

## THE EMPTY CHAIR - REMEMBERING THE JEWS IN ETHIOPIA

Fear not, for I am with you.  
I will bring your people from the East  
Will gather you out of the West;  
I will say to the North: Give back!

And to the South, do not withhold:  
Bring My sons from afar and  
My daughters from the ends of the earth  
All who are linked to My name  
Isaiah 43 from verses 5-7

Today, there is an empty seat at the Jewish Seder table  
Awaiting our Ethiopian brothers and sisters who have been left behind.  
For years, they have called out each day "Next year in Jerusalem.  
They sing from the Haggadah each Passover,  
"Bring back your children soon, redeemed to Zion in song.

Instead, they sit in Addis, faithful to the Covenant  
They pray in the Jewish compound of Gondar,  
To return on the wings of eagles to Israel.  
To the homeland of their dreams.

This empty chair reminds us of the indestructible link that exists between us,  
In the words of the Prophets:  
Are you not like the Ethiopians to me, O people of Israel?" declares the Lord.  
We are one. Black and White, Young and Old,

We call on the Government of Israel to welcome all of them home now.  
We shall be their voice, and our voices shall be joined by thousands of Jews of conscience  
aroused by the abandonment they suffer.  
Then shall they know that they have not been forgotten and they that sit in darkness and fear  
shall yet be brought home.

NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM