## O How She Sat Alone: A Lamentation\*

Nurit Hirschfeld-Skupinsky, survivor of the slaughter in Kibbutz Nahal Oz

O How She Sat Alone
Nir Oz, full of blood
Sderot, was like a widow
A city stunned, and who is faithful to her?

O How They Sat Alone
In the shelter room
One family, and another,
And another, and another one.

O How They Sat Alone
The many-eyed women at the observation posts
And there was no listening,
And deliverance – none.

O How They Sat Alone
Young women and young men
Hiding in pits and shrubs.
Their dancing halted,
And who will rescue them?

O How They Sat Alone
Captive women and captive men
And sitting there, still:
120 men, women, elders and children.
Crying, they are crying at night
Tears on their cheeks
And there is no one who comforts.

## Notes

\*This Lamentation will appear in Dirshuni: Women's Midrash Vol. 2.

O how she sat alone...full of ...was like a widow — A paraphrase of Lamentations 1:1 "O how she sat alone, the city full of people was like a widow." Nir Oz — A kibbutz in the Gaza envelope on the North West Negev, attacked on October 7, 2023. Sderot - a city in the Negev North East of Gaza, attacked on October 7, 2023. A city stunned And who is faithful to her? — A paraphrase of Isaiah 1:21 "How did she become a whore, the faithful city. Full with justice, righteousness used to rest in her, but now murderers." Crying, they are crying at night, Tears on their cheeks And there is no one who comforts — A paraphrase of Lamentations 1:2 "Crying she will cry at night, her tears on her cheek. No one comforts her of all those who love her..."

```
* קִינָה: אֵיכָה יָשְׁבָּה בָּדָד
```

נורית הירשפלד סקופינסקי, שורדת הטבח בקיבוץ נחל עוז

אֵיכָה יָשְׁבָה בָּדָד

ָנִיר עֹז רַבָּתִי דָּם.

שְׂדֵרוֹת הָיְתָה כְּאַלְמָנָה,

קְרָיָה הֲלוּמָה, וּמִי נֶאֱמָנָהּיִּ

אֵיכָה יָשְׁבָה בָּדָד

בַּמָמֶ״ד

ָמִשְׁפָּחָה, וְעוֹד אַחַת,

ָןעוֹד, וְעוֹד אַחַת.

אֵיכָה יָשְׁבוּ בָּדָד

תַּצְפִּיתָנִיּוֹת רַבָּתִי עַיִן,

ָוְלֹא הָיְתָה הַקְשָׁבָּה,

ָוישׁוּעָה – אָיִן.

אֵיכָה יָשְׁבוּ בַּדָד

אָעִירוֹת וּצְעִירִים

בְּמִסְתּוֹרֵי שׁוֹחוֹת וְשִּׁיחִים.

ָפֶּסְקוּ רָקוּדֵיהֶם,

וּמִי יְחַלְּצֵםיִּ

אֵיכָה יָשְׁבוּ בַּדָד

חֲטוּפוֹת וַחֲטוּפִים,

ּ וַעֲדַיִן יוֹשְׁבִים

120 גְּבָרִים, נָשִׁים, קְשִׁישִׁים וִילָדִים.

בָּכוֹ בּוֹכִים בַּלַיְלָה,

דְּמָעוֹת עַל לְחָיֵיהֶם,

## Lamentation for a Beloved Land\*

Leora Eilon, survivor of the slaughter in Kibbutz Kfar Azza

O How your dwellings have been turned into ruins, Your people become exiles in their own land? O Betrayed land, your sons betrayed you, They put their desires before all else, They sealed your fate with their very tongues, They abandoned you in their hearts, lost in their ways.

O How your Kibbutzim were destroyed, cities made desolate, Your people dead, your fields wasting away. Furrows ravaged, become fields of horror, All eyes devastated, dried out of tears.

Your sons, daughters butchered undefended, Fair maidens hauled into captivity. And the plotters standing before them Whispering, rustling, and the land was silent

Woe unto you, you cowards, Sitting carelessly in your cushioned chairs, Entrusted with the lives of beloved captives While mothers and fathers are wrapped in their grief.

