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In this *kinah*, each stanza begins with the first word of the corresponding verse in *Elkha* chapter 4, and laments the loss of one of the twenty-four *Mishmarot Kelluna*, the priestly families. The *Mishmarot Kelluna* are often mentioned in *piyutim* by *Hakalir*, and modern scholars have even attempted to reconstruct the list of *Mishmarot* based on his *piyutim*. Commentary for this *kinah* begins on page 276.

שיר השירים
ב, א

אֶבְרָה יִשְׁכְּבָה תְּכַלֶּה אֶת הַשָּׁמַר
וְתָמַם לוֹ מַלְכוּת נִשְׁאֵי אֶרֶץ
וְנָעַר מִמֶּנּוּ מַלְכוּתָם בְּתִגְמֵם צִנֹּר אֶרֶץ
נִמְכָּר תְּכַלֶּה תְּכַלֶּה מַלְכוּתָם מִלְּפָנֶיךָ

כֹּה תְּכַלֶּה מִמֶּנּוּ מַלְכוּתָם מִלְּפָנֶיךָ
נִמְכָּר תְּכַלֶּה נִמְכָּר מַלְכוּתָם מִלְּפָנֶיךָ
וְנָעַר מִמֶּנּוּ מַלְכוּתָם מִלְּפָנֶיךָ
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שיר השירים
ב, א

10

How the Rose of Sharon sat alone,
and the song of the Ark bearers, silenced.

The priests, sons of Aaron, were removed from their terms of service,
as the Temple was given away during [the watch of]
those who would rebel [the family of Yehoyariv].

The five books of Moses cried and cried
when the priest and prophet [Zechariah the son of Yehoyada]
was murdered on Yom Kippur,
for which budding priests were slaughtered like sacrificial goats;
and dispersed like birds were the priests of [the watch of] Sepphoris.

The beautiful bride is exiled from her land
because of the sin of failing to tithe and keep the Sabbatical year.
Punished fourfold [plague, sword, famine, captivity],
stripped of her raiment was the watch of Mishata.

The Temple's paths fell silent when its walls were breached,
and when the priestly tunic [with its bells around its hem] was torn;
Cast down, lowered from its mound, and uprooted from its grove
were the priests of [the watch of] Ayata-Lo.

They divided the Torah scholars,
who denied breaking bread with the poor,
and so hungered for bread and thirsted for water,
as the two sacrificial breads [brought on Shavuot]
were no longer offered by [the watch of] Bethlehem.

Departed is that nation's beauty, once covered with silver,
now covered instead by a layer of ash.
Its candles dim, its Menora inverted.
Because they denied bread to the poor,
was [the watch of] Yodfat ensnared.

זָכַרְתָּ זְמַן, אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁמַע הַשָּׁמַיִם
וַעֲמִיתָ עִנּוֹת אָמֵן לֹא אָבוּ
לַעֲנֶה דְּרוֹשׁ שִׁבְעוּ דְּרוֹשׁ.

וְהִקְצוּ וְהִלָּעְבוּ, בְּהֵנִי עֵינֶיכֶם:

חֲטָא חֲטָאִית, וְאָמַרְתָּ לְאַלְלִי זֶה אֵל
וְהִלָּעְנָה וְהַעֲמִיעָה בְּחוּזֵי אֵל

עֲבוֹר כֵּן הִקְנִיָּה בְּמִרְגָּזֵי אֵל.

וַיֵּצֵא מִמֶּנּוּ אֵל, כִּפְרָא עֲוִיָּאֵל:

טַמְאָתָה הִתְנַפְּתָה תִּבְלָה

וְנִעְלָה רֵב הַחֻבֵּל

וַעֲנֵן אֲבָן רָגְלֵי פְּאֻבֵּל:

וְאֵין מִתְפַּדֵּל, בְּכִתְּנֵי אֲרֻבֵּל:

יָד פָּרֵשׁ אֶר פְּבִית זִבּוּל

כִּי כָלִיתָ חֲסִידֵי פִדּוּר הַמִּבּוּל

כִּסְאוֹ הַשִּׁט לְחֻבֵּל וְנִבּוּל:

וַיֵּצֵא פִכְבֵּל כִּבּוּל, בְּהֵן כִּבּוּל:

כָּל עֲפֹת קוֹנֵנוּ קִינָה

כִּי הִכְעִיסוּ לְאֵל קִנָּא

בְּגוֹי נָבֵל, אוֹתָם קִנָּא:

וְנִדְרָה מִקִּנָּה, מִשְׁמַרְתָּ קִנָּה:

לֹא לְמָרוֹם עֵין אֶפְתָּ

וְכִסָּף עַל חֲרָשׁ חֹפֶת

וּבְחוּזֵק מוֹסֵר הִרְפָּת.

