

"Bitterly She Weeps In the Night" Voices of Exiles and Refugees, Past and Present

Source Sheet by Rabbi Lauren Grabelle Herrmann

Lamentations 1:2-5

(2) Bitterly she weeps in the night, Her cheek wet with tears. There is none to comfort her of all her friends. All her allies have betrayed her; They have become her foes. (3) Judah has gone into exile Because of misery and harsh oppression; When she settled among the nations, She found no rest; All her pursuers overtook her In the narrow places. (4) Zion's roads are in mourning, empty of festival pilgrims; all her gates are deserted. Her priests sigh, Her maidens are unhappy— She is utterly disconsolate! (5) Her enemies are now the masters, Her foes are at ease, because the LORD has afflicted her for her transgressions; her infants have gone into captivity before the

איכה א' ב' -ה'

(ב) בָּכוּ תִבְכֶּה בַּלַּיְלָה וְדִמְעָתֶהָ
עַל לְחִיָּה אֵינֶלָּה מִנַּחֵם
מִכָּל־אֲהַבְיָהָ כָּל־רֵעֵיהָ בָּגְדוּ בָּהּ
הָיוּ לָהּ לְאִיבִים: (ס) (ג) גָּלְתָה
יְהוּדָה מֵעֲנִי וּמֵרַב עֲבֹדָה הִיא
יָשְׁבָה בַּגּוֹיִם לֹא מִצָּאָה מְנוּחַ
כָּל־רֹדְפֶיהָ הִשְׁיִגוּהָ בֵּין
הַמְצָרִים: (ס) (ד) דַּרְכֵי צִיּוֹן
אַבְלוֹת מִבְּלִי בָּאֵי מוֹעֵד
כָּל־שַׁעְרֶיהָ שׁוּמְמִין כַּהֲנֵיהָ
נִאֲנָחִים בְּתוֹלְתֶיהָ נוֹגָוֹת וְהִיא
מֵרֶלָּה: (ס) (ה) הָיוּ צָרִיהָ
לְרֹאשׁ אִיבֶיהָ שָׁלוֹן כִּי־הִ' הוֹגָה
עַל רַב־פְּשָׁעֶיהָ עוֹלָלֶיהָ הִלְכוּ
שָׁבִי לְפָנַי־צָר: (ס)

enemy.

"He (my son) didn't know where he was going, so he was looking at me like, 'Mom, help me, because I don't know where they're taking me,' Jocelyn, 31, said Wednesday, beginning to sob uncontrollably. "I didn't know what was going to happen to us. I spent the night crying because I wanted James to be protected, and I didn't know what was going to happen to him."

--Jocelyn, a mother seeking asylum after fleeing her native Brazil because of domestic violence.

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/separated-border-mothers-story/story?id=55555232>

Lamentations 2:11

(11) My eyes are spent with tears, My heart is in tumult, My being melts away over the ruin of my poor people, As babes and sucklings languish In the squares of the city.

איכה ב':י"א

(יא) כָּלוּ בַדְמְעוֹת עֵינַי חֲמַרְמָרוּ
מֵעַי נִשְׁפָּךְ לָאָרֶץ כְּבִדִי
עַל־שָׂכָר בַּת־עַמִּי בַעֲטֹף עוֹלָלִי
וַיִּזְקַּךְ בְּרַחֲבוֹת קִרְיָהּ: (ס)

Lamentations 2:18

(18) Their heart cried out to the Lord. O wall of Fair Zion, Shed tears like a torrent Day and night! Give yourself no respite, Your eyes no rest.

איכה ב':י"ח

(יח) צָעַק לָבָם אֶל־אֱדוֹשֵׁם
חֹמַת בַּת־צִיּוֹן הוֹרִידִי כַנְחָל
דְּמָעָה יוֹמָם וְלַיְלָה אֶל־תִּתְּנִי
פּוֹגַת לְךָ אֶל־תִּדְּם בַּת־עֵינֶיךָ:
(ס)

"He didn't recognize me...My joy turned to sadness." --Mirce Alba Lopez, speaking of being reunited with her three year old son.

<https://www.thisinsider.com/immigrant-children-separated-dont-recognize-mothers-2018-7>

Lamentations 3:55-56

(55) I have called on Your name, O LORD, From the depths of the Pit. (56) Hear my plea; Do not shut Your ear To my groan, to my cry!

איכה ג': נ"ה-נ"ו

(נה) קָרָאתִי שְׁמֶךָ ה' מִבּוֹר תְּהַתִּיחַת: (נו) קוֹלִי שְׁמַעַתְּ אֶל-תְּעַלֵּם אֲזַנְךָ לְרוֹחֹתַי לְשׁוֹעַתִּי:

“I am in bad shape because, when I was released, I was told I would be reunited with her (but I have not been yet)...I ask God that soon I will also be reunited with my daughter. I hope to experience this joy soon.” --Mario, in El Paso at a temporary migrant shelter just 10 blocks from where his daughter is living, with other children removed from their parents.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/12/us/trump-migrants-children-border.html>

Lamentations 4:3

(3) Even jackals offer the breast and suckle their young; but my poor people has turned cruel, like ostriches of the desert.

איכה ד': ג'

(ג) גַּם-תַּנִּין [תַּנִּים] תִּלְצוּ שֵׁד הַיְגִיקוּ גִוְרֵיהֶן בַּת-עַמִּי לְאֶכָּזָר כִּי עֲנִים [פִּיעֲנִים] בַּמִּדְבָּר: (ס)

"My soul is broken. We made a huge sacrifice to come here asking for protection and instead of help, they are torturing us..."It's a living hell without my children. My children suffered during the journey. And now they suffer over there (in the US). They don't have liberty."
--Ignacio Villatoro, a father who has taken sanctuary in a church in

Tijuana, Mexico. His wife is being held in a detention center in Texas, an older child in a detention center in California, and three children (13, 6, and 2) in a New York state detention center. The family fled violence in Guatemala.

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/05/us/guatemalan-immigrant-family-separated/index.html>

Lamentations 5:20-21

(20) Why have You forgotten us utterly, Forsaken us for all time? (21) Take us back, O LORD, to Yourself, And let us come back; Renew our days as of old!

איכה ה': כ"א-כ"ב

כ) לָמָּה לָנִצַּחַת תִּשְׁכַּחֲנוּ תַעֲזֹבֵנוּ
לְאַרְדֵּי יָמִים: (כ"א) הַשִּׁיבֵנוּ ה' |
אֵלֵינוּ וְנִשׁוּב [וְנִשׁוּבָה] תִּקְדֵּשׁ
יָמֵינוּ כְּקִדְשׁ:

"I want to thank everyone who made this possible, because for me it seemed impossible at one point...When it's in God's plans, everything is possible." --Rosayra Pablo-Cruz, a mother from Guatemala who was separated from 5 year old and 15 year old sons for two months while the children were staying in New York with a foster family.
<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/new-york/articles/2018-07-13/7-immigrant-children-are-reunited-with-mothers-in-new-york>



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