

Isaiah 40

Translation by Jewish Publication Society (accessed on Sefaria.com)

1 Comfort, oh comfort My people, Says your God. **2** Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, And declare to her That her term of service is over, That her iniquity is expiated; For she has received at the hand of YHWH Double for all her sins. **3** A voice rings out: "Clear in the desert A road for YHWH! Level in the wilderness A highway for our God! **4** Let every valley be raised, Every hill and mount made low. Let the rugged ground become level And the ridges become a plain. **5** The Presence of YHWH shall appear, And all flesh, as one, shall behold— For YHWH Himself has spoken." **6** A voice rings out: "Proclaim!" Another asks, "What shall I proclaim?" "All flesh is grass, All its goodness like flowers of the field: **7** Grass withers, flowers fade When the breath of YHWH blows on them. Indeed, man is but grass: **8** Grass withers, flowers fade— But the word of our God is always fulfilled!" **9** Ascend a lofty mountain, O herald of joy to Zion; Raise your voice with power, O herald of joy to Jerusalem— Raise it, have no fear; Announce to the cities of Judah: Behold your God! **10** Behold, YHWH GOD comes in might, And His arm wins triumph for Him; See, His reward is with Him, His recompense before Him. **11** Like a shepherd He pastures His flock: He gathers the lambs in His arms And carries them in His bosom; Gently He drives the mother sheep. **12** Who measured the waters with the hollow of His hand, And gauged the skies with a span, And meted earth's dust with a measure, And weighed the mountains with a scale And the hills with a balance? **13** Who has plumbed the mind of YHWH, What man could tell Him His plan? **14** Whom did He consult, and who taught Him, Guided Him in the way of right? Who guided Him in knowledge And showed Him the path of wisdom? **15** The nations are but a drop in a bucket, Reckoned as dust on a balance; The very coastlands He lifts like motes. **16** Lebanon is not fuel enough, Nor its beasts enough for sacrifice. **17** All nations are as naught in His sight; He accounts them as less than nothing. **18** To whom, then, can you liken God, What form compare to Him? **19** The idol? A woodworker shaped it, And a smith overlaid it with gold, Forging links of silver. **20** As a gift, he chooses the mulberry— A wood that does not rot— Then seeks a skillful woodworker To make a firm idol, That will not topple. **21**

א נַחֲמוּ נַחֲמוּ עַמִּי יֹאמֶר אֱלֹהֵיכֶם. **ב** דַּבְּרוּ עַל לֵב יְרוּשָׁלַם וּקְרְאוּ אֵלֶיהָ כִּי מִלְאָה צָבְאָה כִּי נִרְצָה עֹנֶהָ: כִּי לָקַחָהּ מִיַּד יְהוָה כְּפָלִים בְּכָל חֲטָאתֶיהָ. **ג** {ס} קוֹל קוֹרֵא בַּמִּדְבָּר פְּנוּ דֶרֶךְ יְהוָה יִשְׂרוּ בְּעֵרְבָה מִסְלָה לְאֵלֵהֵינוּ. **ד** כָּל גֵּיא יִנְשָׂא וְכָל הַר וְגִבְעָה יִשְׁפְּלוּ וְהָיָה הָעֵקֶב לְמִישׁוֹר וְהִרְכָּסִים לְבִקְעָה. **ה** וְנִגְלָה כְבוֹד יְהוָה וְרָאוּ כָּל בָּשָׂר יַחְדָּו כִּי פִי יְהוָה דָּבַר. {פ}

