

Hoyshone! ¹

Translated by Jon Levitow (2014)

Help,
that a person may be embraced by another
and shine with devotion, like a silver hoop.

Help,
that just as a woman long carried the horror
of lonely days in her child-like heart
until in a moment she knew: through her body
streams blossoming a divine resemblance,
and she walks and walks like the early morning through the grass,
goes like the sun and the wind to the home of wonder there,
where one dwells who illuminates her cry,
and she brings testimony how endlessly she is
his - : tender flowers of hot clove,
flowers of clove,
smelling so sweet, intoxicated, and red,
so may the blood pound joyfully in the temples,
like a gift presented to another.

Help,
so that a person may be embraced by another
and shine with devotion, like a silver hoop.

And help, so that those
who coat rope with slippery soap
may come soon to the gallows.

May they perceive in the stock-desolate night
that grips their dream like an iron hoop:
slaughter kosher or slaughter ötreyf,ö
kill with bullets, gas, or beams of light,
but never will the world, like a beautiful beloved,
fall into your arms.

1934.

¹ Aramaic, öHoshana,ö literally öHelp us!ö The phrase occurs in various supplicatory prayers, as well as during the öHakafotö or circular processions on Sukkot, the last day of which is called, öHoshana Raba.ö