

## Twilights

by Yisroel Shtern (1928)

Translated by Etta Blum<sup>1</sup>

Twilights are children discovered behind fences,  
Twilights are the aged who cannot achieve death,  
Twilights are lamps – the wicks already burning.  
Twilights are the eyes of inarticulate madmen,  
Twilights are letters written and torn up;  
something is easing, something perishing...  
Twilights are rings on axed-off fingers:  
blood on gold, gold on blood.  
Twilights are the arms of beautiful beggar girls,  
Twilights are flags in lost battles.  
Twilights are fiddlers, while devils  
snatch the brides from our homes...  
Twilights are windows of abandoned synagogues,  
the panes lamenting in color...

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1. A Treasury of Yiddish Poetry

Edited by Irving Howe and Eliezer Greenberg  
Schocken Books, 1976.

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