

34

A kina by Rabbi Yehuda HaLevi (c. 1075–1141), the great poet of Jewish Sepharad, and the author of Sefer HaKuzari, who has signed the stanzas with the letters of his name. It is based on the story brought in the Talmud about the murders committed by Nebuzaradan, the Babylonian official in charge of the actual destroying of the Temple (Kings 11 25:8). The Talmud (Gittin 57b;

יום אֶכְפִּי הַכְּבִדָּתִי, וַיִּכְפְּלוּ עֲוֹנִי
בְּשִׁלְחִי יָד בְּדַם נְבִיא, בַּחֲצַר מִקְדָּשׁ יְהוָה
וְלֹא כִסְתָהּוּ אֲדָמָה, עַד בּוֹא חֶרֶב מִוֶּנִּי
וְלֹא שָׁקֵט עַדִּי הָקֵם, וְגַם הִפְלִיא פְּלִילִיָּה
וַיִּרְבּ בַּבֵּת יְהוּדָה תְּאֵנִיָּה וְאֵנִיָּה:

איכה ב, ה

הִיָּה הוֹלֵךְ וְסוֹעֵר, עַד בּוֹא רֹב טַבָּחִים
וּבָא אֶל מִקְדָּשׁ יְהוָה, וּמָצָא דָּמִים רוֹתָחִים
וַיִּשְׁאֵל לִבְעֹבוֹר זֶה, לִפְנֵי הַזֹּבָחִים
וַיַּעֲנוּהוּ, אֵין זֶה כִּי אִם דַּם הַזֹּבָחִים
גַּם הוּא זֹבַח לַחֲקֹר, מִה זֶה וְעַל מָה הִיָּה:
וְאָמַר לִנְפְשִׁי, זֶה חֲטָאתְךָ וְזֶה פְּרִיָּה:

ישעיה נג, ט

וּבְכָל זֹאת לֹא שָׁקֵט, וְעוֹדוּ כִּים נִגְרָשׁ
וַיִּבְקֹשׁ הַדָּבָר, וַיִּמָּצֵא מִפְּרֹשׁ
כִּי דַם אִישׁ הָאֱלֹהִים, עַל לֹא חֲמַס שִׁרֵּשׁ
וַיֹּאמֶר נְבוּזַרְאֲדָן, וְגַם דָּמוֹ הֵנָּה נִדְרָשׁ
אֶסְפוּ לִי הַכֹּהֲנִים, וְהוֹצִיאוֹם מִבֵּית יְהוָה
וְלֹא אֶשְׁקוּט, עַד יִשְׁקוּט דַּם הַנְּבִיא זְכַרְיָה:

דָּקַר יְשׁוּשִׁים לְמֵאוֹת, וּבַחֲוָרִים לְרִבּוֹאוֹת
וַיִּזְרֹד לְטַבַּח כְּהֵנִי יְהוָה צִבְאוֹת
וְתִינוּקוֹת שֶׁל בֵּית רַב, וְעֵינֵי אָבוֹת רוֹאוֹת
וַאֲיֵן שָׁקֵט לְדַם נְבִיא, וַיְהִי לְמוֹפֶת וּלְאוֹת
וַחֲרֹב צָר נֹקְמַת וְהִקְרִיָּה הוֹמָיָה
בְּכָל זֹאת לֹא שָׁב אָפוֹ, וְעוֹד יָדוֹ נְטוּיָה:

34

Sanhedrin 96b) describes the massacre as a retribution for the murder of the Priest Zechariah in the time of King Yeho'ash, two and a half centuries before (Chronicles 11 24:20–22). Commentary for this kina begins on page 544.

יִם The day of my oppression weighed heavily upon me,
and my sins doubled,
as I sent my hand against the life of a prophet in the very courtyard
of God's Temple.

And the earth did not cover it until the arrival of my tormentor's sword,
And it was not silenced until [the blood of the prophet
Zechariah was] avenged, and ghastly acts performed.

He has increased, in Judah's daughter, agony and mourning!

Lam. 2:5

הִיָּה [The blood] continued to seethe until the arrival of the chief
executioner [Nebuzaradan],
who came to God's Sanctuary and discovered the boiling blood.
He inquired about this of the priests offering sacrifices.
They responded that it was nothing more than the blood
of sacrificial animals.

