



# 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  
מֵימִים שׁוֹצְפִים, רוֹשְׁפִים חֲצוּפִים.

2

זוֹחַל בְּמַחִילוֹתֶיךָ יְרוּשָׁלַיִם  
לְמִטָּה פְּכֻפּוֹךְ לְמַעֲלָה סְכָסוֹךְ  
נִלְחָמִים עַל אֲדָמָה וּמְזֵהֵמִים אֶת הַמַּיִם  
אוֹלֵי נַפְשֵׁי תִמְצָא מְנוּחָה  
כָּאֵן בְּמַחִילוֹתֶיךָ יְרוּשָׁלַיִם  
אוֹלֵי אֲנִי אֲגִיחַ וְאֲמַצָּא מְלוּכָה  
כַּמָּה מְזֵה מְגֻלּוֹמָנִיָּה?  
כַּמָּה מְזֵה אֲנִטְרוֹפּוֹלוֹגִיָּה?  
כַּמָּה מְזֵה רִגְשֵׁי אֲשָׁמָה?  
כַּמָּה מְזֵה כִּי הָעוֹלָם שְׁלִי מְלַכְלֵךְ?

3

שְׁפִתֶיהָ בְּדֶרֶךְ אֶל הָאוֹר  
נוֹגַע אֲנִי שְׁכוֹר מִקּוֹר  
כְּשֶׁאֲצֵא בְּחוּץ  
הָאֵם אֶהְיֶה טְהוֹר?  
הָאֵם יֵצְאֵתִי 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 מְגֻלּוֹמָנִיָּה?  
כַּמָּה מְזֵה אֲנִטְרוֹפּוֹלוֹגִיָּה?  
כַּמָּה מְזֵה רִגְשֵׁי אֲשָׁמָה?  
כַּמָּה מְזֵה כִּי הָעוֹלָם שְׁלִי מְלַכְלֵךְ?

שְׁפִתֶיהָ בְּדֶרֶךְ אֶל הָאוֹר  
נוֹגַע 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?