

in our holy fortress. Behold the great Jewish tower, the Sabbath, and such other towers as, Purity of the Family, the Study of the Torah, the Ritual of Circumcision. From these great towers have we fallen. Without safety rails, without protective guards, it is not so strange that the new generation, the children born in the new houses, fell from the roofs so readily. This is a direct result of our digression from the precept "Vo'isoh maakeh l'gagacho", "thou shalt make a battlement for thy roof."

Yes, indeed, we have fallen to great depressions. "M'igromomo l'biroh amikto"; We have fallen from great heights to extreme depths and in the process we have been shattered to bits. And so we may complain to the "Pamaliyo shel maalo lifkod al tzovo morom ba-din." We cry out to the All-Powerful One, "Oholi shudod", our great Torah tents from all lands are ruined, the holy communities of Israel, the tents of Jacob are laid waste. "Maisorei nitoku", The cords that united one Jewish community with the other have been torn asunder. We have no way of reaching many who are hovering between life and death.

What is happening now to those great loyal Jewish communities of Brisk, Lublin, Wilno, Warsaw, Kovno, Frankfort, Lemberg, Prague and many others? Where may we find now their tzadikim, the "nedivai amainu"? "Bonei Yotzouni", "My children are gone away from me." Scattered are they on the seven seas, on the battle fronts in the trenches and in the concentration camps.

Yes, indeed, "Koel beromo nishmah", we may cry out aloud "Oholi shudod", but that cry may result in a boomerang. For it is largely due to our own laxness, our own criminal negligence that our tents have been plundered of their traditional holy contents. We have removed the ancient heritage from our house and have left a veritable vacuum in its stead. "Maisorei nitoku", The Jewish chain to which each generation managed to forge an additional link, thus uniting one generation with the next, has been broken. The Sabbath and the Holidays remain detached from us. An attempt is being made to replace these with strange and foreign rituals, borrowed from other religions. We have defiled our synagogues and homes. Our tables have become unclean with "Tarfes". Where is the religious devotion of our traditional saintly and modest Jewish mothers? A religious vacuum exists in our homes, the atmosphere in them