

Texts for “Woman to Woman 2023”, May 23, 2023

Nigra Sum (Shechora Ani/ I am Dark)/ Pablo Casals (1876 – 1973)

Text: Song of Songs 1:4-5, 2:10-12

Hebrew adaptation: Leah Peer

1:4 *Shechora ani venava b'not
Yerushalayim*

1:5 I am dark, but comely, O
daughters of Jerusalem—

1:5 *Havi'eini hamelech chadarav*

1:4 The king has brought me to his
chambers.

שְׁחֹרָה אֲנִי וְנֹאמָה בְּנוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם

2:10 *Ana dodi ve'amar li kumi lach
ra'ayati, yafati ul'chi lach*

2:10 My beloved spoke thus to me,
“Arise, my darling; My fair one,
come away!

הִבִּיאֵנִי הַמֶּלֶךְ חֲדָרָיו

2:11 *Ki hineh hastav avar hageshem
chalaf halach lo*

2:11 For now the winter is past,
The rains are over and gone.

עָנָה דֹדִי וְאָמַר לִי קוּמִי לְךָ רַעֲיָתִי יָפֵתִי
וּלְכִי-לְךָ:

2:12 *Hanitzanim nir'u ba'aretz, et
zamir higi'ah*

2:12 The blossoms have appeared in
the land, The time of pruning (*Or*
“singing.”) has come

כִּי-הִנֵּה הַסֶּתֶם עָבַר הַגֶּשֶׁם חָלַף הַקֶּץ לוֹ:

הַנִּצְּנִים נִרְאוּ בְּאֶרֶץ עֵת הַזְּמִיר הִגִּיעַ

Veshuv “And Again”/ Nili Abrahamsson

Text: Lea Goldberg (1911-1970)

And again - the girl is left alone

Veshuv nisheret l'vada hana'ara

וְשׁוּב נִשְׁאֲרַת לְבַדָּה הַנַּעֲרָה

And slowly turns off the lamp,

Um'chaba bal'at et ham'norah,

וּמְכַבֶּה בְּלֹאט אֶת הַמְּנוֹרָה,

And the flickering-pearls enchanted-
lights

V'hivhuvei-pnanim qsumi-otot

וְהַבְּהוּבֵי-פְּנִינִים קְסוּמֵי-אוֹרוֹת

Go out one by one around her neck.

Kavim echad-echad al tzavara.

כְּבִים אֶחָד-אֶחָד עַל צְוֹאֲרָה.

And the poppy-flame in the vase

V'shalhavot-pragim ba'agartel

וְשִׁלְהַבּוֹת-פְּרָגִים בְּאֶגְרֵתֵל

Are wrapped in a black scarf. The
mirror is dark.

Otot tza'if shachor. Har'i afel.

עוֹטוֹת צַעִיף שַׁחֹר. הָרְאִי אֶפֶל.

And she hears: into the sorrow of
her room

Vehi shoma'at: el tugat chadra

וְהִיא שׁוֹמַעַת: אֶל תּוֹגַת חֲדָרָה

Al behonot -raglav nichnas haleil.

עַל בְּהוֹנוֹת-רַגְלֶיהָ נִכְנָס הַלַּיִל.

The night come in on tiptoe.

V'hi yoda'at: po haya echad.

וְהִיא יוֹדַעַת: פֹּה הִיא אֶחָד.

And she knows: someone was here.

Et tz'adav zocher od hamarvad.

אֶת צַעֲדָיו זוֹכֵר הַמְּרַבֵּד.

The carpet still remembers his steps

*Et shmo lochesh od cheresh
hasha'on.*

אֶת שְׁמוֹ לוֹחֵשׁ עוֹד חֲרֵשׁ הַשַּׁעוֹן.

His name is still whispered softly by
the clock.

וְהוּא הֵלֵךְ וְהוּא רְחוּק לַעֲד.

And he has left and will be far
away forever.

V'hu halach v'hu rachok la'ad.

Song of Ruth/ David Childs

Text: Book of Ruth

“Entreat me not to leave you,
Or to return from following you.
Where you go I will go,
and where you lodge I will lodge;
Your people shall be my people
and your God shall be my God.
(Entreat me not...)
Where you die I will die,
and there will I be buried,
Where you lie. (3x)
May the Lord do so to me, and more also,
If anything but death parts me from you.