ו קוֹל אֹמֵר קְרֵא וְאֹמֵר מָה אֶקְרָא כָּל הַבָּשָׂר חֲצִיר וְכָל חֲסֵדוֹ כְּצִיץ הַשָּׂדֶה. **ז** יִבֶּשׂ חֲצִיר נִבֵּל צִיץ כִּי רוּחַ יְהוָה נִשְׁבֶּה בּוֹ אֲכַן חֲצִיר הָעֵם. **ח** יִבֶּשׂ חֲצִיר נִבֵּל צִיץ וְדִבַּר אֱלֹהֵינוּ יִקוּם לְעוֹלָם. {ס} **ט** עַל הַר גְּבָה עָלִי לָךְ, מִבְּשֵׂרֵת צִיּוֹן הִרְיָמִי בְּכַח קוֹלְךָ מִבְּשֵׂרֵת יְרוּשָׁלַם הִרְיָמִי אֶל תִּירָאִי אֹמְרִי לַעֲרֵי יְהוּדָה הִנֵּה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם. **י** הִנֵּה אֲדַבְּרֵי יְהוָה בַּחֲזֶק יְבוּא, וְזָרְעוּ מִשְׁלָה לּוֹ; הִנֵּה שָׂכְרוּ אֶתּוֹ, וּפְעַלְתוּ לַפְּנִיּוֹ. **יא** כָּרְעָה, עֲדְרוּ יְרֵעָה בְּזָרְעוֹ יִקְבֹּץ טְלָאִים, וּבְחִיקוּ יִשָּׂא עֲלוֹת יְנִהֵל. {ס} **יב** מִי מִדֵּד בְּשַׁעֲלוֹ מַיִם וְשָׁמַיִם בְּזָרֵת תִּכְּנֶן וְכָל בְּשִׁלְשׁ עֶפְרָה הָאָרֶץ וְשָׁקֵל בְּפִילֵס הָרִים וְגִבְעוֹת בְּמֵאזְנִים. **יג** מִי תִכְּנֶן אֶת רוּחַ יְהוָה וְאִישׁ עֲצָתוֹ יוֹדִיעֵנוּ. **יד** אֶת-מִי נוֹעֵץ וְיִבְיָנֵהוּ וְיִלְמְדֵהוּ בְּאַרְחַ מִשְׁפָּט וְיִלְמְדֵהוּ דַעַת, וְדֶרֶךְ תְּבוּנוֹת יוֹדִיעֵנוּ. **טו** הֵן גּוֹיִם כִּמֵּר מִדְּלִי, וְכִשְׁחֵק מֵאֲזִנִּים נִחְשְׁבוּ הֵן אֲיִים, כְּדֶק יִטּוֹל. **טז** וְלִבְנוֹן, אֵין דִּי בְּעַר וְחִיתוֹ אֵין דִּי עוֹלָה. {פ}

יז כָּל הַגּוֹיִם כְּאֵין נִגְדוּ; מֵאִפְסֵי וְתֵהוּ נִחְשְׁבוּ לוֹ. **יח** וְאֵל מִי, תִּדְמִיּוֹן אֶל וְמָה דְמוּת, תַּעֲרֹכּוּ לוֹ. **יט** הִפְסֵל נֶסֶךְ חֲרָשׁ וְצִרְפָּי בְּזָהָב יִרְקַעְנוּ; וְרִתְקוֹת כְּסָף צוּרְפָי. **כ** הַמְסִכֵן

Do you not know? Have you not heard? Have you not been told From the very first? Have you not discerned How the earth was founded? **22** It is He who is enthroned above the vault of the earth, So that its inhabitants seem as grasshoppers; Who spread out the skies like gauze, Stretched them out like a tent to dwell in. **23** He brings potentates to naught, Makes rulers of the earth as nothing. **24** Hardly are they planted, Hardly are they sown, Hardly has their stem Taken root in earth, When He blows upon them and they dry up, And the storm bears them off like straw. **24** To whom, then, can you liken Me, To whom can I be compared? —says the Holy One. **25** Lift high your eyes and see: Who created these? He who sends out their host by count, Who calls them each by name: Because of His great might and vast power, Not one fails to appear. **26** Why do you say, O Jacob, Why declare, O Israel, “My way is hid from YHWH, My cause is ignored by my God”? **27** Do you not know? Have you not heard? YHWH is God from of old, Creator of the earth from end to end, He never grows faint or weary, His wisdom cannot be fathomed. **28** He gives strength to the weary, Fresh vigor to the spent. **29** Youths may grow faint and weary, And young men stumble and fall; **30** But they who trust in YHWH shall renew their strength As eagles grow new plumes: They shall run and not grow weary, They shall march and not grow faint.

