

עד אנה בכיה בציון

How Long Must Zion Weep¹

translation in rhymed verse

How long must Zion weep, Jerusalem lament?
take pity on Zion, rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

For our sins, the Temple was then devastated,
for our iniquities, the Sanctuary was immolated,
the affected earthlings mourned in desperation,
even the heavenly hosts cried out in lamentation.

How long must Zion weep, Jerusalem lament?
take pity on Zion, rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

The tribes of Jacob also bitterly bellowed,
even from the constellations copious tears flowed,
the banners of Jeshurun, heads hanging down,
the Pleiades and Orion, faces framed in frowns.

How long must Zion weep, Jerusalem lament?
take pity on Zion, rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

The Patriarchs pleaded, but the Lord paid no heed,
the children cried out, the Father did not intercede,
in Heaven, the turtledove's voice rang out clear,
but the Faithful Shepherd did not lend an ear.

How long must Zion weep, Jerusalem lament?
take pity on Zion, rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

The holy descendants were in sackcloth attired,
even the heavenly hosts for sackcloth aspired,
the sun grew dark, the moon fell to blight,
stars and constellations withdrew their light.

How long must Zion weep, Jerusalem lament?

¹ From the Kinos of Tisha b'Av night.

take pity on Zion, rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

First, Aries wept with bitterness utter
when his lambs were led to the slaughter,
the wails of Taurus up Above resounded
when we were all relentlessly hounded.

How long must Zion weep, Jerusalem lament?
take pity on Zion, rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Gemini seemed to be split asunder
as the blood of brothers ran like water,
Cancer nearly tumbled down to earth
when we were prostrated by thirst.

How long must Zion weep, Jerusalem lament?
take pity on Zion, rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

The heavens were by Leo's outcry intimidated
when our shouts were not to Heaven elevated,
maidens were killed, and also young men,
and Virgo's face took on a blackened mien.

How long must Zion weep, Jerusalem lament?
take pity on Zion, rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Libra turned and beseeched with supplication
when death instead of life was a better situation,
Scorpio was clothed in fear and trepidation
when our Creator sent us to sword and deprivation.

How long must Zion weep, Jerusalem lament?
take pity on Zion, rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

They shed torrential waters, tears in a flowing stream,
when the sign of the rainbow was nowhere to be seen,
our heads were by water inundated,
the bucket was full, yet we were dehydrated.

How long must Zion weep, Jerusalem lament?
take pity on Zion, rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

We brought sacrifices, but they were rejected,
Capricorn rued the goat offerings neglected,
as merciful women cooked their own offspring,
Pisces could not endure what it was seeing.

How long must Zion weep, Jerusalem lament?
take pity on Zion, rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

We forgot the Sabbath, wayward were our hearts,
the Almighty chose our righteousness to disregard,
but avenge now Zion with immense retaliation,
illuminate the city with Your bright illumination.