

MILLIONS

Music and lyrics by ETI ANKRI



BACKGROUND

Eti Ankri came to fame as both an actress and singer-songwriter, bringing out her first hit album "See Into Your Eyes" in 1990. She has since won best female artist twice, and her album "Yam" won the AKUM prize for best album of the year 2001 (the same year she completed three years starring in a popular drama series, "Shabbatot v'Chaggim"). Over time her life and work has tended to lean into her relationship

with her Judaism, as her songs have aimed more towards the heavens than the earth, and as she performs live less and less in front of men. This song emerged in between these two creative periods, in 2004. Over the years it became more and more significant in Israeli society. It was seen as a precursor to the Social Justice protests of 2011, and has now been re-discovered in the light of the 2020 Balfour Protests.

I know that money isn't important
I know that if it goes it may come back one day
I know that you know that I know
that to think about it is just a waste
Of time that passes by even without us it moves on
I know that you know that I know
that I don't know anything
But someone stomped on me today
and I haven't been able to get up.

I know that you know that
I made good money this month
But they still came
to reclaim the stuff at my apartment.

Ani yoda'at shehakesef lo chashuv
Ani yoda'at im halach ulay yom echad yashuv
Ani yoda'at she'ata yode'a she'ani yoda'at
Shelachshov al zeh stam bizbuz
Shel zman she'over aleynu gam biladeynu hu yazuz
Ani yoda'at she'ata yode'a she'ani yoda'at
She'ani lo yoda'at klum
Aval mishehu darach alay
V'ani lo y'chola lakum.

Ani yoda'at she'ata yode'a
Histakarti hachodesh lo ra
Ub'chol zot hem higi'u
L'hotzi l'fo'al etzli badirah

אני יודעת שהקסף לא חשוב
אני יודעת אם הלקי אולי יום אחד ישוב
אני יודעת שאתה יודע שאני יודעת
שלהשב עליו זה סתם בזבז
של זמן שעובר עלינו גם בלעדיו הוא יזוז
אני יודעת שאתה יודע שאני יודעת
שאני לא יודעת כלום
אבל מישהו היום דרך עלי
ואני לא יכולה לקום

אני יודעת שאתה יודע -
השתכרתי החדש לא רע
ובכל זאת הם הגיעו
להוציא לפועל אצלי בדירה



Took my TV and the cupboard,
and emptied the drawers
I know that it's not right and I have no proof
I tried to tell them that the taxes are just crazy
And they told me that they're not stealing,
they're taking with permission.

I know that you know that I know
that I don't know anything.
But ever since it happened,
I've not been able to get up.

And there are millions like me
wandering the streets
There are millions like me
in all shapes and sizes
There are millions like me
mortal folk
With no money
not worth a dime.

I know that health is more important
than money loads more.
And about love well there's no question
you must never give up on it
I know that there are debts
that roll round about us in the universe
And if today I fell
could be tomorrow I'll be up again
I know that you know that I know
that I don't know anything.
But someone stomped on me today
and I haven't been able to get up.

*Lakchu t'televezia t'aron et ham'gira
Shafchu et ma she'ein b'tocha
Ani yoda'at shezeh lo tzodek V'eyn li hochacha
Nisiti l'hagid shehamisim horgim kol higayon
V'hem amru li shehem lo gonvim
Hem lokchim b'rishayon*

*Ani yoda'at she'ata yode'a she'ani yoda'at
She'ani lo yoda'at klum
Aval eych shezeh kara li
Lo yacholti lakum*

*V'yesh kamoni millionim
Mitgalg'lim bar'chovot
Yesh kamoni millionim
B'chol miney tzurot
Yesh kamoni millionim
Anashim b'ney tmuta
Bli kesef
Lo shavim pruta*

*Ani yoda'at shehabriyut chashuva
Yoter mikeseef harbeh yoter
V'al ahavah eyn ma l'daber
Asur b'shum panim v'ofen l'vater
Ani yoda'at yesh chovot megilgulim
Mitgalg'lim aleynu bay'kum
Az im hayom nafalti
Ulay machar ani aku.
Ani yoda'at she'ata yode'a she'ani yoda'at
She'ani lo yoda'at klum
Aval mishehu darach alay
V'ani lo y'chola lakum.*

לקחו ת'טלוויזיה ת'ארוון את המגרה
שפכו את מה שאין בתוכה
אני יודעת שזה לא צודק ואין לי הוכחה
נסיתי להגיד שהמסים הורגים כל הגיוון
והם אמרו לי שהם לא גונבים,
הם לוקחים ברשיון

אני יודעת שאתה יודע שאני יודעת
שאני לא יודעת כלום
אבל איך שזה קרה לי
לא יכלתי לקום

יש כמוני מליונים
מתגלגלים ברחובות
יש כמוני מליונים
בכל מיני צורות
יש כמוני מליונים
אנשים בני תמותה
בלי כסף,
לא שום פרוטה

אני יודעת שהבריאות חשובה
יותר מכסף הרבה יותר
ועל אהבה אין מה לדבר
אסור בשום פנים ואופן לוותר
אני יודעת יש חובות מגלגולים
מתגלגלים עלינו ביקום
אז אם היום נפלתי
אולי מחר אני אקום
אני יודעת שאתה יודע שאני יודעת
שאני לא יודעת כלום
אבל מישהו היום דרן עלי
ואני לא יכולה לקום



And there are millions like me
wandering the streets
There are millions like me
in all shapes and sizes
There are millions like me
mortal folk
With no money
not worth a dime.