***L'Chi Lach* “Take Yourself”/ Debbie Freidman (1951-2011)**

L'chi lach, to a land that I will show you
Lech l'cha, to a place you do not know
L'chi lach, on your journey I will bless you
And (you shall be a blessing) *l'chi lach*
And (you shall be a blessing) *l'chi lach*
And (you shall be a blessing) *l'chi lach*

L'chi lach, and I shall make your name great
Lech l'cha, and all shall praise your name
L'chi lach, to the place that I will show you
l'chi lach
(*L'sim-chat cha-yim*) *l'chi lach*
(*L'sim-chat cha-yim*) *l'chi lach*

Source: [LyricFind](#)

Songwriters: Debbie Friedman

L'Chi Lach Lyrics © A Side Music LLC

El Haderech "To the Path"/Nurit Hirsch
Text: Shimrit Or

And again, we go out on the path	<i>Veshuv netse'a el haderech</i>	ושוב נצאה אל הדרך
Hand in hand, to the path In a golden chain. Again we go out on the path	<i>Yad beyad la derech</i> <i>Besharsheret zahav.</i>	יד ביד לדרך, בשלשלת זהב.
One people, to the path	<i>Veshuv netse'a el haderech</i>	ושוב נצאה אל הדרך,
With our song on our back.	<i>Am echad la derech</i>	עם אחד לדרך,
And to the gates of heaven	<i>Veshirenu al gav.</i>	ושירינו על גב.
Surely we'll arrive	<i>Ve'ad lesha'arei rakia</i>	ועד לשערי רקיע
Very soon, if not now. And to the gates of heaven...	<i>Bevaday nagia</i> <i>Od me'at im lo achshav.</i>	בוודאי נגיע
And even if the road is long	<i>Ve'ad lesha'arei rakia..</i>	עוד מעט אם לא עבשיו.
And the road is great Our strength is even greater.	<i>Vegam im aruka haderech</i>	ועד לשערי רקיע...
And even if the road is long	<i>Veraba haderech</i> <i>Hen kochenu od rav.</i>	וגם אם ארוכה הדרך,
And the road is great	<i>Vegam im aruka haderech</i>	ורבה הדרך,
We'll travel it together.	<i>Veraba haderech</i>	הן כוחנו עוד רב.
And to the gates of heaven	<i>Na'avor ba yachdav.</i> <i>Ve'ad lesha'arei rakia.</i>	וגם אם ארוכה הדרך, ורבה הדרך, נעבור בה יחדיו. ועד לשערי רקיע...

Yesh Prachim "There are Flowers"

Poem: Natan Yonatan (1923-2004)

Music: Moni Amarilio Arr.: Josef Hadar (1926-2006), Leah Peer

Have you seen such beauty
that trembles in the autumn
wind
a field of gold faded into
darkness
and lit up candles of chatzav
flowers.

*Hara'ita eizeh yofi
sher-'ad beru'ach stav,
s'deh zahav d-'ach ba'ofel
vehi-lik n-rot chatzav.*

הראית איזה יופי
שרעד ברוח סתיו
שדה זהב דעך באופל
והדליק נרות חצב

Have you seen such redness
that screamed into the
distance?
A bloody field was here before,
and now it's a field of poppies.

*Hara'ita eizeh odem
shetza'ak lamerchakim,
s'deh damim hayah sham kodem
ve'achshav hu s'deh p'ragim.*

הראית איזה אודם
שצעק למרחקים
שדה דמים היה שם קודם
ועכשיו הוא שדה פרגים

Don't pick, my boy,
there are flowers that perish
there are flowers that stay in the
melody forever.

*Al tik'-tof, na'ari,
yesh prachim shebnei chalof
yesh prachim she'ad einsof
nish'arim bamanginah.*

אל תקטוף נערי
יש פרחים שבני חלוף
יש פרחים שעד אין סוף
נשארים במנגינה

Don't pick, my boy,
there are flowers that perish
there are flowers that stay in the
melody forever.

*Al tik'tof, na'ari,
yesh prachim shebnei chalof
yesh prachim she'ad einsof
im hamanginah.*

אל תקטוף נערי
יש פרחים שבני חלוף
יש פרחים שעד אין סוף
עם המנגינה

Have you seen how black it is
there?
It's a field of thorns, my boy,
that was abandoned in summer,
and now it's a plowed field.

*Hara'ita mah hish'chir sham?
S'deh kotzim hu, na'ari,
shehayah azuv bakayitz
ve'achshav hu s'deh charish.*

הראית מה השחיר שם
שדה קוצים הוא נערי
שהיה עוזב בקיץ
ועכשיו הוא שדה חריש

Did you see the whiteness?
My boy, it's a field of weepers,
The tears turned into stone
the stones cried flowers.