He, too, slaughtered [animals] to further
investigate what this was and why,
and I said to myself, "This is your sin, and this is its fruit!"

וּבְכָל [The blood] was still not silenced but persisted like a storming sea.
The matter was researched, and it was explicitly discovered
that [it was] the blood of a man of God who had done no injustice
but was uprooted.

Is. 53:9

Nebuzaradan said, "Now comes the reckoning for his blood!

Gather the priests unto me, and remove them from God's House.
I will not be silent until silenced is the
blood of the prophet Zechariah!"

דָּקַר He stabbed aged men by the hundreds,
and youths by tens of thousands.

He massacred the priests of the LORD of hosts,
and school children before the eyes of their fathers,

Yet the blood of the prophet was not silent! A sign and a wonder!

The enemy's sword avenging; the entire city in an uproar!
Nonetheless, his wrath did not subside, and
his hand remained outstretched.

הוֹסִיף לְהַרְגַּנּוּ נָשִׁים עִם יוֹנְקֵי שָׂדִים
 וְדָם עוֹלָה בִּינֵיהֶם, כְּדָם יְאֹר מִצְרַיִם
 עַדִּי נָשָׂא נְבוּזַרְאֲדָן עֵינָיו לַשָּׁמַיִם
 וַיֹּאמֶר, הֲאִין דֵּי לְדָם בְּבָנוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַיִם
 הַכֹּלָה אֶתָּה עֹשֶׂה אֶת שְׂאֵרֵי הַשְּׁבִיָּה
 וְאַזְ שֶׁקֶט דָּם נָקִי, וְחֵרֵב נָקָם רוּיָה:

[לָךְ חָטְאנוּ אֱלֹהִים, הָעוֹיְנוּ וְהִרְשָׁעְנוּ
 וְהִרְגָנוּ נְבִיאֶיךָ, וְרָשָׁעְנוּ יְדֵעָנוּ
 יְהִי חֶסֶדְךָ לְנַחֲמָנוּ, כִּי מִשְׁאוֹל שׁוּעָנוּ
 וּמִפְרֵי מַעַלְלֵינוּ, זֶה כְּמָה שֶׁבָּעָנוּ
 רַחֵם לֹא רַחֲמָהּ, הַסּוֹעֶרָה הָעֲנִיָּה
 עֵינֶיהָ לָךְ תִּשָּׂא, וְעֲזָרְתָךְ צוּפִיָּה:]

הוֹסִיף He continued to kill women with nursing infants,
 blood rising among them like the blood of the River Nile,
 until Nebuzaradan lifted his eyes heavenward
 and said, "Is this not enough, the blood of Jerusalem's daughters?
 Will You eradicate completely the remnants of the captivity?"
 Then the innocent blood quieted, and the
 sword of vengeance had its fill.

לָךְ To You, LORD, we sinned, did wrong, transgressed!
 We killed Your prophet and knew we did evil!
 May Your compassion nevertheless console us,
 for we cry out from the grave!
 And from the fruits of our deeds, we have fully suffered.
 Still unpitied is the storm-tossed unfortunate one;
 her eyes, she raises to You, hopeful for Your help!

