped, short; the rime pattern (abab), which was unobtrusive in the first part, now drums a funereal tempo (aaax, bbbx, cccy, dddy); and religious imagery takes over:

(13) Two tens of years [minyanim], (14) Legions of white days, (15) Two tens of years [minyanim] (16) Which have become a desolate desert. The image of the minyanim (13, 15), the synagogal quorum, calls up memories of swaying men wrapped in white prayershawls: white shawls, white shrouds, white days, merging into a desolate desert as faith disappears.

(17) Don't start now, for God's sake! (18) There's no knowing who's to blame. (19) As

always: you're to blame (guilty) (20) And I'm to blame (guilty).

(21) Thus, between us, is time laid out: (22) The years whose blood has flowed, (23) Time, the dear dead one, (24) May He Rest in Peace...

(25) And we are on either side of him (26) Like enemies after battle, (27) And our dead [lie] in the battlefield (28) And there is no atonement.

Our "dear dead" have been destroyed. Line 24 repeats a key fragment from the requiem "El malé raḥamim," which in its full form means "May his soul be bound up in the bond of (eternal) life." The "victim" of the battle of love is Time, the personification of the lovers' estrangement. And there is nothing that can be done to atone for this crime of estrangement.

- EZRA SPICEMANDLER

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הַתְרַנִים עַל גַּגוֹת הַבָּתִים הֵיוּ אַז כתרני ספינתו של קולומבום בַּשֵּׂר יַבָּשֶׁת אַחֵרַת.

וְהָלְכוּ בָּרְחוֹב עַקְלוֹנֵוֹ הַנּוֹסְעִים וֹאוֹ הֹאנִסְיּאִים יִּ וְשָׁפָּה שֶׁל אֶרֶץ זַרָה הָיְתָה נִנְעֶצֶת בִּיוֹם הַחַמְסִיּן כְּלָהַב סַכִּין קָרָה.

אַיך יָכוֹל הָאַנִיך שֵׁל הָעִיח הַקְּטַנָּה לשאת כל כך הרבה - 1.11/ca 10.4219 MANY = 4 MIND PLANS שרוֹקנוּ אֵי־בָּוָהוּ

> בתמונות משחיתות בתוך מצלמה התהפכר: לילות חורף זכים, וה לילות קיץ גשומים שמעבר לים Leylót káyits gsumím semeéver layám ובקרים אפלים של בירות.

וקול צעד חופף אחרי נבד שִׁירֵי לֶכֵת שֵׁל צִבָא וֵכָר, יביָם Venidmé—aḥ taḥzír et roṣḥá uvayám שטה כנסית עורף.

Hatraním al gagót habatím hayú az Ketornéy sfinató sel kolúmbus

זּרָם שׁעָמֵד עַל חָדָּם Veḥól orév şeamád al ḥudám Bisér yabéset ahéret.

> Vehalhú barhóv tsiklonéy hanos'ím Vesafá sel érets zará 7 Haytá nin'étset beyóm hahamsín Keláhav sakín kará.

Eyh yahól haavír sel haír haktaná Lasét kol kah harbé וֹלְדִּוֹת שָּנְשְׁרוּ, Ziḥronót yaldút, ahavót senaşrú, Hadarím seroknú ey-bazé?

> Kitmunót mashirót betóh matslemá Hithaphú leylót hóref zakím,

Uvkarím afeylím sel birót.

drummed Vekól tsáad toféf aharéy gabhá Siréy léhet sel tsvá nehár.

Satá kneysiyát irhá.

Tel Aviv in 1935 was a small town which L changed its character with every arrival of shiploads of refugees. Many of these newcomers were Europe-weary Jews who had seized hold of Zionism out of despair and who were often assailed by doubts as to whether Zionism's goals could ever be realized. The cruel brilliance of the landscape-so strange to East European eyes-exposed every doubt,

enlarged every illusion, and, above all, aggravated the frightening strangeness of the Mediterranean city:

(1) The masts on the house-roofs were then (2) Like the masts of Columbus' ship (3) And every crow (raven) standing on their pinnacles (4) Announced a different shore. The ocean does not stop at this shore. Like the sensation of motion that often stays with a seafarer after

he has disembarked, the sense of wandering persists in the speaker even though he has landed-at "home." Moreover, this new city has no fixed character-so the lines suggest in the allusion to the raven-crow that Noah had sent out to discover whether the flood had receded and which had come back with a negative reply. Each raven brings back tidings of a different shore:

(5) And the travelers' knapsacks walked down the street (6) And the language of a foreign land (7) Was plunged into the Hamsin (sirocco) day

(8) Like the blade of a cold knife.

(9) How could the air of the little city (10) Bear so many (11) Memories of childhood, of loves which dropped away, (12) Of rooms which were emptied somewhere?

(13) Like pictures blackening in a camera, (14) [They] were reversed: clear winter nights, (15) Rainy summer nights [of] overseas, (16) And dark mornings in (of) Capitals.

Loves that withered (on the way to the new homeland) and "rooms that were emptied somewhere" (11-12) suggest far more than family and familial love. The semi-tropical climate of the strange new city inspires feelings of nostalgia, for the "clear winter nights," for the "dark mornings in [foreign] Capitals" (14-16)—far from the provincial sunny settlement-and for "rainy summer nights" (15). At the period of this poem, newly arrived artists and writers

## סוניטות

#### לא רָגְעֵי שָׁנַת, טֵבֵע

a b a	לא רָגְצִי שְׁנָת, טֶבַע, וַחֲלוֹמוֹת יִמְתָּקוּ, רַק רֶגָשׁ בְּדְּ אֶרְאָה וְסַצְרוֹת קְרָב: ייל מרוֹת שִׁיע ברוב ובמררוֹת יימרי	2.
Ь	עַל מְרוֹם שִּׁיא הָרֶיךָּ וּבְמִכְרוֹת עָמָקוּ, בִּתְהוֹמוֹת הַיְשִׁימוֹן וּבְצֵל חֶבְיוֹן עָב.	4
d b a b	כִּי תָאֶבַל נַפְשִׁי, וּפְצָעֵי יִזְעָקוּ, תְּקְוֹוֹתֵי תִּבּלְנָה כַּשׁוֹשֵׁן בַּסְתָוּ, אָנוּדָה לִמְקוֹם שֶׁם מִשְּבָּרִים יִנְאָקוּ, לִמְקוֹם צוּקִיו יָרִים צוּר אַדִּיר וָשֶּׁב.	¢.
c c d	אָז בּשְׁתִּי מִנַּלִּים הָרָבִים בַּסְלָעִים, שֶׁהֵמָּה, בְּהִתְּמוֹלְלָם, שֶׁבִים לִרְנָעִים, וְטוּר מִטוּר יָרוּם, גַּל יִנְבַּר מִגָּל;	lo
c	מָצוּרִים נִכְלַמְתִּי, שֶׁהֵמֶּה בִּנְאוֹנָם	12
C	אֶל מַחַץ מִשְּבָּרִים, אֶל נַהֲמָם וַהֲמוֹנָם	
d	יַסְגִּירוּ אֶת לִבָּם וְרָאשֵׁיהֶם אֶל עָל	14

אודיסה, 1896

#### NOT MOMENTS OF SLEEP

Not moments of sleep nor sweet dreams do I see in you,

Nature - only feeling and storms of battle

On the lofty height of your hills and in your deep pits

In the depths of the desert and in the shadow of a cloud's hiding-place.

When my soul mourns and my wounds cry out,

When my hopes wither like a rose in autumn,

Then I go to a place where breakers roar,

To a place where a great and ancient rock rises

from its cliffs.

Then I am shamed by the waves fighting with the rocks, Who, after being crushed, return momentarily

And row upon row arises, wave prevails upon wave;

I am shamed by the rocks, who, in their splendor

Under the blow of the breakers, under their multitude

Close their hearts and raise their heads aloft.

European poets, before the rise of secularism, could write about love as they would of a religious sacrament, and in Romantic poetry love would become a substitute for the sacred. But with the collapse of such "secular religion," love lost its eternal dimension: the metaphor broke down. And yet the fact that love is now seen as ephemeral cannot deprive it of emotional poignancy:

- (5) No. believe [me ], it's not your aging hair-(6) Perhaps only your indifferent and unembarrassed expression, (7) Only in it are the hidden scrolls of our lives (8) And all that "has happened meantime in the world."
- (9) Two people, yes, two strange people (10) On either side of the abyss of destruction and terror. (11) Even over the graves of our dear dead (12) Today we'll no longer recite the very same prayer. There is only one repository for the memory of the lovers and of their tragic history that followed: the "indifferent and unembarrassed expression" of his face. And the memories themselves are "hidden scrolls"-apocrypha rather than the authentic thing. Personal tragedy, moreover, is connected with the European tragedy common to both (11), but, ironically, time and history (10) have drawn an everwidening gulf between them.

With the second part of the poem, the

Lea Goldberg 1954

AFTER TWENTY YEARS · AHAREY ESRÍM SANA · אָחַרִי עֶשִׂרִים שְׁנָה

עשרים שנה - וכמו שנוהנים לומר « כַּן, מַשֶּהוּ קָרָה בֵּיוְחַיִם כָּעוֹלֶם » וְרֶגֶשׁ זֶה אֵינָנוּ נִין מְשַׁמָּר: הוא לא נהיה חָרִיף יוֹתֵר, אַף לא יוֹתֵר מִשְׁלְב. 'ל

> לא, הַאַמֵן, לא שִׁיבָתְהְ הִיא וֹאת •אוּלֵי רַק מַבָּטְךְ אָדִישׁ וְלֹא נִכְלָם. רַק בּוֹ הַן מִגְלוֹת חַיִינוּ הַגְנוּזוֹת וָכָל אֲשֶׁר « קָרָה בֵּיוְתַיִם בְּעוֹלָם ».

שׁנֵי אַנְשִׁים, אָכַן, שְׁנֵי אַנְשִׁים זָרִים משני עברי התהום של הרס ואימה. וו אַפלוּ על קברי מֵתְשׁ הַיְּקְרִים Afilu al kivréy meytéynu haykarím לא עוד נאמר היום אוֹתָה חִפְּלָה עַצְמָה.

Esrím saná—uhmó scnohagím lomár "Ken, máschu kará beyntáyim baolám"-

iambie hexameter

Veréges ze cynénu yáyin mesumár: Hu lo nihiyá haríf yotér, af lo yotér muşlám.

Lo, haamén, lo seyvathá hi zot-Uláy rak mabathá adís veló nihlám,

7 Rak bo hen megilót hayéynu hagnuzót Vehól asér "kará beyntáyim baolám".

Sney anaşım, ahen, sney anaşım zarım Mișnéy evréy hathóm șel héres vecymá.

Lo od nomár hayóm otá tfilá atsmá.

The poetry of Lea Goldberg shows strong A affinities for the Symbolists of both Eastern and Western Europe. Born in Kovno, Lithuania, and educated at the Universities of Kovno, Bonn, and Berlin, she became thoroughly familiar with Russian and German literatures. (She has also done a great deal of translating from these languages and from Italian, English, and French as well.) She settled in Israel early in her career, joining Shlonsky's circle (see p. 75) soon after her arrival in 1935.

Although associated with the modernist movement of the thirties, Lea Goldberg uses traditional verse forms. Her modernism is reflected in the conversational style of her work and in her rejection of both the rhetoric of her predecessors and the bombast of some of her contemporaries. A taste for simplicity

leads her to limit her symbolic vocabulary to the familiar, investing everyday words, images, rhythms, and even rimes with astonishing freshness.

