
Torah Portion: Exodus 1:1–6:1
Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23

Psalm 104:16-17

יִשְׁבְּעוּ עֵצֵי יְהוָה אֲרָזֵי לְבָנוֹן אֲשֶׁר נָטַע:
אֲשֶׁר-שָׂם צַפְרִים יִקְנְנוּ חֲסִידָה בְרוֹשִׁים בֵּיתָה:

The trees of Adonai drink their fill,
The cedars of Lebanon which God has planted,
Where birds build nests:
The stork's house is in the fir trees.

The Israelites Walked

*By Mark Nazimova (b. 1960), adapted
Mishkan HaNefesh Rosh Hashanah, p. 161*

The Israelites walked into the Reed Sea. One foot at a time.
(What were they thinking about as the water rose up their
legs chilling their hearts advancing toward their open mouths?)

We continue to walk here, now. One foot at a time. (On our better days,
forward.)

Alone I cannot reach the far shore without drowning.

Somehow I don't go under. The person to my right holds me
up. Something I cannot see holds him up.

Blessed is the Source of Help so often unexpected. I step forward.
The sea is vast.

Faded Posters

By Alden Solovy

Your posters have faded
In the days
And weeks
And months
You've been captive.
Worn by the elements,
Corners pulling off of billboards,
Rolling at the edges.

Have you, too,
Faded in the dungeons of hell,
In the subterranean darkness?
Have you rolled up
Into yourself
Perhaps never again
To emerge as the one
We knew?

Return to us,
Dear ones,
And we will
Shine the light
Of comfort and healing
Into your hearts
And minds
And bodies.

Return to us,
Dear ones,
And we will
Hold you so close
That your spirits
Will unfold
Like new buds opening,
Like flowers
Fresh with new life.