48

קינה לזכרון הקדושים של חורבן יהודי אירופה
מאת הרב שלמה הלברשטם, האדמו"ר מבובוב

זְכְרוּ נָא וְקוֹנֵנוּ כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, קוֹלְכֶם יִשְׁמַע בְּרָמָה
כִּי הִשְׁמִידָה גֶרְמָנִיָּה אֶת עַמָּנוּ בִּימֵי זַעַם הַמִּלְחָמָה
בְּמִיתוֹת מְשֻׁנוֹת אֲכֹזְרִיּוֹת, בְּרָעַב וּבְצָמָא
אֶל תִּשְׁכַּחוּ בְּכָל הַדּוֹרוֹת, עֲדֵי תִזְכּוּ לִרְאוֹת בִּנְחָמָה
צַעֲקָתָם וּבְכִיֹּתֵיהֶם, צְפוּפִים וּסְגוּרִים בְּקָרוֹנִים
כִּצְאָן לִטְבַּח יוֹבְלוּ לְשִׁרְפָּה בִּבְבָּשׁוֹנִים
קוֹל שׁוֹעַם יִזְכַּר תָּמִיד לִפְנֵי שׁוֹכֵן מְעוֹנִים
בְּקִרְאָם שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל, מִסְרוּ נַפְשָׁם לְאֹדוֹנֵי הָאֲדוֹנִים
רַאשֵׁי יְשִׁיבוֹת וְתַלְמִידֵיהֶם, וְהַמוֹנִי עִמָּךְ שָׁמָּה
הַעֲבִידוֹם בְּעֲנוּיֵים קִשְׁיִם, וְהַרְגוּם בְּיַד רָמָה
דְּמֵי יִלְדִים רַבִּים צוֹעֲקִים אֵלֶיךָ מִן הָאֲדָמָה
נִקֵּם נִקְמַת טוֹף וְנָשִׁים, לֹא תַחֲיֶה כָּל נִשְׁמָה
עַל שִׁרְפַת אֲלֹפֵי מִדְרָשׁוֹת וּבִתֵּי כְּנִסְיוֹת
רַבְבוֹת סִפְרֵי תוֹרָה וְלוּמְדֵיהֶן, נִקְוֵן בְּשִׁאֲיוֹת
שִׁלְחוּ בָאֵשׁ מִקִּדְשֵׁי אֵל, הִצִּיתוּ וְעִינֵינוּ צוֹפִיּוֹת
יִשְׁלַם הַמַּבְעִיר אֶת הַבְּעֵרָה, יִדִּין בְּגוֹיִם מְלֵא גְיוֹת
זַעֲקוּ שָׁמַיִם וָאֲדָמָה עַל אֲלֹפֵי עִירוֹת מְבַצְרֵי תוֹרָה
אֲרֻצוֹת אִירוּפָּה וְקַהֲלוֹתֶיהָ, נוֹחֲלֵי וּמְקִימֵי מִסּוּרָה
צַדִּיקִים זְקֵנִים וְחַסִּידִים, דְּבִקֵּי אֱמוּנָה טְהוֹרָה
מִיּוֹם גָּלִינוּ מֵאֲרָצֵנוּ, לֹא הָיָה כְּזֶה כְּלִיּוֹן נוֹרָא
רַחֵם עַל שְׂאֲרֵיתֵנוּ, הִבְטָנוּ נָא מִשְׁמַיִם
לְמַחְנוֹת הַקְּדוֹשִׁים, פִּי עֶשׂר בְּיוֹצְאֵי מִצְרַיִם
קוֹמֵם בֵּית קִדְשֵׁנוּ, וְנַחֲמֵנוּ בְּכַפְלָיִם
רוֹמְמֵנוּ, וְהַבִּיאֵנוּ לְצִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם.

48

*In Memory of the Martyrs of the European Hurban
by Rabbi Shlomo Halberstam, the Bobover Rebbe*

זְכְרוּ Always remember, and mourn all of Israel,
let your voices be heard on high.
For Germany has destroyed our nation in the furious days of the war,
with cruel and unusual deaths, by hunger and thirst;
do not forget for all generations, until we merit consolation.
צַעֲקָתָם Their shouts and their cries, crowded into cattle cars
like sheep to the slaughter, led to the crematoria.
Let the sound of their pleas forever reverberate
before the One who dwells on high,
as they shouted out "Shema Yisrael" and martyred themselves for the
Master of all Masters.
רַאשֵׁי Revered teachers of Yeshivot and their prize students, and the multitudes
of the nation,
were enslaved, inhumanly tortured, and murdered with no compunction.
The blood of young children cries out to You from the ground;
avenge the infants and the women! Spare no soul among Your enemies.
עַל For the burning of countless houses of study and prayer,
tens of thousands of Torah scrolls and Torah scholars,
we will eulogize with songs of desolation.
They set fire to sanctuaries of God, set the pyres as we looked on.
The arsonists must pay for their arson!
He will pass judgment on the nations so full of corpses.
זַעֲקוּ Cry out, Heaven and Earth, for the thousands of towns,
fortresses of Torah,
each European country and its communities,
observers of our sacred tradition,
for the righteous, the elders, the devout who clung to their pure faith.
From the day we were exiled from our homeland we have not experienced
such catastrophe.
רַחֵם Have mercy on the remnants of our nation. Look down from heaven
upon the holy camps, ten times the number of those
redeemed from Egypt.
Re-establish our Holy Sanctuary, redouble our solace:
Lift us up, and bring us to Zion and Jerusalem.