She is one of the few poets of her generation to eschew ideological versifying. She writes about such universal matters as childhood, nature, love (especially mature love), aging, and death. And her poems are highly personal and introspective.

"After Twenty Years" is an encounter between two estranged lovers. The point of view is the woman's, and the first part of the poem is conversational in the extreme. The lines are long and for the most part hexameters, but the predominant iambic meter is varied sufficiently to give the illusion of living speech. The opening is a carefully executed pastiche of clichés:



# Lea Goldberg

# THE TREE SINGS TO THE RIVER HAÉTS ṢAR LANÁḤAL · הָּעֵץ שֶׁר לַנַּחַל

אַשֶּׁר נְשָּׁא אֶת סַתַנִי הַנָּהוב, Asér nasá et staví hazahúv, Et damí besaléhet garáf, את דמי בשלכת גרף, אשר יראה אביבי כי ישוב Aşćr yir'ć aviví ki yaşúv עם תקופת השנה מליו Im tkufát hasaná cláv, אחי הנחל, האובד לעד, (Ahí hanáhal, haovéd laád, AKH תחדש יום־יום ואחר ואחד, Hehadás yom-yóm, veahér vechád, אתר הורם בין שני חופיו Ahi hazérem beyn sney hofav E KIT Hazorém kamóni beyn avív ustáv. הזורם כמוני בין אביב וסתיו. כִּי אֲנִי הַנְצֵן נַאֲנִי הַכְּרַ׳. Ki aní hanitsán vaaní haprí, Aní atidí vaaní avarí, אני עתידי ואני עברי, וו אַנִי הַגַּוַע הְעַרִיךִי, Aní hagéza haarirí, Solitary Veatá-zmaní vesirí. וְאַתָּה - זְמַנִּי וְשִׁירִי.

ur two lyrics are from five "River Songs" which bear the superscription "The Choir of Small Voices," a literal rendering of line 6 of the first of Verlaine's "Ariettes Oubliées." The first poem distinguishes the river from the stone, "I," sings the river, "am the ephemeral and she [the stone] is the permanent (existent). She is the mysteries of creation, and I their evelation ..." We are presented with a sculine" and a "feminine." Dynamic everchanging, the river is the masculine element of "Becoming," in contrast to the stone, which in its stability suggests "Being." The poet is equated with the river-with change and becoming. In the verse before us, however, a new speaker appears: the

(1) [He] who carried my golden autumn, (2)

tree. The tree addresses the river:

Swept away my blood with the leaf fall, (3) [He] who shall see my spring when it returns (4) To him with the turning of the year,

(5) My brother the river, who is forever lost, (6) New each day and different and one (one and the same), (7) My brother the stream between his two shores, (8) Who streams as I do between spring and autumn.

(9) For I am the bud and I am the fruit, (10) I am my future and I am my past, (11) I am the solitary tree trunk, (12) And you—are my time and my song.

The river is not changed by the seasonal cycles as the tree is changed, for the river is an external phenomenon which reflects what goes on within the tree, carrying away the leaves that the tree casts off. The river, then, is process: it is movement and time; and yet, though in constant flux ("new each

שנין מניניט של שנים Sney minyanim sel sanim לגיונות של ימים לבנים, Ligyonót sel yamím levaním, 15 Sney minyaním sel saním שני מנינים של שנים Schayú lemidbár-smamá. שָׁהָיוּ לְמִרְבַּר־שְׁמָמָה. אל תתחיל, למען השם! Al tathíl, lemáan hasém! Eyn ladáat mi haasém. אין לדעת מי האשם. 19 Ketamíd: atá asém כתמיד: אתה אשם Vaaní asemá. ואני אשמה. בך משל בינינו הומן, Kah mutál beynéynu hazmán, Hasaním asér zav damán, הַשָּׁנִים אֲשֶׁר זָב דָּמָן, 23 Hamét hayakár, hazmán, הַמֶּת הַיָּקר, הַוְּמֵן, תְהֵא נִשְּׁמְתוֹ צְרוּרָה... אל אלא ראים Tehé nismató tsrurá . . . ואַנַחְנוּ מִשְׁנֵי עֲבָרָיוּ Vaanáhnu misnév avaráv Kcoyvím aharéy hakráv, כָּאוֹיְבִים אַחֲרֵי הַקּרָב, Umcytévnu bisdé hakráv 27 ומתינו בשדה הקרב וְאֵין כַּפָּרָה. אין לרס חלך בעלם הכא Vcéyn kapará.

conversational hexameters shift into a ritualistic three-beat staccato which can barely contain the swell of emotion. The lines grow clipped, short; the rime pattern (abab), which was unobtrusive in the first part, now drums a funcreal tempo (aaax, bbbx, cccy, dddy); and religious imagery takes over:

(13) Two tens of years [minyanim], (14) Legions of white days, (15) Two tens of years [minyanim] (16) Which have become a desolate desert. The image of the minyanim (13, 15), the synagogal quorum, calls up memories of swaying men wrapped in white prayershawls: white shawls, white shrouds, white days, merging into a desolate desert as faith disappears.

(17) Don't start now, for God's sake! (18) There's no knowing who's to blame, (19) As

always: you're to blame (guilty) (20) And I'm to blame (guilty).

(21) Thus, between us, is time laid out: (22) The years whose blood has flowed, (23) Time, the dear dead one, (24) May He Rest in Peace...

(25) And we are on either side of him (26) Like enemies after battle, (27) And our dead [lie] in the battlefield (28) And there is no atonement.

Our "dear dead" have been destroyed. Line 24 repeats a key fragment from the requiem "El malé raḥamim," which in its full form means "May his soul be bound up in the bond of (eternal) life." The "victim" of the battle of love is Time, the personification of the lovers' estrangement. And there is nothing that can be done to atone for this crime of estrangement.

- EZRA SPICEHANDLER

ציף אָזְכְּרֶנּוּ, אַרְמוּנִי, סְּוְמִי, פְּוְמִיּ, בּיִרְמִּנִי, אַרְמוּנִי, פִּרְמִּנִי, פַּרְמִּנִי, פַּרְמִּנִי, פַּרְמִּנִי, Eyḥá cṣmór ḥasdó hapit'omí, Eyḥ aamín ṣcyóm cḥád hayá וו אַיך אַאָמִין שִׁיוֹם אָחָר הְיָהּ Eyḥ aamín ṣcyóm chád hayá Kol nid veréaḥ étsem meatsmí?

Ki kol ilán hayá misrás rotét, Velidmamá eynáyim sel yaldá, 5 Velidmaót nihóah halivlúv Vesém haír kesém ahavatí.

begins with verák, which has the literal of "and only the fact that," and is d by the preposition la ("to") joined word-for-word translation, line 5 would read: "And only to the sun is there the scent of jasmine."

The la sounds that begin the second word in lines 5, 6, 7, 8 tie in with the lo sounds in 1, 2, 3. Note also that the first three of the words prefixed by la (5, 6, 7) have two e sounds, the first of which is stressed. This penultimate stress (lasémes, laéven, laérev) plays against the normal last-syllable stress of most Hebrew words, to produce an emphatic apact. The force is felt especially in line 7, where two such penultimate stresses follow each other (laérev tséva).

(9) How can I remember it [the day], anonymous [and] vague, (10) How can I guard (preserve) its sudden grace, (11) How shall I believe that on one [this] day (12) Every flutter and scent was of my very essence [lit. bone of myself, a play on bone of my bone].

The third stanza has resumed the rime scheme of the first. And lines 9, 10, and 11

each begin with eyh and eyhá (two forms of "how") to recall the ahén of line 1. The enjambment of lines 11-12 emphasizes the central idea, coming as it does after the questioning of 9 and 10. The final rime in 12 ties the whole statement together—as Mayakowsky once put it, "rime is the tightening nail."

As the poem draws to its close, it picks up some of the symbols frequently found in the work of Lea Goldberg:

(13) For every tree was a trembling sail, (14) And silence [had] a little girl's eyes, (15) And tears [had] the aroma of blooming, (16) And the name of the city [was] like the name of my love. We shall find, for example, amages of little girls' eyes and of blooming in the "River Poems" that follow. In "Hamsin of Nisan" these and other such images acquire unity in a sudden moment of grace. To the Hebrew reader, the word eylid has a markedly elegiac tone. Even the city, which in other poems by Lea Goldberg is associated with alienation, here takes on the intimate identity of the speaker's love.

- EZRA SPICEHANDLER

# Lea Goldberg (1952)

HAMSIN OF NISAN · HAMSIN SEL NISAN · חַמְסִין שֶׁל נִיסָן

a a 6 a 6	אָכֵן אַדַע, זֶה יוֹם לְלֹא חְמוּרָה Aḥén edá, ze yom leló tmurá  Veló nafál davár veló erá  Veló yavdíl beynó levéyn yamím  Tsiyún vaót aṣér mitóv ad ra.  Verák lasémes réab sel yawál daten
y z	Verák lasémes réah sel yasmín,   Verák laéven kol sel lev poém,   יורא   לאָבָן קוֹל שֶׁל לֵב פּוֹעֵם,   Verák laéven kol sel lev poém,   יורא   לעֶדֶב צָּבַע שֶׁל תַפּוּוֹ.   Verák laérev tséva sel tapúz,   Verák lahól sfatáyim menaskót.

In an enthusiastic essay on Avraham Ben Yitshak (pp. 50ff.), whose views had deeply impressed her, Lea Goldberg recalls the older poet's description of an arrested flash of perception: "I remember standing at the entrance of a house, on a staircase. The house was built of wood and painted green. The sand that covered the porch steps was made up of small bits of colored glass... They possessed the magic of a summer's evening and I knew that only once in my life would I see such a sight."

For Lea Goldberg such a moment of insight contains the essence of youth in the ever flowing stream of time. It arises out of ordinary phenomena—an orange, a peasant girl, a fragment of memory—to flash upon the dark screen of human consciousness in a sudden moment of grace. Such a moment, flashing upon the poet quite without warning, and on a day that was only "anonymous and drab" (9), is celebrated in the present poem.

"Hamsín," the name given to the hot desert wind that frequently lashes Israel, is an Arabic word meaning "fifty," folk meteorology insisting that there are fifty

hamsinim a year. This Israeli equivalent of the sirocco is often gritty with sand. Its devastating heat tries the temper and nerves; the bright haze intensifies the nuances of color and light. A combination of restlessness and acute sensitivity pervades the lines of this lyric about the hamsin in the month of Nisán, which is approximately April.

(1) Indeed I know this is a day without [any] change (counterpart) (2) And nothing fell (took place) and [nothing] happened. (4) And no mark, no omen [lit. ranging from good to evil] (3) Separates it from [other] days. The word tmurd (1) means both "change" and "counterpart." Thus the entire poem is present in the opening line with its double resonance.

A regular iambic pentameter and a somewhat rigid rime scheme (aaba) produce an overtone of weariness. The first words ahin edd ("truly I know") have a sighing quality.

(5) And only that the sun has the scent of jasmine, (6) And only that the stone has the sound of a throbbing heart, (7) And only that the evening has the color of an orange, (8) And only that the sand has kissing lips. The rime has been abandoned but the meter remains strict. Each

her days. And her daughter (3) Did not remember her face. Her portrait, engraved (4) Upon my grandfather's heart, (5) Was erased from (wiped off) the world of images (6) After his death.