וְנִהְיִים וְנִלָּפְתָּ, בְּהֵן אֶפְתָּ:

מִמָּרוֹם הַשָּׁמַיִם, נִלְאִיתִי טַעוֹן

וְהִכְנֵי בְּעוֹרֵי וּבִשְׁמָעוֹן

וּפְקָדָה עַלִי עוֹזֵן נֹב וְגִבְעוֹן.

וְנִמְצָה מִמֶּנּוּ, מִשְׁמַרְתָּ בֵּית מַעוֹן:

She remembered the time when they proclaimed:

"We will do! We will hear,"

but now refuse to answer "Amen" [to the prophet's rebuke].

They are now sated and stuffed with noxious herbs.

Isolated and mocked were the priests of [the watch of] Eilevu.

She sinned when she said of the idol: "This is my God!"

And she taunted and teased God's visionaries.

Therefore, revenge was taken upon her by those who anger God,

and gone from God's abode was [the watch of] Kefar Uziel.

Her profanity contaminated the land

so that the divine Captain left and ascended.

A cloud of dust at His feet like a mourner;

no longer clothed in priestly garments were the priests of

[the watch of] Arbel.

The enemy stretched his hand against the Temple,
for we deserved extinction no less than the generation of the Flood.

The foe slurred God's throne with obscenities;

bound in chains were the priests of [the watch of] Cabul.

The entire nation expressed lament,

acknowledging that they had angered the zealous God

who took revenge against them using a nation of knaves.

Set to flight from her nest was the watch of Kana.

[Israel] did not look heavenward,

but covered her clay vessels with false walls of silver.

As suffering strengthened, the people weakened;

broken and faint were the priests of [the watch of] Safed.

From on high, He let it be heard that He could tolerate it no longer,

and He struck me with blindness and madness.

He recalled against me the sins of Nob and Gibeon.

Removed from the Temple was the watch of the priests of Beit Ma'on.

נשקדך על עוון, ונבאב

כח שובתי אנוח, מפלי אב

וידמוחתי מל' צפצף במונים ונגב.

ונשאתה עלי קינה, משמורת ישבאב:

סלה כל אפירי, מורי חוריה

ולא נופר לי עקדת מוריה

מרב מרד ומריה.

הצאה ערום ועריה, משמורת מעריה:

על צפי חרשו חרשים, והאריכו מעניתי

והקיקו עלי חרב וחרמית

והרציתי צמאות ותעניתי.

ומצוותי תכנותי לצאה קומתי:

פראשה ואין יד שולח

כי לא האמינה ביה שפם ושולח

והשפחה פרית מלח.

ואין שמו מולח, בראש ממלח:

צדיק חווא ידוה, כי פידו מרת

ועדו ערו עד היסוד ביה, הוערת

ותמור עיז וזמרת, קעים עליה נחרת.

ובקצתי ארץ נורת, משמורת נצרת:

קראתי בפאר לי, ולא קרב

וקננתי בער בערב

ונבכה נר חזולק פבערב.

ורח לא ערב, מאכלה ערב:

ראה כי הסערתני פאמה

פראמה ואמה

ועדתי בפאר לטובת מעידי.

ונעתה מחרנויה, מנודל נחמיה:

שמות ט"ו ב

איכ"ב ח

י The burden of my sins was bound to me painfully, as I was rendered bereft, fatherless.

Silenced from chanting with flute and pipe, they issued forth lamentation, the watch of Jeshbeab.

כ He shattered all my heroes, teachers of Torah, and did not remember the binding of Isaac on Mount Moriah.

Because of their great revolt and rebellion,

He stripped and denuded the watch of Ma'araya.

ג Plowmen plowed across my back, making long furrows.

They unsheathed against me sword and spear; increased my fasts and days of abstinence.

Expelled from the well-designed Temple was [the watch of] Yevanit.

ד Hands spread in prayer, but no hand was extended to help.

They did not heed the prophet who was sent to them daily.

Done were the [Eternal] Salt Covenant and the perfumed sacred oil from the head of [the watch of] Mamlah.

ה The LORD is in the right, for I disobeyed Him.

"Strip her, strip her to her very foundation," and indeed she was stripped. Instead of songs of triumph, digres were inscribed,

and to the ends of the earth was scattered the watch of Nazareth.

Ex. 15:2

ו I called out to my Rock, but He found my voice unpleasant.

I lodged in the brush, in the woods.

Extinguished was the light of the westernmost candle.

The incense was no longer fragrant for [the watch of] Akhala-Arav.

ז Look! I am like a storm-tossed ship,

mourning and moaning!

My people are like sheep led to slaughter.

Expelled from Hanuya was [the watch of] Migdal Nunia.

Lam. 2:5

[the watch of] Hamat-Ariah,