תְּרוֹמָה עֵץ לֹא יִרְקַב יִבְחַר חֲרָשׁ
חָכֵם יִבְקֹשׁ לוֹ לְהִכִּין פֶּסֶל לֹא יִמוּט.
{ס} כֹּא הָלוֹא יִתְדַעוּ הָלוֹא תִשְׁמְעוּ
הָלוֹא הִגַּד מְרֹאשׁ לָכֵם; הָלוֹא,
הַבְּיוֹנִתִם מוֹסְדוֹת הָאָרֶץ. כִּב הַיֵּשֶׁב
עַל חוּג הָאָרֶץ וַיִּשְׁבִּיָה כַּחֲגָבִים;
הַנוֹטָה כְּדֹק שָׁמַיִם, וַיִּמְתַּחֵם כְּאֵהֶל
לְשִׁבֵת. כִּג הַנוֹתֵן רוֹזְזִים לְאֵין שִׁפְטֵי
אָרֶץ כְּתָהוּ עֲשֵׂה. כֹּד אָף בִּלְנִטְעוּ,
אָף בֵּל זָרְעוּ אָף בִּלְשִׁרֵשׁ בְּאָרֶץ
גִּזְעָם; וְגַם נִשֵּׁף בָּהֶם וַיִּבְשּׁוּ, וַיִּסְעֶרָה
כְּקֶשׁ תִּשְׁאָם. {ס} כֹּה וְאֵל מִי
תִדְמִיּוּנִי וְאִשׁוּה יֹאמֵר קְדוֹשׁ. כּו שְׂאוּ
מְרוֹם עֵינֵיכֶם וּרְאוּ מִי בָרָא אֱלֹהֵי
הַמוֹצִיא בַּמִּסְפָּר צְבָאָם; לְכֹלֵם בְּשֵׁם
יִקְרָא מְרַב אוֹנִים וְאִמִּיץ כֹּחַ אִישׁ לֹא
נִעְדָר. {ס} כֹּז לְמָה תֹאמַר יַעֲקֹב,
וַתִּדְבַר יִשְׂרָאֵל: נִסְתַּרְהָ דַרְכֵי
מִיָּהוָה, וּמֵאֱלֹהֵי מִשְׁפָּטֵי יַעֲבוֹר. כֹּח
הָלוֹא יִדְעֵת אִם לֹא שִׁמְעֵת אֱלֹהֵי
עוֹלָם יְהוָה בּוֹרֵא קְצוֹת הָאָרֶץ לֹא
יִיעַף וְלֹא יִיגַע: אֵין חֶקֶר, לְתַבּוּנָתוֹ.
כֹּט נִתֵּן לְיַעֲף כֹּחַ וְלֹאֵין אוֹנִים עֲצֻמָּה
יִרְבֶּה. ל וַיַּעֲפוּ נַעֲרִים וַיִּגְעוּ וּבַחֲזָרִים
כָּשׁוּל יִכְשְׁלוּ. לֹא וְקוּי יְהוָה יַחֲלִיפוּ
כֹחַ יַעֲלוּ אִבְר כְּנִשְׂרִים יִרוּצוּ וְלֹא
יִיגְעוּ יִלְכוּ וְלֹא יִיעֲפוּ. {ס}

Isaiah 58

Poetic, adapted translation by Rabbi Arthur Waskow, www.theshalomcenter.org

1 Cry out aloud, don't hold back,
Lift up your voice like the shofar!
Tell My people what they are doing wrong,
Tell those who call themselves the "House of Jacob" their
misdeeds.
2 For day after day they go out searching for Me,
They take some kind of pleasure in getting to know My ways —
As if they were a people that actually did righteous deeds
And never ignored the just rulings of their God.

א קְרָא בְּגֵרוֹן אֵל תַּחֲשֹׁךְ
כְּשׁוֹפֵר הָרֵם קוֹלְךָ;
וְהִגַּד לְעַמִּי פְשָׁעָם
וּלְבֵית יַעֲקֹב חַטָּאתָם.
ב וְאוֹתֵי יוֹם יוֹם יִדְרֹשׁוּן
וְדַעַת דַּרְכֵי יַחֲפֹצוּן;
כְּגוֹי אֲשֶׁר צִדְקָה עֲשָׂה,
וּמִשְׁפָּט אֱלֹהִיו לֹא עָזַב,

They keep asking Me for the rules of justice
As if they would take delight in being close to God.

3 They say: “Why is it that we have fasted, and You don’t see our suffering? We press down our egos —- but You don’t pay attention!”

Look! On the very day you fast, you keep scrabbling for wealth;
On the very day you fast, you keep oppressing all your workers.

4 Look! You fast in strife and contention.
You strike with a wicked fist.

You are not fasting today in such a way
As to make your voices heard on high.

5 Is that the kind of fast that I desire?
Is that really a day for people to “press down their egos”?
Am I commanding you to droop your heads like bulrushes
And lie around in sackcloth and ashes?

Is that what you call a fast day,
The kind of day that the God of the Burning Bush would wish?

6 No!
This is the kind of fast that I desire:
Unlock the hand-cuffs put on by wicked power!
Untie the ropes of the yoke!
Let the oppressed go free,
And break off every yoke!
7 Share your bread with the hungry.
Bring the poor, the outcasts, to your home.
When you see them naked, clothe them;
They are your flesh and blood;
Don’t hide yourself from them!

8 Then your light will burst through like the dawn;
Then when you need healing it will spring up quickly;
Then your own righteousness will march ahead to guard you.
And a radiance from YHWH will reach out behind to guard you.
9 Then, when you cry out, YHWH/the Breath of Life will answer;
Then, when you call, God will say: “Here I am!”