Only her mirror remained in the home, (8)

Sucke (deepened) with age into the silver frame.

I, her pale granddaughter, who does not her, (10) Look into it today as into (11) which conceals its treasures (12) Beneath the waters.

(13) Very deep (down), behind my face, (14) I see a young woman (15) Pink-cheeked, smiling. (16) And a wig on her head. (17) She puts (18) An elongated earring on her ear-lobe, threading it (19) Through a tiny hole in the dainty flesh (20) Of her ear.

(21-22) Very deep (down), behind my face, the bright goldness of her eyes sends out rays, (23) And the mirror carries on the tradition of (24) The family: (25) That she was very beautiful.

Line 9, with its regular anapest, focuses apon the main statement: the speaker, a disappointed child-woman, does not look like and is not like—both meanings are in the Hebrew words—her grandmother. This line acquires telling significance with the closing suggestion: Grandmother was very "beautiful." Grandmother, unlike both mother and daughter, epitomizes the beauty of the tradition—to which the poet elsewhere has shown ambivalent attitudes.

Although she was born and reared in Kovno, a famous center of talmudic learning, Lea Goldberg rarely alluded to traditional Jewish life in her early poetry: her commitment was Western in outlook. In the wake of Hitlerian persecution, however, a change occurred. In the forties, for example, she devoted an entire book to the country of her birth (From My Old Home)—"I departed to return/ Never wanting to return;

The past which I did not love/ Has become my beloved past."

14: 2.

The speaker in "From My Mother's Home," though not like her grandmother, is nevertheless her direct descendant and her heir: the child-woman must focus upon this Gestalt of the past and all that it stands for. Beginning with the image of the wig, which orthodoxy required the women to wear (16), the speaker gazes upon her grandmother's earring. The long carring is lengthened sonally by the intentionally suffixed mashilathu, an agglutinated word which is both biblical and oldfashioned. Further lengthening is created in the enjambments of lines 17-18-19-20 and in the extending of this stanza beyond the six-line limit of the first two. The effect is one of arrested motion, in which the image of the grandmother becomes fixed.

In her only published play, The Lady of the Manor, Lea Goldberg allows her main character to assert that "the past has many things which watchmakers' sons should also know and even love." Would such a statement have relevance to the attitude of the speaker in the poem? After one accepts the main statement-that the child-woman neither looks like nor is the grandmother-it becomes difficult to read it without awareness of underlying ironics. One may ask, with the girl, as she gazes at this picture of the past, how much of it she would wish to call her own and to admire and envy. The full import of the poem, then, may depend as much upon the answer of the reader as upon the thought of the child-woman, whose tongue says no more than what family tradition insists: that Grandmother was very beautiful.

- EZRA SPICEHANDLER



# Lea Goldberg

FROM MY MOTHER'S HOME · MIBEYT IMI · מבית אמי

Méta imá sel imí

(מְּתָה אָמֶּה שֶׁל אָמֶּה

Вааvív yaméha. Uvitá

Вааvív yaméha. Uvitá

1 Lo zaḥrá et panéha. Dyokná heḥarút

Al libó sel saví

Nimḥá mcolám hadmuyót

۸ḥaréy motó.

ר בַק הָרְאִי שֶׁלֶּה וְשְׁחַיֵּר בַּבַּיִת,
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ר בְבְיּית, בְיִיים,
ר בְיִים, בְּיִים, ב

אַני פְּנִי. מֵאָחוֹרֵי פְּנַי.
Amók mcód, meaḥoréy panáy,
אַני רוֹאָה אִשָּׁה צְעִירְה
Aní roá isá tseirá
יוֹרָדָת לְחְיִים מְחִיכָת.
אַני רוֹאָה אִשָּׁה צְעִירְה
Vrudát leḥayayím meḥayéḥet.
ופאָה נְכְרִית לְראשָׁה.
Ufeá noḥrít leroṣá.
אוֹנָדֶת Hi onédet אַנְיָר אָלְתְּנֵּדְ אָלְתְנֵּדְ אָנָה.
Agíl mooráḥ el tnuḥ ozná. Maṣḥiláthu thread ng it

עָגִיל מְאָרָך אֶל חְנוּך אָוְנָה. מַשְּׁחִילַתְהוּ Agíl mooráh el tnuh ozná. Masl פו בְּנֶקְב זְעִיר בַּבָּשְׁר הָעָנֹג Benekev zaír babasár heanog אַל הָאוּן. פו בָּנֶקְב זְעִיר בַּבָּשְׁר הָעָנֹג Şel haózen.

> אָמָק מְאֹד, מֵאֲחוֹבֵי פְּנֵי, קוֹרֶגְּת Amók mcód, meaḥoréy panáy, korénet אָר מָאַחוֹבֵי פְּנֵי, קוֹרֶגָּת אָר מְאַר מָלְּתְּיִרְה שֵׁל עֵינֶיהָ Zchuvít bchirá șel eynéha.
>
> יְהוּבִית בָּהִירָה שֵׁל עֵינֶיהָ Vchare'í mamṣíḥ et masóret
>
> וויי מִּשְׁפָּחָה:
>
> אָרִיא הְיִתָה יָפָה מְאֹד.
>
> Şehí haytá yafá meód.

A girl looks into her grandmother's mirror—the setting of the poem is familiar, the words and the images unexalted. Disarmed by the quietness of the key, the reader may at first be unaware of the curious depths into which he will be drawn. The poetic devices are minimal; the rhythm is rambling and free, marked with only an occasional strong alliteration (e.g., lines 1, 8, 13).

(1) My mother's mother died (2) In the spring of

2 W VIN3 >

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# מְשִׁירֵי הַבֵּן הָאוֹבַד

אָמְרָה הָאָחוֹת: "אַנִי שְׁכְחְתִּי." "אֵינֶנִי זוֹכַר." – אָמֵר הָאָח. אָמְרָה הַכַּלָה: "אַנִי סָלָחְתִּי."

א. בַּדֶּרֶךְ

וּבַדֶּרֶךְ אָמְרָה לוֹ הָאֶבָּן: פָּעֶמֶיף כָּבְדוּ כָּל כָּךְ. הַאַּמָה – אָמְרָה לוֹ הָאֶבֶּן – מַחֲווֹר לְבֵיתָךְ הַנִּשְּׁכָּחוּ

וּבַדֶּרֶךְ אָמַר לוֹ הַשִּׁיחַ: קוֹמְתְךּ שַׁחָה מְאֹד, אַיך תַנִיעַ – אָמֵר לוֹ הַשִּּיתַ אַיך תַּנִיעַ הָלוֹךְ וּמָעוֹדוּ

וָעָמְדוּ צִיונֵי הַנֶּירָךְ לא הָכִּירוּ בָּאִישׁ הַוְּר, וָהָיוּ צִיוּנֵי הַבֶּרֶךְ מָוְדַּקְרִים וְדוֹקְרִים כְּדַרְדָּר.

> וּבַדֶּרֶךְ קָרְאָה לוֹ הָעֵיִן: לְּפָתֶיף יָרְשׁוּ בַּצְּמָאוּ וַיִּכְרַע וַיִּשְׁתְּ מִן הַמֵּיִם וְדְמְעָה נָגְעָה בְּדְמְעָה.

> > ב. בבית

אָמַר הָאָב: "אָנֹכִי לֹא אָסְלָה.״

וְהָאַם עָמְדָה בַּחַלוֹן וְשָׁתְקָה: הוי, איוו דֶרֶה אֲרָכָהו

אָמְרָה הָאָחוֹת: "הַסוּפָה מְיַלֶּלֶת." "הָרוּחַ נוֹשֶׁבֶּת." – אָמַר הָאָח. אָמְרָה הַכַּלָּה: "וְעוּלָה הַדֶּלֶת.״ אָמַר הָאָב: "אַנֹכִי לֹא אֶפְחָּח.״ וָהָאַם עָמְדָה וְדָבָר לֹא אָמְרָה: רְבּוֹן הָעוֹלֶם, אֵיווֹ רוּחַ קָרָה!

אָמְרָה הָאָחוֹת: "חֲמִשָּׁה אֲנַחְנוּ." "נֶשֶׁב וָנִסְעַד." – אָמֵר הָאָח. אָמְרָה הַכַּלָה: "הַשָּׁלְחָן עְרַכְנוּ." אָמַר הָאָב: "בִּי יָאָה לְנוּ כְּךְּ." וָהָאָם דּוֹמָם הַסַכִּין נְטְלָה, לְחָמֵשׁ פְרוּסוֹת פָּרְסָה הַחַּלְה.

אָכְלָה הָאָחוֹת אֶת פִּחָה כְּוַיִת, בַּיִון טָבַל אֶת כַּתוֹ הָאָח, שָׁבְּחָה הַכַּלָה אֶת עֲכֶּרֶת־הַבַּיִת, אכל האב ונאנח. אָז קָמָה הָאָם, הַבֵּלִים אָסְפָּה וַתְּפְתַּח אֶת הַדֶּלֶת לַפּוּפָה.

נ. בְּתְשׁוּבְתוֹ

לא וַכָּאי, אַף לא נְקִי־כַּפִּיִם, וְהַלֵּב לֹא חָוַר בִּתְשׁוּבְה .-וַיְכְרֵע עַל הַסַף אַפָּיִם, וַיִשְׁכַב וְלָקום לֹא אָבָה.

שבעתים מעלתי המעל. שָׁבְעָתִים חָלֵּלְתִי תַשֵּׁם, וְעֵדִים הַשָּׁמֵיִם מִמַעל, כִּי תָּמִיד הָיִיתִי אָשֵׁם.

וְעַדִים הַשָּׁמֵיִם מְמַעַל שַׁדְבַק בִּבְשָּׂרִי הַחֵטְא, repeat the כי אשוב ואמעל המעל, trezeherous zet כי עוֹדֵנִי הַבֵּן הָאוֹבֵר."

> הָאַחוֹת בְּפֶּתַח הַדֶּלֶת ראש הִשְׁמִילָה, מָחְתָה דִמְעָה, הַכַּלָה בְּפֶתַח הַדֶּלֶת אֶת יָדֵיהָ פָּכְרָה בִּדְמְמָה.

וָהָאָח בַבַּיִת פְנִימָה לא יַצָא לְקָרָאתוֹ, לא קָרָב, וַיבֵט מִן הַבַּיִת פְנִימָה אַל אַחִיו הַשוֹבֶב עַל הַסְף.

רַק הָאָם נָשְּׂאָה אֶת פָנֶיהָ ופְנֶיהָ הָיוּ קוֹרְנִים: "הַיְנוּ־הָדְ אָם צַדִּיק אוֹ פוֹשֵׁעַ, וּבְלְבַד שֶׁחָוַרְהָּ, בְּנִי.

> לְעוֹלֶם לֹא יִסְלַח אָנִיף. לא סְלִיחוֹת הוּא אָנֵר בַּלֵב. קומָה, בְּנִי, וְקַבֵּל מֵאָבִיף אָת בָּרְכַּת חֲרוֹנוֹ הָאוֹהֶב."

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p/3/c

קפוחים כָאֵלֶה, אוֹמֶרֶת אִמִי. הַיָה סַבָּא קוֹטֵף בְּעֵוֹ בֶּאֱלוּל. <תַפּוּחִים כָּאֵלֶה, אוֹמֶרֶת אִמִּי, רֹא צְמְחוּ גַם בַּגַן שֶׁל שַׂר הַמָּחוֹוּ.

