## **Doubts**

Who doesn't have doubts sometimes? Doubts about whether God exists, doubts about whether our lives have any meaning, doubts whether it is worthwhile to be Jewish, doubts of our place in the world, instead of stifling those doubts it is always better to articulate them, only then can we achieve growth. I came out of the closet as an atheist nine years ago and have suffered for it greatly, both on the personal level and on the job market. If all one can do is cry, then one might as well laugh. Here are some poems / prayers celebrating the irony of my commitment to liberal Judaism.

Let us honor God said the man But I didn't see his plan And mutely I ran

The deep calls to the deep Is God still asleep And the wise shall not weep ְיָהִי כְבוֹד ה' לְעוֹלֶם יֹאַמר הָאָדָם אַךְ מִפִּי הַדָּבָר נֶעֱלֵם וָאֵאָלֵם...

> תְּהוֹם יִקְרָא לַתְּהוֹם אַיֵּה אֱלוֹהַ בַּמָרוֹם וְהַמַּשְכִּיל לֹא יִדֹּם

In the Desert

I have wondered through deserts for too many years My eyes are now dry, no more tears For Kohelet has shown me the right way Man is alive and God did he slay For if he's not dead, we should scratch our heads: For the fate of humans and the fate of animals is the same As one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and humans Have no advantage over the animals; for all is vanity. Thus Kohelet said: Two are better than one Because they have a good reward for their toil For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one Who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; But how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another

תַּעִיתִי בַּמִּדְבַּרוֹת אַרְבַּעִים שַׁנַה גָּרוֹנִי יַבְשֶׁה מִן הַשִּירַה עַד אֲשֶׁר קֹהֶלֶת הִנְחָנִי בְּדֶרֶךְ אֱמֶת ?הָאָדָם חַי וְאֵלִי הוּא מֵת וְאָם אֵינוֹ מֵת עָלֵינוּ לְהִשְׁתּוֹמֵם כִּי מִקְרֵה האַדַם וּמִקְרֵה הַבְּהֵמָה וּמִקְרֵה אֶחָד לָהֶם כָּמוֹת זֶה כָּן מוֹת זֶה וְרוּחַ אֶחֵד לַכִּל וּמוֹתֵר הַבְּהֵמֵה אֵין כִּי הַכֹּל הֶבֵל עַל כֵּן אַמַר קֹהֶלֶת טוֹבִים הָשְׁנַיִם מִן הָאֶחָד אַשֶּׁר יֵשׁ לַהֶּם שַּׂכַר טוֹב בַּעַמַלַם ּכִּי אָם יִפְּלוּ הָאֶחָד יָקִים אֶת חֲבֵרוֹ וְאִלּוּ הָאֶחָד שֶׁיִּפֹּל וְאֵין שֵׁנִי לַהֲקִימוֹ. וְאָם יִשְׁכְּבוּ הַשְּׁנַיִם וְחַם לָהֶם ּוְלָאֶחָד אֵיךְ יֵחַם? וָאָם יִתְקָפוּ הַאֱחַד

Two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

הַשְּׁנַיִם יַעַמְדוֹ נֶגְדּוֹ וְהַחוּט הָמְשֵׁלָּש לֹא בִּמְהֵרָה יִנָּתֵק

## The Soul You Have Given Me...

אֱלֹהֵי הַנְּשָׁמָה שֶׁנָתַתָּ בִּי...

For the fate of Human Beings, כִּי מִקְרֶה הַבְּהַמָּה Ye even the fate of animals ייִמְּלְאוּנִי תִּמָּהוֹן וְחֵימָה Fills me with bewilderment and anger, מִי יֹאמַר לִי Who shall tell me where art thou God of all souls?

God reigns proclaim With lightening and rain Fear you may feign My search, however, has been in vain

He hides on high Lies in the shadows ה' מָלַךְ תָּגֵל הַאִירוּ בְּרָקִיו תַּבֵל רָאִיתָ וְתָחֵל וַאֲנִי חִפַּשְׁתִּיו בְּכָל גָּבוּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וַאָנִי חִפָּשְׁתִּיו בְּכָל גָּבוּל יִשְׂרָאֵל

> יוֹשֵׁב בַּסֶּתֶר, עֶלְיוֹן בַּצֵל, שַׁדִּי יִתְלוֹנֵן