We will yet return and rebuild you, the soil of our homeland We will yet return and sing in your fields a joyous song Your sons will yet return to love and forgive Your daughters will yet return to complete the thankful song For neighbors and fellows who had become our enemies, When our eyes will see peace between us.

And we will cast a prayer together for borders of tranquility, For becoming good neighbors, for leaders with humility That we will respect each other, brothers and sisters When you will sprout again, O land, grain and wheat.

<sup>\*</sup>This Lamentation will appear in 'Dirshuni: Women's Midrash', Vol. 2.

## \*קינָה לְאֶרֶץ אֲהוּבָה

ליאורה אילון, שורדת הטבח בקיבוץ כפר עזה

אֵיכָה הָפְּכוּ מִשְׁכְּנוֹתַיִּךְ לְעְיֵּי חֲרָבוֹת, אָנָשַׁיִךְ לְגוֹלִים בְּאַרְצָם? הוֹי אֶרֶץ נִבְגֶּדֶת, בָּגְדוּ כָּךְ בְּנַיִךְ, שָׁמוּ מַאֲוַיֵּיהֶם בְּרֹאשׁ מַעְיָנָם, חָרְצוּ גוֹרָלֵךְ בְּמוֹ לְשׁוֹנָם, עָזָבוּךְ בְּלִכָּם, תּוֹעִים בְּדַרְכָּם.

אֵיכָה חָרְבוּ קְבּוּצֵיִךְ, עָרִים שָׁמֵמוּ, אָנָשַׁיִךְ מֵתִים, שְׁדוֹתַיִּךְ נָשַׁמּוּ. נִירִים רֻּטְּשוּ, הָפְּכוּ שְׁדוֹת אֵימָה, עִין כָּל חָרְבָּה, יָבְשָׁה מִדְּמְעָה.

בָּנִיךְ, בְּנוֹתַיִּךְ נִטְבְּחוּ בְּלִי מָגֵן, אֶל שָׁבְיָן הוּבְלוּ עַלְמוֹת חֵן. וְעוֹמְדִים מִנֶּגֶד חוֹרְשֵׁי הַמְּזִמָּה לוֹחֲשִׁים, רוֹחֲשִׁים, וְהָאֶרֶץ דְּמְמָה

אָבוֹי אַתֶּם, מוּגֵי הַלֵּבָב, הַיּוֹשְׁבִים בְּכִסְאוֹתֵיכֶם, עַל עַצְמוֹת הַמּוֹשָׁב, אָמוּנִים עַל חַיֵּי יַקִּירִים חֲטוּפִים עַת אִמָּהוֹת וְאָבוֹת בְּאֶבְלָם עֲטוּפִים.

> עוֹד נָשׁוּב וְנִבְנֵךְ אַדְמַת מוֹלֶדֶת, עוֹד נָשׁוּב וּנְרַנֵּן בִּשְּׁדוֹתִיִךְ שִׁיר מִזְמוֹר עוֹד יָשׁוּבוּ בָּנִיךְ לֶאֱהֹב וְלִסְלֹחַ, עוֹד תָּשֹׁבְנָה בְּנוֹתַיִךְ הַלֵּל לְגְמֹר

עַל שְׁכֵנִים, עַל רֵעִים, שֶׁהָיוּ לְאוֹיְבֵינוּ, פַּאֲשֶׁר תָּחֶזֶינָה עִינֵינוּ, בַּשָּׁלוֹם בֵּינֵינוּ.

וּתְפָּלֶּה נָשֶּׁא יַחַד לְגְבוּלוֹת שֶׁל שַׁלְוָה, לִשְׁכֵנוּת טוֹבָה, לְמַנְהִיגִים עִם עֲנָוָה שָׁנְּכַבֵּד אִישׁ אָחִיו, אִשָּׁה אֲחוֹתָהּ, עַת תַּצְמִיחִי שׁוּב, אֶרֶץ, דָּגָן וְחִטָּה.

<sup>\*</sup> הקינה תופיע בדרשוני: מדרשי-נשים, כרך ג'.