



Nikbat HaShiloach

Words and music by Kobi Oz

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On my way to the Nikbat HaShiloach
Want to immerse myself in the living waters
I'm breathing air from the days of the Kings
Crawl along your tunnel to the Nikbat haShiloach
Soon I'll take off my clothes
Waters are furious, sparkling, mischievous

Crawling in your tunnels, Jerusalem
Gurgling below, struggles above
Battling for land and polluting the water
Perhaps my soul will find rest
Here in your tunnels Jerusalem
Maybe I will burst forth
and find the Kingdom?
How much of this is megalomania?
How much is anthropology?
How much is guilt?
How much because my world is unclean?

Her lips on the way to the light
Touching, I am drunk with cold
When I come out
Will I be pure?
Will I have emerged a king or mule?

Get out and towel off the water
Where did I put my spectacles?
Feel like myself, thank God
A crown did not await me, nor donkeys
My body full of strange sensations
Not entirely pure and not a savior
How much of this is megalomania?
How much of this is anthropology?
How much is guilt?
How much because my world is unclean?

Her lips face the light
Touched, I am drunk with cold
Here, I'm outside
Not very pure
I have a feeling I might return

1

בְּדֶרֶךְ לְנִקְבַת הַשִּׁלּוּחַ
רוֹצֵה לְטָבֵל בְּמֵי חַיִּים
נוֹשֵׁם אוֹר מֵימֵי הַמְּלָכִים
זוֹחַל בְּמַחִילוֹתֶיךָ לְנִקְבַת הַשִּׁלּוּחַ
עוֹד מֵעַט אֲסִיר תִּבְגְּדִים
מֵימֵם שׁוֹצְפִים, רוֹשְׁפִים חֲצוּפִים.

2

זוֹחַל בְּמַחִילוֹתֶיךָ יְרוּשָׁלַיִם
לְמַטָּה פְּכָפוֹךְ לְמַעְלָה סְכָסוֹךְ
נִלְחָמִים עַל אֲדָמָה וּמְזֵהֵם אֶת הַמַּיִם
אוֹלֵי נַפְשֵׁי תִמְצָא מְנוּחָה
כָּאֵן בְּמַחִילוֹתֶיךָ יְרוּשָׁלַיִם
אוֹלֵי אֲנִי אֲגִיחַ וְאֲמַצָּא מְלוּכָה
כַּמָּה מְזֵה מְגִלּוּמְנִיָּה?
כַּמָּה מְזֵה אֲנִטְרוֹפּוֹלוֹגִיָּה?
כַּמָּה מְזֵה רִגְשֵׁי אֲשָׁמָה?
כַּמָּה מְזֵה כִּי הָעוֹלָם שְׁלִי מְלַכְלֵךְ?

3

שְׁפִתֶיהָ בְּדֶרֶךְ אֶל הָאוֹר
נוֹגֵעַ אֲנִי שְׁכוֹר מִקּוֹר
כְּשֶׁאֲצֵא בְּחוּץ
הָאֵם אֶהְיֶה טְהוֹר?
הָאֵם יִצְאֵתִי מֶלֶךְ אוֹ חֲמוֹר?

4

יוֹצֵא וּמִנְגֵב אֶת הַמַּיִם
אֵיפֹה שְׁמַתִּי אֶת הַמִּשְׁקָפִים?
מְרַגֵּשׁ כְּמוֹ עֲצָמֵי תוֹדָה לְאֵל
כֶּתֶר לֹא חָפָה לִי וְגַם לֹא אֶתוֹנוֹת
בְּגוּף יֵשׁ לִי תַחֲוִשׁוֹת מְשֻׁנוֹת
לֹא לְגַמְרֵי טְהוֹר וְגַם לֹא גוֹאֵל
כַּמָּה מְזֵה מְגִלּוּמְנִיָּה?
כַּמָּה מְזֵה אֲנִטְרוֹפּוֹלוֹגִיָּה?
כַּמָּה מְזֵה רִגְשֵׁי אֲשָׁמָה?
כַּמָּה מְזֵה כִּי הָעוֹלָם שְׁלִי מְלַכְלֵךְ?

שְׁפִתֶיהָ בְּדֶרֶךְ אֶל הָאוֹר
נוֹגֵעַ אֲנִי שְׁכוֹר מִקּוֹר
הִנֵּה אֲנִי בְּחוּץ
לֹא מְאֹד טְהוֹר
יֵשׁ לִי הַרְגָּשָׁה שְׁעוֹד אֲחֻזֵר.

1. Nikbat HaShiloach is an underground waterway fashioned in the days of the Yehezkiel, that acted as the water source for the ancient city of Jerusalem.
2. The Jewish purification ritual of Mikveh involves naked immersion in natural sourced water.
3. The Hebrew for 'burst forth' is a play on the word Gichon – the name of the river that feeds Nikbat HaShiloach.
4. The song plays with the fear of the Jerusalem Syndrome. This is a medically recognized syndrome, where visitors to Jerusalem suddenly are convinced they are Jesus, or King David, or some other historical hero.

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- Are there any places in the world that you feel have an intrinsic power, holiness, specialness?
 - Have you ever visited a place that left you transformed in any way?
 - Have you ever visited anywhere in Israel with a similar concerned expectation of self-transformation?

Kobi Oz undergoes a powerful experience in the waters, yet in the end he emerges more or less unchanged.

- Is this similar or different to your feeling on leaving Israel?

Kobi Oz considers four motivating factors for why he visits Nikbat HaShiloach. Meglomania, Anthropology, Guilt, and a feeling that his life is dirty.

- What reason might you offer yourself for visiting Jerusalem?