

from *Kaddish*

Chavivah Pedayah

translated by Sandra Alcosser

## Chapter 1

1

Night by night shut your eyes

Night by night on the way to you

On electric poles crows lurk in the cold Jerusalem night

They call

Night by night lasting rest

Street lamps disperse cold breath to frost they call

a tearing for the mother

Tear the cloth now

You came to Beer Sheva to die

I returned to Jerusalem to look for you

I came to Jerusalem an exile

And you already buried inside me. I pour from vessel to vessel

Retreat from one to another

Then I come to Jerusalem I come in your place when you are not there

I come to the eternal city which is the mother of us all and in it magnified and  
sanctified be His great name

As the sun shines on the tops of mosques and the spires of churches I find  
you again

The city receives me like a bride

I do not walk in Jerusalem, I am walking you mother

## **Chapter 2**

**2**

**Night by night shut your eyes  
You have shut them with a great sigh  
Your soul went out with a sigh  
A sigh of joy  
And I with my tears on my cheek  
A sigh of joy  
That you return to the mother**

**3**

**Simcha the little girl wants to bring joy  
Simcha a little girl wants to make others happy  
The whole world a mourning mother and the generosity of the little girl  
Happy  
Simcha and happy as her father called her  
Enveloped in a bridal veil**

## **Chapter 5**

**1**

**You go away from me and from now on I shall be  
Your shoes I am your feet but I do not yet know that  
You pour into me the heavy dust the sadness that will now be  
my spirit and my soul**

**3**

**All the stories are streets of Jerusalem  
On David Yellin Street the insulted do not insult  
On Simon the Wise Street there is no comforter  
for tears of the oppressed**

On Jeremiah Street there are only crazy people  
On Rashi Street hungry old people  
In the night you wept into your pillow like an oppressed soul  
For you yourself were plucked like a dead goose

4

Night by night three knights in armor  
Slumber slumber riding toward you  
Slumber slumber riding toward you  
The first knight's name sadness  
The second knight's anguish  
The third knight ingratitude  
Magnified and sanctified from me  
Sanctified and magnified by me

## Chapter 6

1.

A black pomegranate tree gives forth its fragrance  
Night and red pomegranates bleeding

Night by night generosity falls prey  
Night by night kindness dies at the sword  
Night by night the one left  
Slumber slumber forgot your name  
Slumber slumber forgot your name

Night by night the wind grows stronger  
Night by night on the road a tree stands

**Its roots above and in the earth its branches rustle  
Night by night only you waiting**

**3**

**Slumber slumber the road empty  
Slumber slumber the road empty**

**2**

**I knew two things and all the rest was just an intermission  
That your soul came from the Paradise of Eden and will return  
there**

**Thus all the days were in the seas that flow between the Dead  
Sea of many tears and Jericho**

**Thus the pomegranate tree gave forth its fragrance between the Dead Sea  
and Jericho**

**5**

**You are finally solving for me the riddle of the strange song you sang to me  
that always frightened me life is a riddle and death gives the answer**

## **Chapter 8**

**Life is a riddle and death gives the answer**

**The body of skin falls down into the pit**

**The body of light radiant**

**So why is everything black with me**

**Why am I falling here into the pit with you**

**Where you are the light radiant**

**Where I am the skin is screeches**

