



# “Sha’avat Ani’im”

Music by Kobi Oz



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Psalm 38

Savior of the poor  
from the powerful  
And the needy  
and the destitute  
from the thief.

The clamor of the poor  
shalt thou hear  
You hearken to their faint cry  
and bring them salvation

תהילים לה

מְצִיל עָנִי  
מִחֹזֶק מְמַנּוּ  
וְעָנִי וְאֶבְיוֹן  
מִגּוֹזְלוֹ

שׁוֹעַת עֲנִיִּים  
אֶתָּה תִשְׁמַע  
צַעֲקַת הַדָּל תִּקְשִׁיב  
וְתוֹשִׁיעַ

In the concerts Kobi talks of the powerful message in this Psalm which does not call on the heavens to protect the poor from the rich. It calls on the heavens to protect the poor from those more powerful. The enemy of the poor is not necessarily the rich person, but rather the person willing overpower the other.

In order to emphasize this strong call for social justice, Kobi worked with photographer Ziv Koren and video artist Doron Solomons in creating the video clip. The images, of the poor in Israel, are striking and disturbing.

Does the knowledge that these people are in Israel, and not in your own country, make them any more or less poignant in your eyes?

Do you find that these images spoil or increase your appreciation for the song?

Kobi also points out the notion that one cannot bring salvation to those whose cry we do not hear. The listening must first happen in order to offer appropriate help.

Can you imagine this forceful cry for social justice resonating in your synagogue experience? Do you feel that prayer and social action ought to be kept separate, or does one feed the other?