

A Treblinka Thing (zach)
Happened to us Jews
A world's crash
That could drive you from your senses

I

From Treblinka, that shtetle
I received a note
I tore out my hair
Why? You, of course, would like to know
Because everything that was dear to us went up in flames
And with Sh'ma Yisrael on their lips
They were wasted

II

Ach! Great God

You brought your People
To shame and mockery
And with your mighty arm (yad chazakah)
You handed them over to the Germans
How much longer
To what end will we burn
I am not crying so much over myself
As over your People, your gift to the world
And hear me for one more moment
You will remain without one believer (client)

III

My dear child (kind)
This is because of your heavy sins
To strangers' gods you bent
Therefore, you, to Treblinka I sent

God! My People! Hear me out, all
My People, God's chosen or dearest one (Polish word, Yedinka)
The screaming voices from Uncle Gedaliah
Rise from the Treblinka earth

Poor Brothers
Scream, cry with alarm at the world's chaos
Don't say something awful
That God in his judgement is right-right-right
A People with so much trouble
What good is Yiddishkeit in their sacrifice
Who is better than the Jew?
To Adolf turn with the rifle and the knife!
From another People you will have prideful pleasure (Nachat)
Sickness, pain and fever with chills (Kadachat)
Already in this moment
The Pact between us is forever forever burnt

Ach! Insolent Ones
You do not know that the world is only a dream
And for all your great suffering
You will have a place in the Garden of Eden
All the important people
Will stand on the side
They will dance and jump
Praise you and sing
The only word
That this is the true and promised place

IV

Dear Ancestors
Go to the Treblinka cemetery
And as quickly as a storm wind
Scream and leave immediately
The war has ended
The time for revenge has come
The moment has come
To cool yourself in the enemies' blood
You old Hebrews
Go in the spirit of the Macabees
Sharpen the spears
You ~~are~~ become strong like the giants, mighty giants
The Messiah has come here
With the Treblinka scripture
All listeners in Tallesim
Stand up
It is the Resurrection of the Dead
Take the knives
All of you, small, large and larger
It is already high time
Not to stand on the side
But to be ready and prepared

Israel Hoffer

Composed in 1943, Czestochowa, small ghetto
Completed in Feldafing, Displaced Persons Camp