

A SONG FOR TISHREI ❧ SHIR TISHREI ❧ שיר תשרי

A Song for Tishrei (lyrics Rachel Shapira, melody Dany Amihud) is one of the most beautiful modern Hebrew songs inspired by the month of Tishrei. In a subtle and moving way, the song expresses the general mood that comes over Israel as Rosh Hashanah approaches. Changes in nature, the behavior of teachers, and newspaper headlines - all reflect the changing seasons and the new year that is just beginning.

For Shapira, a secular kibbutznik of the 1950s, those who are preparing for the more religious and ceremonial side of the “Days of Awe” are her neighbors – presumably Orthodox or traditional believers. In *A Song for Tishrei*, the religious dimension of this time of year exists in a separate bubble, removed from the general preparations of creation – just as religious and secular existence in Israel were separated by a clear, dichotomous line until a few decades ago.

In our days, over 55 of progressive communities and egalitarian gatherings are already preparing for the 'Days of Awe' across Israel. Those gatherings will blend together modern Hebrew poetry with the ancient melodies and prayers. ***A Song for Tishrei will be sung alongside Kol Nidrei.*** Preparations for the Days of Awe are no longer the sole concern of the neighbors.

For the third year running, a Reform service will be held alongside an Orthodox one in Kibbutz Shefayim – Rachel Shapira’s own kibbutz.

The skies are changing
Before the farmers’ eyes.
The neighbors are preparing
For the High Holidays.

Someone is thinking of you
And listing your deeds.
Come home quickly
With the cool breeze.

Mandarins are ripening
In due time.
The teachers are coughing
And going early to bed.

I’ve already seen a wagtail
Or is it just in my mind.
Another heatwave ended yesterday
Just as the kids went back to school.

What shall be and what shall pass
Ask the columnists,
As along the coastal road
The squill flowers are rising.

What’s in the evening news
The headline lets us know?
Come home quickly
With the cool breeze.

Hashamayim mishtanim
Le’einei hachakla’im
Hashchenim mitkonenim
Layamim hanora’im.

Mishehu choshev aleicha
Veroshem et ma’aseicha
Bo habaitah bimheirah
Im haru’ach hakrirah

Mandarinot mavshilot
Bapardes bemo’adan
Hamorot mishta’alot
Veholchot lishon mukdam

Kvar ra’iti nachlieli
Ve’ulai zeh rak nidmeh li
Od chamsin nishbar etmol
Gam hachofesh hagadol

Mah yikreh umah yachlof?
Sho’alim hakatavim
Kshele’orech kvish hachof
Mityatzvim hachatzavim.

Mah be’itonei ha’erev
Mevaseret hakoteret?
Bo habaitah bimheirah
Im haru’ach hakrirah.

YouTube

השמים משתנים
לעיני החקלאים.
השכנים מתכוננים
לימים הנוראים.

מישהו חושב עליך
ורושם את מעשיך.
בוא הביתה במהרה
עם הרוח הקרירה

מנדרינות מבשילות
בפרדס במועדן.
המורות משתעלות
והולכות לישן מקדם.

כבר ראיתי נחליאלי
ואולי זה סתם נדמה לי.
עוד חמסין נשבר אתמול,
גם החפש הגדול.

מה יקרה ומה יחלף-
שואלים הכתבים,
כשלארץ כביש החוף
מתצבים החצבים.

מה בעתוני הערב
מבשרת הפותרת?
בוא הביתה במהרה
עם הרוח הקרירה.