

Return Us to Freedom

A Song of Ascents שִׁיר הַמַּעֲלוֹת Shir HaMa'alot

Words: Psalm 126:1-6; Andrew David Susman

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Based on translation by Rachel Adler.

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Music: Traditional & Andrew David Susman **Arrangement:** Andrew David Susman

Album: *The Megiddo Project – Generations*

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Connections: 1980-82 Rabbi Mark Kram - University of Miami, Hillel
Ruth Fredman Cernea, Ph.D. z"l - B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation.

Introduction

(Spoken)

This is a reaching up song – reaching way up high and it comes from deep in our soul.
When God returned us to Zion, from Exile, we thought we were dreaming.
Then our mouth filled with laughter and cheers were on our tongue.
The other nations saw and said, "God has done great things for them."
Adonai has done great things for us. God's returned us to freedom.

(Unspoken)

Oh, like streams, long dry, to the Negev from on high —
Returning, return us again to freedom.
Those who sow in tears will reap in joy for years and years —
Returning, return us again to freedom.
The farmer wants to weep when he buries the precious seed so deep,
but singing he comes back to reap. His arms are filled with grain.
He's madly insane with freedom.
Freedom! Freedom! Returning, return us again to freedom.

— בָּשׁוּב יְהוָה אֶת שִׁיבַת צִיּוֹן הָיִינוּ כְּחֹלְמִים :
אִז יִמְלֵא שְׂחוֹק פִּינוּ וּלְשׁוֹנֵנוּ רִנָּה
אִז יֹאמְרוּ בְּגוֹיִם הַגְּדִיל יְהוָה לַעֲשׂוֹת עִם אֲלֹהֵי
הַגְּדִיל יְהוָה לַעֲשׂוֹת עִמָּנוּ הָיִינוּ שְׂמֵחִים :

— B'shuv Adonai eht shi-vaht Tzi-yone, ha-yinu k'chol-meem
Ahz yee-ma-lei s'chok pi-nu, ul'sho-nei-nu ri-nah
Anz yom-ru va-goyim, hig-deel Adonai la-ah-soht im ei-leh
Hig-deel Adonai la-a-sot i-mah-nu, ha-yi-nu s'mei-cheem

Return us again to freedom. Return us again to freedom.
Return us again, return us again to freedom.

שׁוֹבָה יְהוָה אֶת שְׁבִיתֵנוּ כְּאִפְיָקִים בְּנֶגֶב :
הַזְרָעִים בְּדַמְעָה בְּרִנָּה יִקְצְרוּ :
הַלֹּדֶף יִלְדֵךְ וּבָכָה נִשְׂא מִשֶּׁדֶךְ הַזְרָע
בָּא יָבֵא בְרִנָּה נִשְׂא אֶלְמֹתָיו :

Shu-vah Adonai eht sh'vee-tei-nu kah-ah-fee-keem ba-Negev.
Ha-zor-eem b'dim-ah b'ree-nah yik-tzoh-ru.
Ha-loch yei-lech u-vah-cho, no-sei meh-shech ha-zah-rah,
Bo yah-vo, ya-vo v'ri-nah no-sei ah-loo-moe-tahv.