בֵן שָׁמוֹנִים וּשְׁתַּיִם, אוֹמֶרֶת אִמִּי. הוא נום בְעַצְמוֹ אֶת עַוְפֵי תַפּוּחְיוֹ. בְּרֹאִשׁ הַסֻּלָּם, כַּךְּ אוֹמֶרֶת אִמִּי, סס זָקוף וְחָסֹן בֵּין צַמְרוֹת הָצִצִים. strong, powerful

תַּפּוּחִים כָּאַלֶה, אוֹמֶרֶת אִמִי... וַאַנִי עוֹצֶמֶת לְאַט אֶת עֵינֵי וְרוֹאָה אֶת הַגַּן שֶׁנְטְעוּ יָדְיוּ, , 45 c-76 2562 00 34.VA וָתָקו לָבָן וְרָחָב, כָּלוֹ הוֹד, - מְבַצְבַץ וְוֹרֵתַ בִּירַק הָעָלִים, ישרסי ל

> 2121-125 תַפוּחִים כָּאֵלֶה -

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he has disembarked, the sense of wandering persists in the speaker even though he has landed-at "home." Moreover, this new city has no fixed character-so the lines suggest in the allusion to the raven-crow that Noah had sent out to discover whether the flood had receded and which had come back with a negative reply. Each raven brings back tidings of a different shore:

- (5) And the travelers' knapsacks walked down the street (6) And the language of a foreign land (7) Was plunged into the Hamsin (sirocco) day (8) Like the blade of a cold knife.
- (9) How could the air of the little city (10) Bear so many (11) Memories of childhood, of loves which dropped away, (12) Of rooms which were emplied somewhere?
- (13) Like pictures blackening in a camera, (14) [They] were reversed: clear winter nights, (15) Rainy summer nights [of] overseas, (16) And dark mornings in (of) Capitals.

Loves that withered (on the way to the new homeland) and "rooms that were emptied somewhere" (11-12) suggest far more than family and familial love. The semi-tropical climate of the strange new

inspires feelings of nostalgia, for the ar winter nights," for the "dark mornings in [foreign] Capitals" (14-16)—far from the provincial sunny settlement-and for "rainy summer nights" (15). At the period of this poem, newly arrived artists and writers

frequently complained of the paradoxical sense of foreignness that their new homeland aroused in them, with its disconcerting landscape and the brillant light almost painful to their eyes. As the poet David Shimoni once lamented, the snows obscure the descrts.

The effort to adjust one's vision to the strange new world inevitably produces a distortion of old-world images as they flash upon the memory. It is as though the pictures are darkened and reversed (13) by the new context in which they are recalled.

(17) And the sound of a footstep drummed behind your back (18) Marching songs of a foreign army, (19) And it seems-if you would only turn your head-that in the sea (20) Your city's church is floating.

Try as he will to avoid them, the remembered sights of the abandoned country follow him like a nemesis. How safe can he feel when the symbols of European civilization-of the army and of the churchare now pursuing him on the very shores of the city of refuge? According to an old legend, at the time of the Messiah all the synagogues of the Diaspora will return to the Holy Land. The last line of the poem, read in the light of this legend, adds a final note of danger to the series of contrasts and reversals that precede it.

- EZRA SPICEHANDLER

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# Lea Goldberg

TEL AVIV 1935 · TEL-AVIV 1935 · מל־אַבִיב 1935

הַתְּרָנִים עֵל גַּגּוֹת הַבָּתִּים הָיוּ אָז כתרני ספינחו של קולומבוס וכל עורב שעמד על חדם בָּשֵּׁר יַבָּשֵׁת אַחֶרֵת.

Hatraním al gagót habatím hayú az Ketornéy sfinató sel kolúmbus 3 Vehól orév scamád al hudám masthe 20

Bisér yabéset ahéret.

וְהָלְכוּ בָּרְחוֹב צִקְלוֹנֵי הַנּוֹסְעִים וְשָׂפָה שֶׁל אֶרֶץ זָרָה הָיְתָה נִנְעֶצֶת בְּיוֹם הַחַמְסִין כּלַהַב סַכִּין קָרָה.

Vehalhú barhóv tsiklonéy hanos'ím Vesafá sel érets zará

7 Haytá nin'étset beyóm hahamsín Keláhav sakín kará.

אֵיךְ יָכוֹל הָאֲוִיךְ שֶׁל הָעִיר הַקְּטַנָּה לשאת כל כַךְ הַרְבֵּה ו זְכְרוֹנוֹת יַלְדוּת, אֲהָבוֹת שֶׁנְשְׁרוּ, Ziḥronót yaldút, ahavót senaṣru, חַדְרִים שֶׁרוֹקנוֹ אֵי־בַּוָהּיּ

Eyh yahól haavír sel haír haktaná Lasét kol kah harbé

Hadarím seroknú cy-bazé?

פתמונות משחירות בתוך מַצְלֵמָה הַתְהַפָּכוּ לֵילוֹת חֹרֶף זַכִּים, ו לֵילוֹת קִיץ גְשׁוֹמִים שֶׁמֵעֵבֶר לַיָּם ובְקָרִים אֲפֵלִים שֵׁל בִּירוֹת.

Kitmunót mashirót betóh matslemá Hithaphú leylót hóref zakím,

Leylót káyits gsumím semeéver layám Uvkarím afcylím sel birót.

וְקוֹל צַעַד תּוֹפֵף אַחֲרֵי צַּתְּּ שִׁירֵי לֶכֵת שֵׁל צְבָא נֵכָר, יור אָת רֹאשְׁךְּ וּבַיָּם Venidmé—aḥ taḥzír et roṣḥá uvayám שטה כנסית עירף.

Vekól tsáad toféf aharéy gabhá Siréy léhet sel tsvá nehár,

Satá kneysiyát irhá.

Tel Aviv in 1935 was a small town which changed its character with every arrival of shiploads of refugees. Many of these newcomers were Europe-weary Jews who had seized hold of Zionism out of despair and who were often assailed by doubts as to whether Zionism's goals could ever be realized. The cruel brilliance of the landscape-so strange to East European eyes-exposed every doubt,

enlarged every illusion, and, above all, aggravated the frightening strangeness of the Mediterranean city:

(1) The masts on the house-roofs were then (2) Like the masts of Columbus' ship (3) And every crow (raven) standing on their pinnacles (4) Announced a different shore. The ocean does not stop at this shore. Like the sensation of motion that often stays with a scafarer after

### א. מתוך מכתב

אַעַבָּעַנוּ הָיְתָה יָפָה לְאוֹר הַכּוֹכָבִים בְּתְלֵי בֵיתֵנוּ הָיוֹ שָׁחוֹרִים לְאוֹר הַכּוֹכַבִים.

> פָנֶיךּ חָוְרוּ כְּכֶּטֶף לאור הַכּוֹכָבִים.

בָּנֶיךְ שוֹכְבִים בְּלַיְלָה זֶה על חול שוּצְטַגַן לְאוֹר הַכּוֹכָבִים.

# ב. לפנות ערב על סף בית מאפל

אַף פַעם לא שַמַעתי קוֹל צְפֶּרִים רבות כל כך.

אַף פַּעַם לֹא דָאָיתִי שְׁמֵי שָׁלוֹם חוֹבְקִים חָדֵי בְּרוֹשִים חַרְשִׁים וְקוּפִים כָּל כַּדְ.

> אַף פַעַם לא יָדַעְהִי כַּן־ שאחרי מותי (וְלוּ גַם בַּחְרְבָּן) יְשְׁלַם עוֹר אֵי בָוֶה הַנַצַח בִּלְעָדֵי.

## והשיר אשר לא כתבתיו

אַיוֹ אָנֶלֶת הָיְתָה לְקַוֹּת ZO VOT 1000 שָׁהַיּוֹם יָאֱרַךְּ,

שָּבְּכוֹר הַפְּרִיתָה לֹא יִבֹּל, שֶׁלֹא תַרָמֵס אַחֲרוֹנַת שְׁבֵּלֵי.

> וְכִי מִי אַנֵּי שֶׁיָחוּס עָלֵי חַסְּתְוּזּ

וְהַשִּׁיר אֲשֶׁר לֹא כְתַבְּתִּיו בּאַשֶּׁר בְּתַבְתִי שִׁירִים - בֹּאַשֶּׁר בְּתַבְתִּי שִׁירִים

עוֹד אֶוְכֹּר הֲבָרָה־הֲבָּרָה < בֶּל צִּלִיל כֵּל נִיב.>

וְלֹא יִכְּתֵב גַם עַכְשָׁוּ

אָלוּ אָז כְּתַבְתִּיו, הָיָה אֱמֶת מְעָרְטֶלֶת מִדִּי. וְאָם אֶכְהְבֶגוּ הַיּוֹם, יִהְיֶה שֶׁקֶר גָמוּר.

בּוֹאָי רָדִי אֵלֵי, בַּת הָאֵלִים, הַרְכִּינִי עָלֵי אֶת רֹאשֵׁךְ הַמַּלְבִּין. וְשַׁחֵק בְּמִלִּים –

125N 38K3 AZ

poet on the edge of death. - why should my life be prolonged?

first > last

transported be trampled

x1601

2 iambs

stripped naked

invocation to the muse

bend

This sonnet, the first in a cycle "We Loved Here," from Amihai's first volume, Now and in Other Days (1955), combines two of the poet's pervasive subjects: his father and war. The poem begins with the experience of the older man as a German soldier World War I. It ends with a sudden refence to the poet's own experiences as a Lance Corporal in the British Army in World War II and as a member of the Infantry in the

(1) My father was (took part) four years in their war, (2) And he didn't hate his enemies or love [them]. (3) But I know that already there [on the battlefield] (4) He was building (forming) me daily out of his tranquillities

Israeli War of Independence.

(5) So few, which he had gleaned (gathered)
(6) Between the bombs and smoke, (7) And [which he] put into his ragged knapsack (8) With the lestovers of his mother's hardening cake.

(9) And with his eyes he gathered (collected) the nameless dead, (10) The many dead he gathered for my sake, (11) So that I should know them with (in) his glances and love them

(12) And not die like them in terror . . . (13) He filled his eyes with them and he erred: (14) I depart for all my wars.

The attitude of the son towards his father is one of veneration and tenderness. He is deeply moved by his father's having preserved, in the midst of "the bombs and smoke" (6), his inner peace; by his devotion

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March 2012, 2015, 2, 12, 2, 12, 2010 2000

יאָבִי הָיָה אַרְבַּע שָׁנִים בְּמִלְחַמְּתָם 
וְלֹא שָׁנֵא אוֹיְבָיו וְלֹא אָהַב.
אָבָל אֲנִי יוֹדֵע, כִּי כְּכָר שָׁם
בָּנָה אוֹתִי יוֹם־יוֹם מִשַּׁלְווֹתָיו
הַמָּעְטוֹת כָּל־כָּךְ, אֲשֶׁר לָקַט
אוֹתָן בֵּין פְּצָצוֹת וּבֵין עֲשָׁוּ
יִם שְׁאֵרִית עֻנַת־אִמוֹ הַמְּמִרְטָט
עם שְׁאֵרִית עֻנַת־אִמוֹ הַמִּמְרָטָט
וּבְעִינִיוֹ אָסַף מֵתִים בְּלִי שֵׁם,
בֹּתִים רָבִּים אָסַף לְמַעֲנִין
בַּתְיִם בְּלִי שֵׁם,
בֹּתִים רָבִּים אָסַף לְמַעֲנִין
בַּתְיִם בְּלִי שֵׁם,
בֹּתִים בְּמִּבְּטִיו וְאוֹהֲבֵם (בּאוֹה שִׁרָּ בַּיֹּוֹ וְאוֹהֲבֵם (בּאוֹה שִׁרָּ בִּוֹ וְלֹא אָמוֹת כְּמוֹהֶם בַּזְנְעָה...

