



30 Years Since the Release of Natan Sharansky from Soviet Prison

30 שנה לשחרורו של נתן שרנסקי מהכלא הסובייטי

Every Person Needs An Egypt

Amnon Ribak

Everyone should have some kind of Egypt in their lives,
To find Moses within themselves,
To struggle out, and strive.
To have to fight,
With a hand of might
Or with gritted teeth to seek the light,
To walk through darkness, and survive.

Everyone should have some kind of Egypt in their past:
The dream, the dread,
The bond, the hand that they can always trust.
To learn to cast their sore eyes heavenwards -
Every person needs a prayer, one, to know by heart.
Every person should, for once at least, be bowed,
Everyone should have a shoulder, to lean on in the crowd.

Everyone should have some kind of Egypt in their gears,
To go forth, at the mid of night, into the desert of their fears,
Redeem themselves from a house of bondage,
March straight into the sea,
And see the waters part before them, as if by decree.
Everyone should have a shoulder, calm, and firm, and strong,
On which to carry, through the desert, the remains of Joseph's bones.
Everyone once bowed should walk tall and free and proud.

Everyone should have some kind of Egypt cross their ways,
And Jerusalem in their prays,

And a journey, long and hard
To remember in their heart
And with their feet until the end of days.

English translation by Amnon Ribak

כָּל אָדָם צָרִיךְ מִצְרַיִם

אמנון ריבק

כָּל אָדָם צָרִיךְ שְׂתֵהֵיָהּ לוֹ
אִיזוֹ מִצְרַיִם,
לְהִיּוֹת מִלְּשָׁה עֲצָמוֹ מִתּוֹכָהּ
בְּיַד חֲזָקָה,
אוּ בְחֲרִיקַת שָׁנִים.

כָּל אָדָם צָרִיךְ אֵימָה וְחֲשָׁכָה גְדוֹלָה,
וְנִחְמָה, וְהִבְטָחָה, וְהַצְלָה,
שְׂיִדַּע לְשֵׁאת עֵינָיו אֶל הַשָּׁמַיִם.
כָּל אָדָם צָרִיךְ תְּפִלָּה
אֲחַת,
שְׂתֵהֵא שְׁנוּרָה אֲצִלוֹ עַל הַשְּׂפָתַיִם.
אָדָם צָרִיךְ פֶּעַם אֲחַת לְהִתְכַּוֵּף -
כָּל אָדָם צָרִיךְ כְּתֵף.

כָּל אָדָם צָרִיךְ שְׂתֵהֵיָהּ לוֹ
אִיזוֹ מִצְרַיִם,
לְגָאֵל עֲצָמוֹ מִמְּנָה מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים,
לְצֵאת בְּחֲצֵי הַלַּיִל אֶל מִדְּבַר הַפְּתוּדִים,
לְצַעַד הַיָּשָׁר אֶל תּוֹךְ הַיָּם,
לְרֵאוֹתָם נִפְתָּחִים מִפְּנֵי לְצִדְדִים.
כָּל אָדָם צָרִיךְ כְּתֵף,
לְשֵׁאת עָלֶיהָ אֶת עֲצָמוֹת יוֹסֵף,
כָּל אָדָם צָרִיךְ לְהִזְדַּקֵּף.

כָּל אָדָם צָרִיךְ שְׂתֵהֵיָהּ לוֹ
אִיזוֹ מִצְרַיִם.

וִירוּשָׁלַיִם,
וּמִסַּע אַרוֹךְ אֶחָד,
לְזַכֵּר אוֹתוֹ לְעַד
בְּכַפּוֹת הַרְגָלִים.

