

# Each of Us Has a Name



Zelda

זלדה

Each of us has a name  
given by God  
and given by our parents

לְכָל אִישׁ יֵשׁ שֵׁם  
שֶׁנָּתַן לוֹ אֱלֹהִים  
וְנָתַן לוֹ אָבִיו וְאִמּוֹ

Each of us has a name  
given by our stature and our smile  
and given by what we wear

לְכָל אִישׁ יֵשׁ שֵׁם  
שֶׁנָּתַן לוֹ קוֹמָתוֹ וְאֶפְסוֹ חִיּוֹנוֹ  
וְנָתַן לוֹ הָאָרֶיג

Each of us has a name  
given by the mountains  
and given by our walls

לְכָל אִישׁ יֵשׁ שֵׁם  
שֶׁנָּתַן לוֹ הַהָרִים  
וְנָתַן לוֹ כְּתֻלָיו

Each of us has a name  
given by the stars  
and given by our neighbors

לְכָל אִישׁ יֵשׁ שֵׁם  
שֶׁנָּתַן לוֹ הַמַּזְלוֹת  
וְנָתַן לוֹ שְׂכֵנָיו

Each of us has a name  
given by our sins  
and given by our longing

לְכָל אִישׁ יֵשׁ שֵׁם  
שֶׁנִּתְּנוּ לוֹ חַטָּאִיו  
וְנִתְּנָה לוֹ כְּמִיּהָתוֹ

Each of us has a name  
given by our enemies  
and given by our love

לְכָל אִישׁ יֵשׁ שֵׁם  
שֶׁנִּתְּנוּ לוֹ שׂוֹנְאָיו  
וְנִתְּנָה לוֹ אֶהְבָּתוֹ

Each of us has a name  
given by our celebrations  
and given by our work

לְכָל אִישׁ יֵשׁ שֵׁם  
שֶׁנִּתְּנוּ לוֹ חֲגִיו  
וְנִתְּנָה לוֹ מְלַאכָתוֹ

Each of us has a name  
given by the seasons  
and given by our blindness

לְכָל אִישׁ יֵשׁ שֵׁם  
שֶׁנִּתְּנוּ לוֹ תְּקוּפוֹת הַשָּׁנָה  
וְנִתְּן לוֹ עֵוְרוֹנוֹ

Each of us has a name  
given by the sea  
and given by  
our death.

לְכָל אִישׁ יֵשׁ שֵׁם  
שֶׁנִּתְּן לוֹ הַיָּם  
וְנִתְּן לוֹ  
מִוְתוֹ.

*Translation by Marcia Falk*

---

### **Zelda Mishkowsky (1916–1984)**

*Zelda Mishkowsky, a descendant of the Chabad Lubavitcher rabbinic dynasty, was born in Ukraine and immigrated to Palestine in 1928 at the age of 12. Popularly known by her first name, she was a pious woman who lived most of her life in Jerusalem's very religious neighborhoods. Influenced by religious belief, plant life, Hasidic parables, wildlife, Orthodox practice, and folklore, she remains one of the few poets able to traverse the divide that at times separates religious and secular society in Israel.*