You remember how Suzanne the manager at the bank
gave me so much love?
Mainly the simplicity enchanted her -
touched her heart.
It didn't take her long to work things out
and change her attitude to me
She understood I had no cash
and just stripped me of my honor.
You know that I know that you know
that I don't know anything
Lord on high,
I could not get up
There are millions like me
wandering the streets
There are millions like me
in all shapes and sizes
There are millions like me
mortal folk
With no money
not worth a dime.
Today it's me, tomorrow it's you
No money - not worth a dime.

*V'esh kamoni millionim
Mitgalg'lim bar'chovot
Yesh kamoni millionim
B'chol miney tzurot
Yesh kamoni millionim
Anashim b'ney tmuta
Bli kesef
Lo shavim prutah*

*Ata zocher et Suzan hab'chira mehabank
Natna li harbeh ahava
B'ikar hapashtut hiksima otah
Nagati l'liba
Zeh lakach la k'tzat zman litpos et ha'inyan
L'shanot et hagisha shela elay
Hi hevina she'eyn li m'zuman
V'hifshita et kvodi me'alay
Ata yode'a she'ani yoda'at she'ata yode'a
She'ani lo yoda'at klum
Mimromey ma'alata
Lo yacholti lakum
Yesh kamoni millionim
Mitgalg'lim bar'chovot
Yesh kamoni millionim
B'chol miney tzurot
Yesh kamoni millionim
Anashim b'ney tmuta
Bli kesef
Lo shavim prutah
Hayom zeh ani, machar zeh ata.
Bli kesef... Lo shavim prutah*

יֵשׁ כַּמוֹנֵי מַלְיוֹנִים
מִתְגַּלְגְּלִים בְּרַחוּבוֹת
יֵשׁ כַּמוֹנֵי מַלְיוֹנִים
בְּכָל מִינֵי צוּרוֹת
יֵשׁ כַּמוֹנֵי מַלְיוֹנִים
אֲנָשִׁים בְּנֵי תַּמוּתָּה,
בְּלִי כֶּסֶף,
לֹא שָׁוִים פְּרוּטָה

אֲתָה זֹכֵר אֶת סוּזַן הַבַּכִּירָה מֵהַבַּנְק
נָתַתָּה לִי הַרְבֵּה אֲהָבָה
בְּעֵקֶר הַפִּשְׁטוּת הַקְּסִימָה אוֹתָה,
נִגַּעְתִּי לְלֵבָה
זֶה לָקַח לָהּ קִצֵּת זְמַן לִתְפֹּס אֶת הָעֵנָן
לְשָׁנוֹת אֶת הַגִּישָׁה שְׁלָהּ אֵלַי
הִיא הִבִּינָה שְׂאִיוֹ לִי מִזְמָן
וְהַפְּשִׁיטָה אֶת כְּבוֹדִי מֵעָלַי
אֲתָה יוֹדֵעַ שְׂאִנִּי יוֹדַעַת שְׂאֲתָה יוֹדֵעַ
שְׂאִנִּי לֹא יוֹדַעַת כְּלוֹם
מִמְרוּמֵי מַעְלָתָה
לֹא יִכְלֹתִי לָקוּם
יֵשׁ כַּמוֹנֵי מַלְיוֹנִים
מִתְגַּלְגְּלִים בְּרַחוּבוֹת
יֵשׁ כַּמוֹנֵי מַלְיוֹנִים
בְּכָל מִינֵי צוּרוֹת
יֵשׁ כַּמוֹנֵי מַלְיוֹנִים,
אֲנָשִׁים בְּנֵי תַּמוּתָּה,
בְּלִי כֶּסֶף,
לֹא שָׁוִים פְּרוּטָה
הַיּוֹם זֶה אֲנִי, מָחָר זֶה אֲתָה.
בְּלִי כֶּסֶף... לֹא שָׁוִים פְּרוּטָה



AND NOW YOU

Michael Sandel recently bemoaned the way in which we tend to correlate wealth with moral superiority. He even suggests that this “tyranny of meritocracy” has led to a humiliating schism in society between the rich (who believe they deserve all they have) and the poor (who must, by the same logic, deserve all they have not). (“The Tyranny of Meritocracy” by Michael Sandel, 2020)

- How do you understand the way the singer interprets the actions of Suzanne, in this context?
- Have you ever found yourself in a situation where someone “stripped you of your honor” because of money?
- What would you say it means, to be stripped of one’s “honor”?

The singer alternates between reminding herself that money is not important, and mourning the fact that money is crucial.

- Are there any situations in which you have found yourself torn between these two seemingly-opposing values?
- (How) have Coronadays affected your perspective on this?

Peter Berger has written extensively on how concepts of “honor” are bound up with how others see us, and that “dignity” is bound up with how we see ourselves.

- To what extent do you find it possible to hold on to your “dignity” without caring for your “honor”, in this sense?

THEMES

- # **Honor**
- # **Humiliation**
- # **Dignity**
- # **The value of money**
- # **The marketization of society**
- # **Solidarity**
- # **Social empathy**