Veló sané oyváv veló aháv.

Avál aní yodéa, ki kvar sam

Baná otí yom-yóm misalvotáv

Hamuatót kol-káh, asér lakát

Otán beyn ptsatsót uvéyn asán,

Vesám otán betarmiló hamemurtát

Im scerít ugát-imó hamitkasá.

Uvecynáv asáf meytím bli sem,

Meytím rabím asáf lemaaní,

Scakirém bemabatáv veohavém

Aví hayá arbá saním bemilhamtám,

ין לא אָמות כְּמוֹהֶם בַּוּןְעָה... Veló amút kmohém bazvaá . . . זו הוא מִלֵּא עִינִין בָּהֶם וְהוּא טָעָה: Hu milé eynáv bahém vehú taá: אָל כָּל מִלְחֲמוֹתִי יוֹצֵא אֲנִי.

definitive

in gathering with his eyes "the nameless dead" (9) for his son's sake. For the father hoped to transmit this truth to defeat terror: that all men, whether they wear the "names" of friend or foe, or whether they are anonymous (not only without a name but also without a national label), are to be loved. But neither this wisdom nor his tranquillities can avail the son, for they were the fruit of a war accurately described as "theirs." However, such events as the Nazi holocaust have intervened, bringing with them the necessity to fight wars for spiritual as well as for physical survival. The son has no alternative but to go out to fight his war, rejecting the father's "truth" and his tranquillities, which were-it must be noted-put into the knapsack "with the leftovers" of the "mother's hardening cake" (8). By the time the son has inherited them, they have-like the cake-grownstale-poor crumbs that cannot nourish, though prepared with loving care.

In poem after poem in his early work, Amihai writes about his father; and the poet himself has suggested much of the cause. When at the age of fifteen he ceased to

believe in a deity, he felt overcome by a complex sense of guilt, for this was more than a rejection only of God. It was a betrayal also of the father he loved—and there was yet another "father" to whom he was proving unfaithful: the Jewish people, which had kept itself alive through the centuries by its faith. If the feelings of guilt persist, Amihai has sought in his poetry to fill the void created by his threefold rejection with endless references to Him and to His Book and to traditional Jewish ceremonies and customs. In the sonnet above, however, there are few such specific allusions. The father seems rather the integral symbol rising out of the actions of a living man.

The sonnet is Shakespearian in the octet but not in the sestet (riming aba ccb). Amihai takes greater freedom with meter (lines 1, 7, 11 are hexameters) and with rime (lines 6 and 8 rime assonantly). The straightforward syntax, everyday vocabulary, and occasional enjambments (3-4, 4-5, 5-6) contribute to the effect of ease and informality not usually found in this strict poetic form.

-- ROBERT FRIEND

## Yehuda Amihai

THE TWO OF US TOGETHER, EACH OF US ALONE אַנינוּ בְּיַתַד וְכָל אָחָד לְחוּד . אַנינוּ בְּיַתַד וְכָל אָחָד לְחוּד . שׁנִינוּ בְּיַתַד וְכָל אָחָד לְחוּד

"שניהם ביחד וכל אחד כ וכתוך חוזה

Sneyhém beyáhad vehól ehád lehúd.

יַלְדָה שֶׁלִי, עוֹד קַיִץ עָבַר וְאָבִי לֹא בָּא לַלוּנָה־פַּרְקֹּ שִׁינ כּוֹכּלּאָני הַנַּדְנֵדוֹת מוֹסִיפוֹת לָנוּד. אי שנאת וענ שנשאו שָׁנֵינוּ בְּיַחַד וְכַל אַחַד לְחוּד.

Yaldá selí, od káyits avár Veaví lo ba lalúna-park.

Hanadneydót mosifót lanúd. Snéynu beyáhad vehól ehád lehúd.

אפק הים מאבד ספינותיו --קשה לשמר על משהו עכשו. מַאַחוֹרֵי הָהַר חִכּוּ הַלּוֹחַמִים. כַמָּה וְקוּקִים אָנוּ לְרַחַמִים. שְׁנֵינוּ בְּיַחַד וְכַל אֵחֶד לְחוּד. Ósek hayám meabéd ssinotáv-Kasé lismór al máschu ahsáv.

- Mcahoréy hahár hikú halohamím. Kamá zkukím ánu lerahamím. Snéynu beyáhad vehól ehád lehúd.
- ירת מנסר את העבים לשנים -בואי ונצא לאהבת בינים. רק שנינו נאהב לפני המחנות. נו אול אָפשָר עוֹד הַכּל לְשֵׁנוֹת. Uláy cfṣár od hakól leṣanót. שׁנֵינוּ בִּיַחַד וְכֵל אַחַד לְחוּד.
- Yaréah menasér et heavím lisnáyim-Bói venetsé leahavát beynáyim. Rak snéynu noháv lifnéy hamahanót.
  - Snéynu beyáhad vehól chád lehúd.

אַהַבָּתִי הַפְּכָה אוֹתִי כַּנִראַה כנם מלוח לטפות מתוקות של יורה: זו אַנִי מובא אַלִיךְ לאָט וְנוֹפַל. Aní muvá cyláyih leát venofél. קבּלִינִי. אין לַנוּ מַלְאַךְ גוֹאל. כִּי שְׁנֵינוּ בְּיַחַד. כִּל אֶחָד לְחוּד.

Ahavatí hafhá otí kanir'é Keyám malúah letipót metukót sel yoré;

Kablíni. Eyn lánu mal'áh goél. Ki snéynu beyáhad. Kol chád lchúd.

The title "The Two of Us Together, Lach of Us Alone" (1955) comes, as the epigraph tells us, "from a lease contract," meaning "Both of them jointly and severally." It is highly characteristic of Amihai take words or phrases from legal docuts, nursery rimes, folk-sayings, popular es, as well as from the Bible and the Book (a )aily Prayer, and to set them in a new context or alter them slightly. The new

context may reaffirm a tradition, deplore it, or mock its absence or perversion. Usually a deflationary device, the slight change is sometimes merely playful; but at other times the playfulness has serious intent.

(1) My girl [darling], another summer has gone by (2) And my father hasn't come to the amusement park (lit. Luna Park). (3) The swings continue to swing. (4) The two of us together and each of us alone.

Everything is directed towards freshness and simplicity. The words are such as any child will understand, the rhythm as easy as a 15th-century English ballad. Even the awkwardness of the rimes (avár-park, 1-2) adds to the ballad-like effect, charming the reader with the naïve offness. Line 2 echoes a children's song popular when the poem was written: Abale bo lalina-park, "Daddy, come to the amusement park." Amihai's references to his father in his early poetry are frequent almost to the point of obsession. Here the poet regards the amusement park of his childhood as a lost Eden. Though the scene is apparently unchanged (3), everything now is different. For it is no longer a child who enters the park accompanied by his father but a grown man with a girl, the new object of his love. And, as line 4 remarks, the two of them form part of the total human condition of separateness and loneliness.

(5) The horizon of the sea loses its boats- (6) Hard to keep (hold onto) anything now. (7) Behind the hill the soldiers waited. (8) How much in need of mercy are we. (9) The two of us together and each of us alone.

Though the scene is that of the lost Eden of his childhood, its meaning has been totally altered. The boats disappearing beyond the horizon not only suggest loss and transitoriness but, as line 7 makes clear, they are sailing off to war. And some of the erstwhile children have turned into soldiers, adults who lie in ambush and who kill. To many readers familiar with the smallness of the territory of Israel, the first three lines of this stanza may convey the sense of an entire country transformed (from sea and coastal plains to hills of the border) into a state of war,

(10) The moon is sawing the clouds in two-(11) Come, let's go out to a joust of love. (12) Only the two of us will [make] love between (before) the two [armed] camps. (13) Perhaps it is still possible to change everything. (14) The two of us together and each of us alone.

Though everything, even the sky, is striving toward divisiveness, perhaps an act of love, publicly performed, may yet redeem the

The phrase ahardt beyndyim-"joust of ve" is an invention of Amihai's based on millionet beyndyim meaning simply "duel" or "joust." But it has an echo of is beynayim with its two meanings: "champion" and "go-between." Hence, the "joust of love" implies that the two lovers are champions whose individual "war" will obviate the need for a general armed struggle. They are also conciliators, intermediaries, and their love the arbitrating act that may bring about peace. And yet the word uláy ("perhaps," 13) dominates the stanza.

Even the affirmation that follows is essentially a cry. The poet asks little more of his love than help to endure. He knows, though he pretends for a moment that it has performed its transforming miracle, that it will not redeem. (15) My love, it would seem, has changed me (16) As the salt sea [is changed] into the sweet drops of the first rains. (17) I am brought to you slowly and [1] fall. (18) Receive (accept) me. We have no redeeming angel. (19) Because the two of us are together. Each of us is alone.

If the opening affirmation-"My love apparently has changed me"-is clearly qualified by the third word, the transforming miracle as a whole has inherent limitations as well. For in a world without transcendence, how can two people save themselves from all that surrounds and engulfs them, capable as they are of no more than personal, individual action? Line 17 tells us that the speaker has been "brought" to his beloved and that he "falls." The latter verb describes more than the human body in its movement toward an embrace. It tells also of a descent from a world of faith in which angels might have redeemed (18) two lovers and a world in strife.

The change in punctuation of the refrain deepens the impact of the irony, as the two half-sentences-"the two of us together, each of us alone"-divide. The first half declares (it is a complete statement only grammatically) that the lovers are together; but an isolated and chilling counterstatement follows: "Each of us is alone."

אָמִי אָמְתָה לִי אָת כָּל הָעוּלָם

אָמִי אָפָתָה לִי אֶת כָּל הָעוֹלָם

בנונית מתוקות. אַהובָתִי מִלְאָה אָת חַלוֹנִי בְצִמוּקֵי כּוֹכָבִים. וְהַגַּעְעּעִים סְעּרִים בִּי כְּבוּעוֹת אֲנִיר בְּכִכַּר הַלֶּחֶם.

(21r) . sin מַבַּחוּץ אֵנִי חָלָק וְשָׁקִם נְחוּם. הָעוֹלֶם אוֹהַב אוֹתִי.

אַךְ שְּׁעָרִי עָצוב כַּוֹמֶא בַּבַּצֵּה הַמִּתְיַבָּשֶׁת וְהוֹלֶכָת – bezutiful כָּל הַצִּפְּרִים הַנְּדִירוֹת (נִפוֹת הַנוֹצָה feethered

נסות ממני.

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THEIR IT ENGE DASTE AT , RISH NYPRA SECION CLECIA"

הָצֵנָנִים הַם הָפַּתִים הָרָאשׁוֹנִים

הָעַנָנִים הַם הַמַּחִים הָרָאשׁוֹנִים, אַבָנִים בְשׁוּלֵי הַנָּאדִי הַם הָאַחָרוֹנִים. כַּמָּה וְמֵן עָבַר בֵּינֵיהֶם. שֶׁתַקנוּ בְּעַקְשָׁנוּת. הָאֱלַמְנוּ. אֲבָל הָאַדָמָה צְרִיכָה לוֹמֵר אֶת הַכֹּל בַּחֲקִירַת מָטָר נָשֶׁמֶשׁ, אָת

כָּל שֶׁהָיא יוֹדַעַת: עַשֶּׂב, רַקְפוֹת, פְּרָתִים אֲחַרִים; וְהָצֵשֶׁב יִיבַשׁ וְקוֹצִים יַצְּלוּ.

