By Daniel Olson and Rabbi Ben Goldberg

DRAFT--DO NOT CIRCULATE

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| אֱלִי צִיּוֹן[[1]](#footnote-1) וְֿעָרֶֽיהָכְּמוֹ תּוֹרָה בַּאֲרוֹנוֹתֶֽיהָוּכְסִפְרָהּ בָּדָד, אֵינוֹ נִקְרַאכָּל־אוֿת בָּהּ רְחוֹקָה מִצְּֿמֵאֶֽיהָ | Wail, O Zion and her cities,As Torah trapped in all of its arks,And like its scroll left alone, unread,Each letter distant from her thirsty ones. |
| עֲלֵי **אֲ**בֵלֵי מִשְׁפַּחְתָּהּ, נִמְנָעִים מִקִּבְרוֹתֶֽיהָוְעַל **בָּ**תֵּי אָבוֹת מֻכִּים, מַעֲבִירִים אֶת־מַחֲלוֹתֶֽיהָ | For the mourners of her families, held back from her graves;And for the stricken nursing homes, spreaders of her diseases |
| עֲלֵי **גְ**דוֹלֵי תוֹרָתָהּ, אָבְֿדָה חָכְמָתָם מִלּוֹמְדֶֽיהָוְעַל **דָ**מָם אֲשֶׁר הֻתַּז בְּֿמֶשֶׁךְ צִנְרוּר אֻשְׁפְּֿזֶֽיהָ | For the great ones of her Torah, their wisdom was lost from her learners;And for their blood that was splattered, during the intubation of her hospitalized ones |
| עֲלֵי **הֶֽ**בֶל תִּינוֹקוֹתֶיהָ, אֲשֶׁר דָּמַם בְּבָתֵּי סְֿפָרֶֽיהָ[[2]](#footnote-2)וְעַל **וְֿ**עָדוֹת אֲשֶׁר חִלְּֿקוּ אֶת־הַנְשָׁמַת מֽֿכוֹנוֹתֶֽיהָ  | For the breath of her babes, which was silenced in her schoolhouses; And for committees that distributed her ventilators |
| עֲלֵי **זִ**קְנֵי קְֿהִלָּתָהּ, נִפְרָדִים מִמְּֿבַקְּרֶֽיהָוְעַל **ח**וֹלִים שֶׁמִּתְפַּלְלִים, שֶׁלֹּא יִצְטָרְֿפוּ לְֿמֵתֶֽיהָ | For the elders of her communities, separated from her ones who visit;And for sick ones who pray that they won’t join her dead |
| [[3]](#footnote-3)עֲלֵי **טְֿ**רָחוֹת הוֹרֶֽיהָ, מְטַפְּֿלִים יוֹמָם בִּילָדֶֽיהָ וְעַל **יֻ**הֲרַת צַרְכָנֶֽיהָ, מְמַהֲרִים אֶת־פְּֿתִיחוֹתֶֽיהָ | For the troubles of her parents who take care of her children all day;And for the arrogance of her consumers, who rush her openings |
| עֲלֵי **כַ**לּוֹת אֲשֶׁר בִּטְּלוּ אֹֽשֶׁר חֲתֻנּוֹתֶֽיהָוְעַל **לֵ**ילוֹת בִּלּוּי בָּעִיר, חֲסֵרִים מִלּוּחוֹתֶֽיהָ | For brides who cancelled weddings, her joys; And for the nights out in the city, missing from her calendars |
| עֲלֵי **מַ**חֲנוֹת סְֿגוּרִים וְֿרֵיקִים, בְּלִי צָהֳלוֹת חֲנִיכֶֽיהָוְעַל **נְֿ**גִיף הַמְזַהֵם, מְֿקוֹר כָּל־צָרוֹתֶֽיהָ | For the closed and empty summer camps, without the revelries of her campers; And for the infecting virus, the source of all these troubles of hers |
| עֲלֵי **שִֹ**נְאַת חִנָּם חַדָּה, אֲשֶׁר מְֿזִיקָה אֶת־מִעוּטֶֽיהָוְעַל **ע**וֹבְֿדִים חִיּוּנִיִּים, מִסְתַּכְּֿנִים בַּעֲבוּר אַבְטָחוֹתֶֽיהָ | For the sharp senseless hatred, that strikes her marginalized ones;And for the essential workers, who endanger themselves for her safety |
| עֲלֵי פֻּטְּֿרֵי **פֹּ**עֲלֶֽיהָ, מְבַקְּֿשֵׁי לְֿחָמֶֽיהָ[[4]](#footnote-4)וְעַל **צִ**יּוּד מָגֵן אִישִׁי, לְֿלֹא הִמָּצֵא בֵּין רוֹפְֿאֶיהָ | For her laid off workers, who hunger for her breads;And for the PPE, not found with her healers |
| עֲלֵי **ק**וֹלוֹת מְֿחָרְֿפֶֽיהָ בְּעֵת רַבּוּ פְֿגָרֶֽֽיהָ,וְעַל **רִ**חוּק חֶבְרָתִי, וּבְדִידוּת אֲנָשֶֽׁיהָ | For the voices of her scorners at the time of her increasing dead bodies;And for social distancing, and the loneliness of her people |
| עֲלֵי **שְׁ**גִיאוֹת בַּבְּֿדִיקוֹת, מַאֲרִיכִים אֶת־יִסּוּרֶֽיהָוְעַל **תְֿ**פִלּוֿת מִנְיָנֶֽיהָ אֲשֶׁר שָׁתְֿקוּ בְּהֵיכָלֶֽיהָ | For the mistakes with the tests; they prolong her suffering;And for the prayers of her minyans, that were silenced in her prayer halls |
| אֱלִי צִיּוֹן[[5]](#footnote-5) וְֿעָרֶֽיהָכְּמוֹ תּוֹרָה בַּאֲרוֹנוֹתֶֽיהָוּכְסִפְרָהּ בָּדָד, אֵינוֹ נִקְרַאכָּל־אוֿת בָּהּ רְחוֹקָה מִצְּֿמֵאֶֽיהָ | Wail, O Zion and her cities,As Torah trapped in all of its arks,And like its scroll left alone, unread,Each letter distant from her thirsty ones. |

1. Possible to change צִיּוֹן to תֵּבֵל or הָאָרֶץ for a more universalistic thrust to the poem [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Shabbat 119a [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. נ׳׳א: עֲלֵי **טְ**רָאמְפְּ הַשַּׁקְרָן הָעֶלְיוֹן, שְׁטוּיוֹתָיו מַטְעִים עַמֶּֽיהָ

(For Trump, the liar in chief, his nonsenses mislead her people;) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Lamentations 1:11 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Possible to change צִיּוֹן to תֵּבֵל or הָאָרֶץ for a more universalistic thrust to the poem [↑](#footnote-ref-5)