

Ki Telekh

(When You Go)

by Levana Polate (March, 1991)

Ki telekh, ka'asher telekh,
Im elef mayl tirkhak, lo tirkhak.
Hen bedami ata uveyomi,
V'el leyli tavo bakhalomi.

*When you go, when it comes to pass that you go,
Though you journey a thousand miles, you have not
journeyed.
For you are in my blood, and in my day,
And to my night you will come in my dream.*

Ki telekh mikan, ka'asher telekh,
Iti tihiyeh ba'asher eheyeh.
Ki mipitkha okhal umikoskha eshte,
V'el yomi tashkim uveleyli talin.

*When you go from here, when it comes to pass that you
go,
Wherever you are, you will be with me.
Of your bread I will eat, and from your cup will drink;
To my day you will rise, and to my night you will sleep.*

Ki telekh, ka'asher telekh,
El asher telekh, lo telekh.
Ki mikosi tishte umipiti tokhal,
Uveleyli talin, v'el bokri tashkim.

*When you go, when it comes to pass that you go,
Wherever you go, you are not gone.
From my cup you will drink, and of my bread you will
eat,
And in my night you will sleep, and to my morning you
will rise.*

Ki telekh, ka'asher telekh, lo telekh,
Ki mikosi tishte gam shatita,
Umipiti tokhal af akhalta,
Hen m'olam mimeni lo rakhakta,
Et mishkankha khatamta betokhi.

*When you go, when it comes to pass that you go, you are
not gone,
From my cup you will drink, even as you have drunk,
And of my bread you will eat, as you have eaten before,
For you never journeyed from me,
But stamped your dwelling within me.*

Translated by the Poet and David Schonfeld