

Pour Out Your Love

שִׁפּוֹךְ אֲהָבָתְךָ עַל הַגּוֹיִּים אֲשֶׁר יָדְעוּךָ
וְעַל מַמְלָכוֹת אֲשֶׁר בְּשִׁמְךָ קוֹרְאִים
בְּגִלְלֵי חֲסָדִים שֶׁהֵם עוֹשִׂים עִם יַעֲקֹב
וּמִגְנִים עַל עַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל מִפְּנֵי אוֹכְלֵיהֶם.
יִזְכּוּ לְרֵאוֹת בְּסִכַּת בְּחִירֶיךָ וּלְשִׁמַּת בְּשִׁמְתָּת גּוֹיֶיךָ.

Shefokh ahavat'kha al ha-goyim asher y'da-ukha

V'al mam'lakhot asher b'shim'kha kor'im

Biglal khasadim sheh-hem ossim im Ya'akov

U'meginim al am'kha Yisrael mipnei okhley-hem

Yizku lir'ot b'Sukkat b'khirekha, v'lismo-akh b'sim'khat goyecha.

**Pour out Your love on the nations that know You
And on the kingdoms that call upon Your Name
For the loving-kindness that they perform with Jacob
And their defense of the People of Israel
In the face of those that would devour them.
May they be privileged to see
The Succah of peace spread for Your chosen ones
And rejoice in the joy of Your nations.**

This remarkable passage, which is quoted in the Haggadah entitled **A Different Night**, by Noam Zion and David Dishon, is said to have first appeared in a medieval (1521) Ashkenazi Haggadah from Worms. This inclusion may have been due to the fact that there is known to have been close contact at that time between Jewish and Christian mystics and a sharing of mystical traditions. Other evidence however points to a likely possibility that the text was not composed in Worms in 1521, but rather by Rabbi Hayyim Bloch who claimed to have "discovered" it ca.1963.

Regardless, it is a moving alternative to the understandable, yet tragically vindictive passage in the Haggadah *"Pour out your wrath upon the nations that do not know you..."*.

To understand this text properly, one has to remember that it was written as a cry from the heart of a defenseless, persecuted people who had no means to take revenge on their torturers. To raise their spirits on the joyful Seder evening, they had to put their trust in God, crying out to God that God should take revenge in their stead." (Uri Avneri).

Do consider that we can perhaps replace that bitter paragraph at this time with a call for love.