Psalm 126

A song of ascents: When the Lord restores the return to Zion, we will be like dreamers. Our mouths will be filled with laughter, our tongues, with songs of joy. Then shall they say among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them!” The Lord will do great things for us and we shall rejoice. Restore our return O Lord, like streams in the Negev. They who sow in tears shall reap in joy. Though he goes along weeping, carrying the seed-bag, he shall come back with songs of joy, carrying his sheaves.

Hatanika

Naftali Hertz Imber

So long as still within our breasts
The Jewish heart beats true,
So long as still towards the East
To Zion, looks the Jew,
So long our hopes are not yet lost—
Two thousand years we cherished them—
To live in freedom in the land
Of Zion and Jerusalem.

Jerusalem

In the Snow

While velvet covers the town
Like a tallit,
The canopy of clouds
Like a wedding canopy above a bride
Dressed in white.
The wind ascends.

Jerusalem

Is like this snow,
Beautiful at moments,
But muddy for hours and days
When it melts. (Anat Bental)

Hopes:

Ein Yahav

A night drive to Ein Yahav in the Arava Desert,
a drive in the rain. Yes, in the rain
There I met people who grow date palms,
there I saw tamarisk trees and risk trees,
there I saw hope barbed as barbed wire.
And I said to myself: That's true, hope needs to be like barbed wire to keep out despair, hope must be a mine field. (Yehuda Amichai)

Jewish Heart:

My heart is in the east, and I in the uttermost west—
How can I find savour in food? How shall it be sweet to me?
How shall I render my vows and my bonds, while yet Zion lieth beneath the fetter of Edom, and I in Arab chains?
A light thing would it seem to me to leave all the good things of Spain—
Seeing how precious in mine eyes to behold the dust of the desolate sanctuary.
(Yehuda Halevi 1141 CE)

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