*Hara'ita mah haloven?
Na'ari, zeh s'deh bochim,
dim'otav hafchu le'even
avanav bachu p'rachim.*

הראית מה הלבן
נערי זה שדה בוכים
דמעתי הפכו לאבן

אבניו בכו פרחים

Lu Yehi "May it be"

Words and Music: Naomi Shemer (1930-2004) Arr.: Leah Peer

Soloists: Alicia Irigoyen-Pons, Rachel Williams

There is still a white sail on the horizon
Opposite a heavy black cloud
All that we ask for - may it be

*Od yesh mifras lavan ba'ofek
mul anan shachor kaved
Kol shenevakesh Lu Yehi.*

עוד יש מפרש לבן באופק
מול ענן שחור כבד
כל שנבקש לו יהי

And if in the evening windows
The light of the holiday candles flickers
All that we seek - may it be

*Ve'im bachalonot ha'erev
Or nerot hachag ro'ed
Kol shenevakesh Lu Yehi.*

ואם בחלונות הערב
אור נרות החג רועד
כל שנבקש לו יהי

May it be, may it be - Please - may it be
All that we seek - may it be.

*Lu Yehi, Lu Yehi,
Ana, Lu Yehi
Kol shenevakesh Lu Yehi.*

לו יהי, לו יהי
אנא - לו יהי
כל שנבקש לו יהי

What is the sound that I hear
The cry of the shofar and the sound of
drums All that we ask for - may it be

*Ma kol anot ani shomei'a
Kol shofar vekol tupim
Kol shenevakesh Lu Yehi.*

מה קול ענות אני שומע
קול שופר וקול תופים
כל שנבקש לו יהי
לו תישמע בתוך כל אלה
גם תפילה אחת מפי
כל שנבקש לו יהי

If only there can be heard within all this
One prayer from my lips also
All that we seek - may it be

*Lu tishama be-toch kol eileh
Gam tfila achat mipi
Kol shenevakesh Lu Ye-hi.*

לו יהי לו יהי

May it be...

Lu yehi...

לו יהי לו יהי

And if suddenly, rising from the darkness
Over our heads, the light of a star shines
All that we ask for, may it be

*Ve'im pit'om yizrach mei'ofel
Al rosheinu or kochav
Kol shenevakesh Lu Yehi*

ואם פתאום יזרח מאופל
על ראשנו אור כוכב
כל שנבקש לו יהי

Then grant tranquility and also grant
strength To all those we love
All that we seek, may it be.

*Az ten shalva veten gam ko'ach
Lechol eileh shenohav
Kol shenevakesh Lu Yehi.*

אז תן שלווה ותן גם כוח
לכל אלה שנאהב
כל שנבקש לו יהי

May it be...

Lu yehi.....

לו יהי, לו יהי

Anyone Can Sing/ Andrea Ramsey

Text: William Ayot

Anyone can sing. You just open your mouth,
and give shape to a sound. Anyone can sing.
What is harder, is to proclaim the soul,
to initiate a wild and necessary deepening:
to give the voice broad, sonorous wings
of solitude, grief, and celebration,
to fill the body with the echoes of voices
lost long ago to bravery, and silence,
to prise the reluctant heart wide open,
to witness defeat, to suffer contempt,
to shrink, lose face, go down in ignominy,
to retreat to the last dark hiding-place
where the tattered remnants of your pride
still gather themselves around your nakedness,
to know these rags as your only protection
and yet still open – to face the possibility
that your innermost core may hold nothing at all,
and to sing from that – to fill the void
with every hurt, every harm, every hard-won joy
that staves off death yet honours its coming,
to sing both full and utterly empty,
alone and conjoined, exiled and at home,
to sing what people feel most keenly
yet never acknowledge until you sing it.
Anyone can sing. Yes. Anyone can sing.

The Valley Awakens/ David Wohl

Text: Joanna Chen

The valley awakens to a new day
Etz cha-yim.... (tree of life)
Our hearts open to a new way
Etz cha-yim hi (she is the tree of life)
Behold the terebinth
Her branches weave and grow
Etz cha-yim hi la-ma-cha-zi-kim bah (She is the tree of life to them that hold fast to her)
Her roots delve deep in the earth below
V'tom-che-ha m'u-shar (And her supporters are happy)
Holding the earth together as one
D'ra-che-ha dar-chei no-am (her paths are pleasant)
Ve'chol n'ti-vo-te-ha sha-lom (And all of her ways are peaceful)
Holding the earth together as one
B'ya-chad, lo l'vad (Together, not alone)
B'ya-chad, yad b'yad (Together, hand in hand in hand)
B'ya-chad we belong
The valley awakens to a new day
Together we are strong

Oseh Shalom "Maker of Peace"/ Nili Abrahamsson

Text: Liturgy

May the Maker of Peace in His high
heavens make peace upon us and
upon all Israel.

*Oseh shalom bi-m'romav, hu
ya'aseh shalom alenu v'al kol
Yisrael.*

עשה שלום במרומו הוא יעשה שלום
עלינו ועל כל-ישראל

