

TO ALWAYS REMEMBER

Poems by Ya'akov Barzilai set to music by Sharon Farber

1. TO ALWAYS REMEMBER

That night when sleep deserted me
I fell into the pit of memories.
I shut my eyes
And, as then, I saw it all,
I saw my father marching the trail
Marching slowly towards the gate of hell.

I saw a cart loaded with bodies
A large pile of mothers and fathers
Pulled by two exhausted horses
Horses bearing the image of human beings
That will disappear completely at the end of the round,
When they, too, will be cast to the top of the pyramid.

That day, at the age of ten, I became a man
When I first recited the prayer of Kaddish.

That night when sleep deserted me
I fell into the pit of memories.
I heard my mother cry, uttering no sound
I saw her weeping, shedding no tears,
Only my sister knew crying was forbidden
And her salty tears
Fertilized a cursed land
That had devoured my father.

That day, at the age of ten, I became a man
When I first recited the prayer of Kaddish.

That night when sleep deserted me
I fell into the pit of memories.
I saw the sun set at midday
Covering its face with a black cloud
The stars retreated out of space
The moon, too, moved to another planet
At that time all Heavenly lights went off
And Earth rested in complete obscurity.

That night when sleep deserted me
I fell into the pit of memories.
I shut my eyes
And, as then, I saw it all,
I saw my father marching the trail
Marching slowly towards the gate of hell.

From Hebrew: Elisheva Gal

2. *ALSO THE ASHES*

My father's life passed like a night train that does not stop at every station.
But also the ashes flowing in the river were once a father.

From Hebrew: Rami Bar-Niv

3. *I TURNED A LEAF*

I left behind
Rail tracks
Hundreds of kilometers long.

I left behind
Gates
Blocked by the history of the twentieth century.

And also my good father
At ten degrees below zero
I left behind.

And I turned a leaf.

From Hebrew: Elisheva Gal