קל הָיָה לָנוּ לֶאֱהֹב אַלוּ רָצִינוּ, כְשֶׁפְנֵי הָאֲהוּבָה פְרוּשוֹת כִּכְנָפַיִם וְהַמֶּוֶת מְקְפֶל בִּמְטוֹסִים בָּתוֹךְ הָאֵנִיָה הַנוֹשַׂאת אוֹתָם. קַל הָיָה לֶאֱהֹב; וְאַינֶנִי יוֹדֵעַ אָם תִּהְיֶה לָנוּ הְוַדְּמְנוּת נוֹסֶפֶת. שָׁוּוּי הַמִּשְׁקַל יָפָרַע, פָּרָשַׁת הַמֵּיִם לֹא תְדַיִּק בַּהַלְּאָה, הַשָּׁעוֹן יִתְבַּלְבֵּל כְּתַלְמִידִים שֶׁלֶמְדוּ בְעַל־מֶה וְשֶׁכְחוּ. וּלְתוֹךְ הַהָּסְטוֹרְיָה הַמַּצְצֶנֶת בְּבָתֵי הַנְּכוֹת יִפְרֹץ הַחֹם הַנּוֹרָא, כְּשֶׁהַשׁוֹמְרִים לא יוּכְלוּ עוֹד לְהַחֲוִיק אֶת הַדְּלָתוֹת הַכְּבַדוֹת. וָהַתְּחוּמִים יָטְשְׁטְשׁוּ.

> רַק הַפָּוֶת דּוֹרֵשׁ מֵאִתָּנוּ לְדַיֵּק; אָת תְּחוּמֶיו הַשְּׁחוֹרִים אֵין לַצְבֹר. וַלָנוּ נִשְאַר לְמַלֵּא אָת הַשְּׁטָחִים הָרֵיקִים בְּצֶבַע, כִּילָדִים יַפֶּר שֶׁל צִיוּר לְפְנֵי רֹאשׁ אֱלֹהִים הַנֵּשְׁנִיתַ.

וְאָני סָבַרְני שָׁהוּא אַכְוָר, בְּוָלֵל שַׁצִרוֹתִיו הַפְּרוּעוֹת. וּרְמֶשֶׁךְ כָּל הַוְמֵן יִפְּמֵק דִין וּמְכוֹנוֹת־הַיְרָיָה שֶׁל הַכְרָעוֹת וְהַחְלָטוֹת יוֹרוֹת בָּאֵשׁ יְשָׁרָה וּפוֹנְעוֹת בִּכְלָבִים, בְּיָדִי, בְּרוּת הַקְּטַנָּה וְגַם בְּאֵלֶה שָׁאֵינָם מְסָנִיִים בְמִּסְפָּרִים. וְהַכֹּל מִקְרֶה. כְּמוֹ נִבְוֹיַת בַּיִת, כְּשֶׁמִּתְאֹם מוֹצְאִים חוֹמוֹת שְׁבוּרוֹת וַחֲרָסִים: עִיר צַּתִּיקָה מִּחְקַלֶּפֶת וְהָרָקִיעַ שוֹבֵחַ וְנָסוֹג אָל מַאַחוֹרֵי הַכּוֹכָבִים שֶׁנִשְׁאֲרוּ לְחַפּוֹת עַל נְסִינָתו

אוֹ לְנִוֹשָׁל, כְּשֶׁאָבִי מֵת וְנָטְלוּ אוֹתוֹ מִמְּקוֹמוֹ וְנִשְׁאֵר מְקוֹמוֹ רֵיק קְמוֹ בּוֹר בְּאֶמְצַע הַכְּבִישׁ, כְּשֶׁמְכְמֵה הַבַּרְוֶל מוּרֶם. וַאלֹהִים לְבוּשׁ סַרְבֵּל אֲבוֹדָה כָּחֹל יַרד לְשֶׁם לְתַקּן. וְהַנֵּר עַל הָרִצְפָּה עָמַד כִּמְנוֹרָה לְהַוְהִיר אָת הַהוֹלְכִים וָהָמִּלִּים הָאַחֲרוֹנוֹת הָתְרַגְּלוּ לְאָפֶן לְהִיוֹת אַחֲרוֹנוֹת מִמַּחַת לְתָּקְנַת תִּקְרַת הַלֵּיִלָה. אוּלֵי אָו הָיָתָה הָוְדַּמְּנוּת לָאֲהֹב וּלְהִשָּאַר.

> אַבָּל עַכְשָׁו הַוְמַן נַעֲשָׁה שָׁבִּט וְאָפַל לְיָדֵינוּ כְּמֵי נְמֵל לְיֵד דְּפְנוֹת הָאֲנִיוֹת שעער ומן דב מדי. בְּמוֹ כַן לֹא תַּעֲוֹר לָנוּ הַהְתְנֵאָלוּת על הַאָחוּר אוֹ עַל הַשְּׁכְחָה. הַשָּׁמֵיִם שׁוֹכְחִים.

וְאָנוּ כְּגִּבְעוֹלֵי פְּרָחִים בַּאֲגַרְטֵל, צְרוּרִים לְמַטָּה בַּאֲפֶלָה, וְצַר לָנוּ. וּלְמַעְלָה, מַעַל לְשָׁפַת הַכָּלִי שְׁמֵי פְּרָחִים פְתוּחִים. וּלְכָל אֶחָד פֶּרַח מְשֶׁלוֹ, אַךְ מִי מֵאְמָנוּ יַרַע וֹאת, בַּצְר. בָּאֲפֵלָה, וְוֶה לְיֵד נָה. וְקְרוֹבִים לַמְּנֶת.

שוֹפְטִים מַתִּים סוֹבְבוּ נַלְנַצֵי וְמָן.

הורַמְתִּי עם הַמּוֹץ.

הוא נִמְשַׁח בְּשֶׁמֶן מְלוּכָה כַּבְשֶׁמֵן מִתְאַבְּקִים.

שַׁרָשִׁים בָּלְטוּ עַל מֵצַח הָאַדָּמָה מַרֹב מַאַמֶץ. הַשׁוֹפִטִים בָּרְחוּ מִן הַזִּירָה, רַק אֱלֹהִים נִשְאַר וְסָפַר: שַׁבַע... שָׁמוֹנֶה... תַשַּׁע... עֲשָׂר... הַעָם, מִשִׁכְמוֹ וָמֵטָה, צָהַל. איש לא קם. הוא נצח.

שְׁנָתִי הִיא צִּדְקָתִי.

הוא תַּלָה אֶת נְולוּכָתוֹ בְּמִסְנֶרֶת וַעַם זָהֹב

נְדוֹד עוֹלֶוֹן מֵאוֹב; וְעָף וְעָף. פְנֵי חַיות, פְנֵי מֵיִם וּכְנֵי לֶכֶת, וְנַעַר לְחִישׁוֹת, פְנֵי חֵיק, פְנֵי טַף.

לא לָווּ לְתַנִיד: עַכְשָׁוּ, עַכְשָׁוּ.

כִּי מַה שֶׁלֹא הַבַנוּ, הַן זְמַרְנוּ יַחַד. דורות נחשף, פני הפרוגין.

לָכַן שַׁלוֹם לֶךָ, לְעוֹלָם לֹא נִרְדֶּמֶת. מְכַּאן ולְהַבָּא אַתִּ מְחַלֶּמֶת לחלומות שלף: תבל נכל.

אַל מָלַא רַחֲמִים 🗡

אַל מָלַא רַחַמִים,

אָלְמָלֵא הָאֵל מְלֵא רַחֲמִים הָיוּ הָרַחַמִים בַּעוֹלָם וְלֹא רַק בוֹ. אַנִי, שֶׁקְטַפְתִּי פְרַחִים בַּהַר וְהַסְתַבֶּלְתִי אֵל כַּל הַצֵּמְקִים, אַנִי, שֶׁהַבָּאתִי גְיִיּוֹת מִן הַגְּכַעוֹת, אוֹא יוֹדֵעַ לְסַפֵּר שֶׁהָעוֹלָם רֵיק מַרַחַמִים.

אָנִי שֶׁהָנִיתִי מֶלֶךְ הַמֶּלֵח לְיֵד הַיָּם, 💥 🔭 שֶׁעֶמֵרְתִּי בְּלִי הַחְלֵטֵה לְיֵד חַלוֹנִי, שֶׁסְפַרְתִּי צַעֲדֵי מַלְאָכִים. שֶׁלְבִּי הַרִים מִשְׁקְלוֹת כְּאֵב weight -בַתַּחֲרָיוֹת הַנוֹרָאוֹת. lifter

אָנִי, שֶׁמִּשְׁתַמֵּשׁ רַק בְּחַלֶּק קָטָן MUNICO מן הַמְּלִים שֶׁבַּמְלּוֹן.

אָנִי, שֶּׁהַכָּרָח לְפְּתוֹר חִידוֹת בְּעֵל כָּרְתִי יוֹדַעַ כִּי אָלְמָלֵא הָאֵל מְלֵא רַחֲמִים הָיוּ הָרַחֲמִים בָּעוֹלֶם ולא דק בו.

pressive role of the poet

18,810 de ol bolz. 2

10, UN TUEN (1) 1,63 (2)

יבן הבל הידות מח (שו) עלבי נאפ עיבר ערמע בשמם ופנה

חַיֶּיף ומוֹתְף. אָבִי

חַיֶּיך וּמוֹתְדּ, אָבִי,

מָנָחִים לִי עַל כְּתַפֵּיִם.

אִשְׁתִּי הַקְּטַנָּה תָבִיא

בֹא נִשְׁתַה, אָבִי,

שהיית מקני

לְפְרָהַי, לָאִידֵיאוֹת,

וְצַּכְשָׁו אַינִי מְקְנֶה עוֹד.

פִיךְ הַפָּתוֹחַ, אָבִי,

בק הַלִיכָחָף, אָבִי,

עוד בְּדָמִי מְהַלֶּכֵת.

פַעַם הָיִיתָ מְלַנְיּ.

עַרְשָׁר אֲנִי קְלַנָף.

שר ולא שמעתי

הָאִילָן בֶּחָצֵר וַ

וְלֹא יָדַעְתִי.

לנו מים.

Es on wit p. S. 112 9/4

3/17

הַנִי שְׁלוֹם

הַיִי שֶׁלוֹם, כְּנֵי אַתְּ וּכְבָר פְנֵי וַכָר.

לא לָנוּ שוב שְּנָה שֶׁבָּה נוּכַל לְנָשֶׁת. שם של רוחות היה לך, פעם אשת הַבּוונִים וְכַנְנוֹת מַרְאָת וּסְתָּו.

ולא שלי עוד, לא מְפִענַחַת. סְצוֹרַת פְּטָמוֹת, אַבְנָם. פִּיוֹת, בְּרָנִים.

שָהַפֹּל הָיָה בְּדְבָרֵנוּ, שֶׁהַכֹּל שֶׁל חוֹל.

הַיִי שַׁלוֹם, צְרוֹרוֹת וּמְוְוְדוֹת הַמָּנֶת. חוטים, נוצות, בְּלִיל מִשְׁכָּן. מַשְׁכּוֹן שֵּעָר. כִּי מַה שֶׁלֹא יִהְנָה, אַף יָד אֵינָה כּוֹתָבָת. ומה שלא וונה של נוף. לא יובר. בעת יצא לחפש אחונות. שֵׁאַנִי, עַכְשָׁר, מָצָאתִי.

ולא אַדע לטפל בָהָן.

נפלתי עם גרעינים כבדים.

אַך הוא נַשַׁב בְּרוֹתַ תּוֹלְדוֹתָיו.

הוא נאבק עם זיתים, הָּכְרִיעַ אוֹתָם לִכְרוֹעַ.

[7] אָנִי עָיֵף, מְטָתִי הָיא מַלְכוּתִי.

חַלוֹמִי, פְּסַק הַדִּין.

תַּלִיתִי אֶת בְנָדֵי עֵל כִּסֵא בִּשְׁבִיל מָחָר.

בְּקִיר הַשְּׁמֵיִם.

וְרוֹעוֹתַי קּצֶרוֹת, כְחוּט קָצֶר מָדֵי לָקשר חַבִילָה.

הַן בּוֹצֵטוֹת בִּי.

101

[11]

הַמֶּלֶךְ שָאוֹל נַאֲנִי

נָתְנוּ לוֹ אֶצְבַּע וְלָקַח אֶת כָּל הַיָּד. נָתְנּ לִי יָד וְלֹא לָלַחְתִּי אֲפִלּוּ זֶבֶת.

בְצֵת לְבִּי הָתְצַמֵּן בַּהֲרָמַת רְנָשׁוֹת רָאשׁוֹנִים, הָתְאַמֵּן הוּא בָּקְרִיצֵת שְׁנָרִים.

דְּפִיקוֹת דָפְקִי הָיו כְּטִפוֹת מִבֶּרָז. דְּפִיקוֹת דָפְקוֹ כְּהַלְמוּת פַּטִישִׁים בְּבִנְין חָדָשׁ.

> הוא הָיָה אָחִי הַנְּדוֹל קבַלְתִי אֶת בְגָדִיו הַמְשׁבָּושִׁים.

ראשו כְמַצְפֵן אָמִיד יוֹבִיל לַצָּפוֹן הַמָּחְלָט שֶׁל יִעוּדוֹ.

לְבּוֹ כְשָׁעוֹן מְעוֹרֵר מְכָּחָן לְשְׁעַת הַמְּלוּכָה. כְשֶׁכָלֶם יִישְׁנו, הוא יִצְעַק צַר שֶׁכָּל הַמַּחְצֵבוֹת תִּהְיֶינָה צְרוּדוֹת. אַף אָחַד לֹא יַפְסִיק אוֹתוֹ! רַק הָאַתוֹנוֹת חוֹשְׁפוֹת שָׁנֵיִם צְּהָבּוֹת. בקצה דרכו.

7265 C- 103/c

111.8.

END OF ADÁR · KETS ADÁR · אָן אָרָר

והלולת

perfect belonce between nature and main

הַפִּי, הַפִּי־נָא אֵת כַּדֵּךְ,

מני אתבה

רָבָּאֶצְעֲדוֹת־הַזֶּתָבּ אֲשֶׁר לִוְרוֹעוֹת הַבֶּ<mark>דְתַיְה</mark>, יַעַנְדוּ הָרֵי הַנְּלְבֹּעַ לְעֵמֶק יוְרְעֵאל Arabic: 1'81 אַו הַבֶּאן, הַשֹּאֲבּוֹת הָעַיְנָה, אַ וְהָיוּ הַכַּלָנִיוֹת כָאָצִעְדוֹת לְרַגְלֵיהָן

Keets'adót-hazaháv asér lizroót habedviyá, Yaandú haréy hagilbóa lcémek yizreél

זת צמידיהם Et tsmideyhém bracelets

אָשֶׁר לְעַרְכַּן בּק־בְּקְרָת. Biş'ót hazaháv aşér learvéy kets-adár. אין דר. Az tetséna hasoavót haáyna,

Vehayú hakalaniyót keets'adót leragleyhén.

Hatí, hatí-na et kadéh,

s Venişté meyméy áyin karım, nozlim, Vehayú lehikéynu kayáyin hatóv.

יָרַד הָאֲדָר לְנְוֹעֵ מִהְנוּבָה, 11 ism

וְנִשְּׁתֶּה מִימִּן־עֵין קָרִים, נוֹוְלִים,

וְהָיוּ לְחָכֵנוּ כַיֵּין הַטוֹב. ש׳נ הוֹיִיק (מ : ד)

Ki yarad haadar ligvoa mitmiya, וו פַאַשֶּׁר יָמוּתוּ הַבֶּדְוֹּןִם אֲשֶׁר לְשֵׁבֶּט עַזְרָא Kaasér yamútu habedvím asér lesévet ázra Mini ahaya.

1, 2 35 + 10-113 K

repetition

ואָ הִינוּ שְמִי־הַשְּקִיעָה Az hayinu şmey-haşki'á Asér learvéy kets-adár.

2776

Though Shlonsky has written few poems about nature, his verse is by no means devoid of nature imagery. Natural phenomena have had a deep and always symbolic effect upon him, as for example in the leaffall image that recurs throughout his work. But the leaf-fall (salehet) and other such figures are essentially symbolic or mood motifs; he uses them as Dostoevsky uses the description of "the slanted rays of the setting sun" throughout his novels.

Shlonsky's verse of the thirties and early forties contained many elements indicating a "return to nature," but they reflected rather the poet's effort to hold onto the world about him-to preserve it by the vestigial optimism to which a man of his generation

might cling. His deliberate hopefulness enabled him to believe in the world's future by linking it to its distant, primeval past: to unchanging tree, hill, millstone; to the simplest of rural occupations: water-drawer, miller. This period of the poet's striving is reflected memorably in the two cycles "An Other Genesis" and "Songs of Bread and Water."

In the early twenties, when "End of Adár" was written, Shlonsky's encounter with the landscape of the Valley of Jezreel and of Mt. Gilboa was like a new encounter with himself. He was intoxicated; the experience carried him into exotic metaphors. But in those places and in those days the exotic was an everyday experience. The image of

יקהלתים, דו, טו יולים וא יכל-המצוים अदिश प्राप एकाइ १५० एडा एडी וירצות מות. (מו) ולבי מות הובה חבות

23/21

he's been

evertures!

411.11

plin

6>77

127.6

100

אַל מָלָא רַחָמִים

אל מלא רחמים, ב אלמלא האל מלא רחמים הָיוּ הָרַחֲמִים בָּעוֹלֶם וִלֹא רַק בוֹ. אַנִי, שֶׁקְטַפְּתִי פְנֶדְחִים בָּקָר והסמבלתי אל כל הצמקים,

אַנִי, שַׁהַבָּאתִי גְרִיוֹת מִן הַנְּבָעוֹת, יוֹדֵעַ לְסַפֵּר שֶּׁהָעוֹלָם רֵיק מַרַחֲמִים.

אני שהייתי מלך המלח ליד הים. שֶׁעֶמֵרְתִּי בְּלִי הַחְלָטָה לִיֵד חַלוֹנִי. סו שֶׁסְפַּרְתִי צֵעֲדִי מֵלְאָכִים,

שׁלְבִי הַרִים מִשְׁקְלוֹת כָאֵב עו בַתַּחֲרָיוֹת הַנוֹרָאוֹת.

3300 100 100 JUS אני, שמשתמש רק בחלק קקו צו מן הַמְּלִים שַׁבַּמִּלוֹן.

אַנִי, שַׁהַּכְרַת לְפָּחוֹר חִידוֹת בְּעֵל כָּרְתִי יוֹדַעַ כִּי אָלְמָלֵא הָאֵל מְלֵא רַחֲמִים וּיֹדַעַ כִּי אָלְמָלֵא הָאֵל הַיוּ הָרַחֲמִים בָּעוֹלֶם ולא רק בו.

2 ISN BOILES OF 13, LOW

.37

# Lea Goldberg

1952

אָAMSÍN OF NISÁN · HAMSÍN ṢEL NISÁN · חַמְסִין שֶׁל נִיסָן

אָכֵן אַדַע, זֶה יוֹם לְלֹא תְמוּרָה Ahén edá, ze yom leló tmurá ולא נפל דבר ולא ארע Veló nafál davár veló erá. LO ולא יבדיל בינו לבין ימים 3 Veló yavdíl beynó levéyn yamím ציון ואות אשר מטוב עד רע. Tsiyún vaót asér mitóv ad ra. ורק לשמש ביח של יסמין, Verák lasémes réah sel yasmín, ורק לאבן קול של לב פועם, Verák laéven kol sel lev poém, ורק לערב צבע של תפוז, 7 Verák laérev tséva sel tapúz, ורק לחול שפתים מנשקות. Verák lahól sfatáyim menaskót. איך אוכרנו, אלמוני, סתמי, Eyh ezkerénu, almoní, stamí, איכה אשמר חסדו הפתאומי, Eyhá esmór hasdó hapit'omí, 0 EYKIT וו איך אַאַמִין שֵׁיוֹם אָחָד הָיָה Eyḥ aamín ṣeyóm eḥád hayá Kol nid veréah étsem meatsmí? בָּל נִיד וְרֵיחַ עֶצֶם מֵעַצְמִי? C movement ! כִּי כַּל אִילָן הָיָה מִפְרַשׁ רוֹטֵט, Ki kol ilán hayá mifrás rotét, ולדממה עינים של ילדה, Velidmamá eynáyim sel yaldá, d VELE ו לדמעות ניחוח הלבלוב, Velidmaót nihóah halivlúv 9 וְשֵׁם הָעִיר כִּשֵׁם אַהַבַּתִי. Veşém hair keşém ahavati.

7/1/k 3 N/c COLN, N'N'JYK - "Y'E KIT 4-1

short phrases - 777/c "/n o = 4(1847 1)2N 2 8 5

MERNIN MARS ST 12-11

[PREST N'20 R 20 = VELE 16-13

ADDITION TO BE 16/33700 R 2017 251

In an enthusiastic essay on Avraham Ben Yitshak (pp. 50ff.), whose views had deeply impressed her, Lea Goldberg recalls the older poet's description of an arrested flash of perception: "I remember standing at the entrance of a house, on a staircase. The house was built of wood and painted green. The sand that covered the porch steps was made up of small bits of colored glass . . . They possessed the magic of a summer's evening and I knew that only once in my life would I see such a sight."

For Lea Goldberg such a moment of insight contains the essence of youth in the ever flowing stream of time. It arises out of ordinary phenomena—an orange, a peasant girl, a fragment of memory—to flash upon the dark screen of human consciousness in a sudden moment of grace. Such a moment, flashing upon the poet quite without warning, and on a day that was only "anonymous and drab" (9), is celebrated in the present poem.

"Hamsin," the name given to the hot desert wind that frequently lashes Israel, is an Arabic word meaning "fifty," folk meteorology insisting that there are fifty

hamsinim a year. This Israeli equivalent of the sirocco is often gritty with sand. Its devastating heat tries the temper and nerves; the bright haze intensifies the nuances of color and light. A combination of restlessness and acute sensitivity pervades the lines of this lyric about the hamsin in the month of Nisán, which is approximately April.

