ציון תמתי (אם אשכחך) 🍁 מנחם מנדל דוליצקי

Zion, My Perfect One (If I Forget You) * Menachem Mendel Dulitzki

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Zion, my perfect one, Zion, my desire צִּיּוֹן תַּמְתִי, צִיּיוֹן חֶמְדָתִי

For you my soul yearns from afar לֶךְ נַפְשִׁי מֵרָחוֹק הוֹמִיָּה

Let my right hand wither if I forget you, my fair one תָּשִׁכַּח יָמִינִי אָם אֶשָׁכָּחֶךְ, יָפָתִי

Before the pit of my grave closes its mouth on me עַד תָּאָטַר בּוֹר קְבָרִי עָלַי פִּיהָ

I will not forget you, Zion, I will not forget you, my perfect one לא אֶשְׁכָּחֵךְ צִיּוֹן לא אֶשְׁכָּחַךְ תַּמָתִי

As long as I live you are my longing and my hope אַהָּ, כֹּל עוֹד אֵחִי, תּוֹחַלְתִי וְשִׂבְרִי

When I forget everything, you will be the remnant of my soul

Zion, you Zion, will mark my grave אַרָּ צִיּוֹן, תָּהִי עָלַי קְבְרִי

Translated by Abigail Denemark with advisory support from Dr. Jonathan Decter

Notes (by line):

- 1. The speaker addresses Zion as his beloved, as in Song of Songs 5:2
- 2. This line echoes the language of Hatikva, which was composed around the same time (Piyut.org)
- 3. Psalms 137:5
- 4. Psalms 69:16