If you banish the yoke from your midst,
If you rid yourself of scornful finger-pointing
And words of contempt;

יִשְׁאַלוּנִי מִשְׁפָּטֵי צְדָקָה,
קִרְבַּת אֱלֹהִים יַחְפְּצוּן.

ג לְמָה צָמְנוּ וְלֹא רָאִיתָ,
עֵינֵינוּ נִפְשָׁנוּ וְלֹא תִדְעַ;

הֵן בְּיוֹם צַמְכֶם תִּמְצְאוּ
חֶפֶץ, וְכָל עַצְבֵיכֶם תִּנְגְּשׁוּ.
ד הֵן לְרִיב וּמִצָּה תִצּוּמוּ,
וְלִהְנוֹת בְּאֶגְרֹף רָשָׁע;

לֹא תִצּוּמוּ כִּי־וּם
לְהִשְׁמִיעַ בְּמִרוֹם קוֹלְכֶם.
ה הַהֲכֵזָה יְהִי־הָ צוֹם
אֲבַחְרֶהוּ יוֹם עֲנוֹת אָדָם
נִפְשׁוּ;
הֲלֹכֶף כְּאֶגְמוֹן רָאשׁוּ,
וְשָׁק וְאֶפֶר יִצִיעַ

הֲלִזָּה תִקְרָא צוֹם
וְיוֹם רָצוֹן לַיהוָה.

ו הֲלוֹא
זָה צוֹם אֲבַחְרֶהוּ
פְתַח חֲרָצְבוֹת רָשָׁע,
הִתֵּר אֲגָדוֹת מוֹטָה;
וְשַׁלַּח רְצוּצִים חִפְּשִׁים,
וְכָל מוֹטָה תִנְתַּקוּ.
ז הֲלוֹא פָרַס לְרַעֵב לַחֲמֶךָ,
וְעֵינָיִם מְרוֹדִים תָּבִיא בְּיַת:
כִּי תִרְאֶה עָרֹם וְכִסְיֹתוֹ,
וּמִבְּשָׂרְךָ
לֹא תִתְעַלֵּם.

ח אַז יִבְקַע כְּשֹׁחַר אוֹרְךָ,
וְאַרְכַּתְךָ מֵהֵרָה תִצְמַח;
וְהִלַּךְ לְפָנֶיךָ צְדָקָה,
כְּבוֹד יְהוָה יִאֲסֹפֶךָ.
ט אַז תִּקְרָא וַיְהוָה יַעֲנֶה,
תִּשְׁוַע וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְנִי:

10 If you open up your life-experience to the hungry
And soothe the life that has been trampled under foot,
Then even in darkness your light will shine out
And your moments of gloom turn bright as noonday.
11 Then the InterBreath of Life will always be your guide,
Will soothe your own life in your own times of dryness
And strengthen your bones when they are weary.

Then you shall be like a garden given water,
Like a wellspring whose waters never fail.

12 Those who spring from you shall rebuild the ancient ruins
And you shall lay foundations for the coming generation.
You shall be called “Those who mend torn places,”
You shall be called “Those who build lanes to live in.”

13 If you refrain from trampling My Sabbatical time
And from being busy-busy on My restful day and year;
If you will not only call the time of Pause delightful
But also turn far from your usual way
And set aside your driven-work and chatter
To be yourselves the rays by which God’s Holiness
Can turn this world into a radiant joy —

14 Then indeed you will find delight in YHWH.
For then — when you have joined the lowly —
I will set you all with Me, in the Majesty of Nurture
Astride the heights of Earth.
Then — when you feed others — I will let you eat your fill.
From what is truly due you as the heirs of Jacob.

Now!

For this word comes from the Mouth that Breathes all life.

אם תסיר מתוך מוטה,
שלח אצבע ודבר-און.
י ותפק לרעב נפשך, ונפש
נענה תשביע; וזרח בחשך
אורך, ואפלתך כצהרים.

יא ונחך יהוה, תמיד,
והשביע בצחצחות נפשך,
ועצמתך יחליץ; והיית,
כגן רוה, וכמוצא מים,
אשר לא יכזבו מימיו.
יב ובנו ממך חרבות עולם,
מוסדי דור-ודור תקומם;
וקרא לך גדר פרץ, משבב
נתיבות לשבת.

יג אם-תשיב משבת רגלך,
עשות חפצך ביום קדשי;
וקראת לשבת ענג, לקדוש
יהוה מכבד, וכבדתו
מעשות דרכיך, ממצוא
חפצך ודבר דבר.

יד אז, תתענג על-יהוה,
והרכבתך, על-במותי
(במתי) ארץ;
והאכלתיך, נחלת יעקב
אביך

כי פי יהוה, דבר. {פ}