(1) Indeed I know this is a day without [any] change (counterpart) (2) And nothing fell (took place) and [nothing] happened. (4) And no mark, no omen [lit. ranging from good to evil] (3) Separates it from [other] days. The word tmurá (1) means both "change" and "counterpart." Thus the entire poem is present in the opening line with its double resonance.

# Lea Goldberg

THE TREE SINGS TO THE RIVER HAÉTS ŞAR LANÁHAL · הַעֵץ שֶׁר לַנַחַל

אַשֶׁר נַשָּׂא אֶת (סְתָּרֵ) הַזָּהוּב, את דמי בשלכת גרף, אַשֶּׁר יִרָאָה (אַבִיבִי כִּי יַשׁוּב עם תְקוּפַת הַשֶּׁנָה אֵלֶיו,

Asér nasá et staví hazahúv, Et dami besaléhet garáf, 3 Aşér yir'e aviví ki yaşúv Im tkufát hasaná eláv,

778

1945

3178

אחר הנחל, האובד לעד, חָתֶרָשׁ יוֹם־יוֹם וְאַתֶּר וְאֵתָד. הַזּוֹרֵם כָּמוֹנִי בֵּין אָבִיב וּסְתֵיו.

Ahí hanáhal, haovéd laád, Hehadás yom-yóm, veahér veehád, אָחִי הַנֶּרֶם בֵּין שְׁנֵי חוֹפְיו Aḥí hazérem beyn sney hofáv Hazorém kamóni beyn avív ustáv.

AKH EKH

כִּי אַנִי הַנְצֵּן וַאַנִי הַפַּרִי, אַנָּר עַתִידִי נַאֲנִי עֲבָרִי, וְאַתָּה - וְמֵנֵי וְשִׁירִי.

Ki aní hanitsán vaaní haprí, Aní atidí vaaní avarí, וו אָנֵי הָגָּוֵע הְעֲרִירִי. Aní hagéza haarirí, Veatá-zmaní veşirí.

ur two lyrics are from five "River Songs" which bear the superscription "The Choir of Small Voices," a literal rendering of line 6 of the first of Verlaine's "Ariettes Oubliées." The first poem distinguishes the river from the stone. "I," sings the river, "am the ephemeral and she [the stone] is the permanent (existent). She is the mysteries of creation, and I their revelation ..." We are presented with a "masculine" and a "feminine." Dynamic and everchanging, the river is the masculine element of "Becoming," in contrast to the stone, which in its stability suggests "Being." The poet is equated with the river-with change and becoming. In the verse before us, however, a new speaker appears: the tree. The tree addresses the river:

(1) [ who carried my golden autumn, (2)

Swept away my blood with the leaf fall, (3) [He] who shall see my spring when it returns (4) To him with the turning of the year,

- (5) My brother the river, who is forever lost, (6) New each day and different and one (one and the same), (7) My brother the stream between his two shores, (8) Who streams as I do between spring and autumn.
- (9) For I am the bud and I am the fruit, (10) I am my future and I am my past, (11) I am the. solitary tree trunk, (12) And you-are my time and my song.

The river is not changed by the seasonal cycles as the tree is changed, for the river is an external phenomenon which reflects what goes on within the tree, carrying away the leaves that the tree casts off. The river, then, is process: it is movement and time; and yet, though in constant flux ("new each day and different"), it remains a unity ("one and the same").

The tree experiences the cyclic changes to bud and to fruit: it is its own future and past (9, 10). But future and past can reflect themselves only upon the river and they express themselves by means of the river. Thus, the river is the poem. The tree is the internality that creates, the process, that makes itself known on the river of time.

The reader will find much of interest in the rhythm of the poem. Though the meter is predominantly anapestic, the first two feet of lines 1, 3, 5, 7, 11 are iambic. And the stress is placed upon (1) He who carried, (3) He who shall see, (5) My brother the river,

(7) My brother the stream. Then a shift of stress occurs in line 8, where the word kamoni ("like me") breaks the regular meter of the anapest.

The complete omission in 8 of the strong h sounds that pervaded lines 5, 6, 7 draws attention to the sonal softness and flow of hazorém kamóni beyn avív ustáv ("Who streams as I do between spring and autumn.").

The rhythm of the last stanza quickens into a staccato close. The single rime, the assonance, and the vowel brevity contribute to the clipped gait. And again, the break in the regular anapest of line 12 stresses the summarizing remark: Veatá-zmani vesiri, "And you—are my time and my song."

הַנִי שֶׁלוֹם, פְּנֵי אַתְּ וּכְבָר פְּנֵי זֵכֶר. ּנְדוֹד עוֹלֶה מֵאוֹב; וְעָף וִעָף. פַנִי חַיוֹת, פְּנֵי מִיִם וּפְנֵי לֶכֶת, בולכת = שפת שנים ביים しょうらか

ירעיבו א ניאי השקר

וְיַעַר לְחִישׁוֹת, פְּנֵי חֵיק, פְּנֵי טַף. לא לְנוּ שוב שָׁעָה שֶׁבָּה נוּכֵל לְנָשֶׁת, IJK Kr 

שֵׁם שֶׁל רוּחוֹת הְיָה לָךְ בַּעֲם אֵשֶׁת הַכּוּוֹנִים וְכַנְנוֹת מֵרְאָה וֹסְתְוֹ.

ארפ ב בי מַה שֶׁלֹא הַבַּנוּ, הַן וְמַרְנוּ יַחַד. דּוֹרוֹת נְחשֶׁךְ, פְּנֵי הַפֵּרוּנִין.

uneven

abyss

deciphered

ולא שלי עוד, לא מפענחת, סְנוּרַת פְּטָׁכוֹת, אַבְנְים, פִּיוֹת, בְּרָגִים.

לָכֵן שֵׁלוֹם לָךְ, לְעוֹלָם לֹא נִרְדֶּמֶת, שֶׁהַפֹּל הָיָה בִּדְבָרֵנוּ, שֶׁהַפֹּל שֶׁל חוֹל. 🖚 ק אֹם גף מְכָּאן וּלְהַבָּא אַתְּ מִחַלֵּמֵת לַחַלוֹמוֹת שֶׁלָּך: תַבֶל וָכֹל. שֹבּת וֹצִים

> הַיִי שָׁלוֹם, צְרוֹרוֹת וּמִוְוְדוֹת הַמָּנֵת. חוטים, נוצות, בְּלִיל מְשְׁכָּן. מַשְׁכּון שַּעָר. כִּי מַה שֵׁלֹא יִהְיֶה, אַף יָד אֵינָה כּוֹתֶבֶת, ומה שלא היה של גוף, לא יוכר.

> > Be well, four face, the Gace that was forest of whispers - orotic woman's quality grotesque use of biblical expressions\_ Amichai's expertise mirror is the gloom movement from present to priot

USIL NYILE OCIE JENÍTE EZÍ USILI, Col osliga and were the cult - INU. 5 411232 20305 10305 16t N BAN & IND BANKA of BAN DEN - bun 192 Tes te HI IND DED WAN KISN DED - NIDEDE -EST STO NOOD ASS WE CONTICO - WAN CELL NEW NY CNOE ECURAL CLIVE. 1171/15 אֵלוֹהִים מְרַחֵם עַל יַלְדִי חַוַן

שולו בנקיקים אַלהִים מְרַחַם עַל יַלְדֵי הַנַן 🛈 ביוגר זראנין פָּחוֹת מָנֶה עַל יַלְדֵי בֵּית־הַפַּפָר. かったし」 וְעַל הַגָּרוֹלִים לֹא יְרַחֵם עוֹד. 52/10 00 VX יַשְאִירֵם לְבַּדָם. וְלִפְעָמִים יִצְטָרְכוּ לְוְחֹל עַל אַרְבַּע D' JIL 2 8/1/2 like children. בחול הלוהט, ימו בג ו 1/1NA ANDINO

פתניע לתחונת האסוף דווסן שיטיביים. וְהַם שׁוֹתְתֵי לֶים בוֹ שׁוֹתְתִי לָים שׁוֹתְתִי לָים שׁוֹתְתִי לָים שׁוֹתְתִי לָים "true believers"

אולה ל על האוֹהַבִים־בָּאֵמָה כּ בּיִנֹים על האוֹהַבִים־בָּאֵמָה כּ בּיִנֹים אוֹבּים בּאַמָּה בּיִם בּאַמָּה בּאַ ישול בוועים ניצל בוועים ניצל באים היינים ניצל פאילן על היש בספסל 🕲 אילן על מיש באילו שבשדנה הַבְּבוּרִית.

אול להם גם אנחנו נוציא NIS 8.8 751A 25/c (Il.s אָת מַטְבָּעוֹת הַחֶּסֶד הָאַחֲרתוֹת lest wins of kindness שָׁהוֹרִישָׁה לָנוּ אִמָּא, Inhka 4002 בְּדֵי שֶׁאָשְׁרָם יָגון עָלֵינוּ of the lovers עַּכְשָׁו וּבַיָמִים חָאַחַוֹים.

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tree 120 st shiel mank God true loves park bun 1121 N.15,2005

reservations

1724 21000 1200

The old women caress the boy but he stares at them and sobs—the poem does not indicate why—perhaps out of fear, perhaps out of repulsion as he looks upon old age. In any event, the love-need of the old women fails to obtain his response. Life's beginning and life's end are anything but a perfect cycle.

The child is not understood and the night is like that child: they darken the poem. The old women slip away, leaving the scene to a stillness which is interrupted and defined by the hawk's circling of another sort: it is no longer merely terror but an inexplicable failure of meeting, of understanding. The failed encounter ends in a symbol of its meanings that the Hebrew ilavón—a typical Shlonsky recasting: "shame-wretchednessinsult"—suggests but does not define.

Old age has frightened childhood, tries to

caress it, meets with sobs, and turns its back on it—and yet the poem also contains a sense of resignation. This is conveyed largely through the form: four stanzas, two of which (2,3) are the traditional quatrains, riming aabb. Placed in the center of the poem, these four-line stanzas contrast with the five-line stanzas, which rime as aa-x-bb, the repeated words vehás savív ("and silence all around," 3, 16) breaking the pattern. In these stanzas the rimes are almost identical. First: halaván/niḥeḥán—haáyit/ habáyit; the second: muván/halaván—keáyit/ habáyit.

This formal quality of the poem gives it stability and balance. The intervening middle lines of the first and last "framing" stanzas do not disrupt. They act as a cesura to underscore the suggestion of the lines.

- LEA GOLDBERG

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1947
                                                                        נדר
                                                                                               Bilia endia yistid
                bereavenent
                                               על דעת עיני שראו את השכול
                                        יצמסו ועלות על לבי השחוח בי ועמסו ועלות
                                               של דעת רחמי שהורוני למחל
                                                  עד באו ימים שאימו מלסלח
                                               נַדַרְתִּי הַנַּדֶר: לִוֹכֹּר אֵת הַכֹּל
                                                      לזפר - ודבר לא לשכח.
                                            בַרַ לא לִשְׁכֹּחַ –עוֹ דוֹר עֲשִׂירִי
                        reproof, chatisement
                                                    עד יכלו כל שבטי מוסרי.
                                            ם קונם אם לָרִיק יַעֲבֹר לֵיל הַזָּעַם -
                                                                              I sweet not to
                    to my Temple gate or twig
                                          קוֹנֶם אִם לַבַּקֶר אֲחְוֹר לְסוּרִי
וּמְאוֹם לֹא אֶלְמֵד גַם הַפְּעַם. 🌡
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