

EFĀGĀHĀMĀ MĀ

LAMENTATIONS

1 ¶ How doth, the city sit solitary, / That was full of people! / How is she become as a widow! / She that was great among the nations, / And princess among the provinces, / How is she become tributary! / ॥ [2] She weepeth sore in the night, / And her tears are on her cheeks; / She hath none to comfort her / Among all her lovers; / All her friends have dealt treacherously with her, / They are become her enemies. / ॥ [3] Judah is gone into exile because of affliction, / And because of great servitude; / She dwelleth among the nations, / She findeth no rest; / All her pursuers overtook her / Within the straits. / ॥ [4] The ways of Zion do mourn, / Because none come to the solemn assembly; / All her gates are desolate, / Her priests sigh; / Her virgins are afflicted, / And she herself is in bitterness. / ॥ [5] Her adversaries are become the head, / Her enemies are at ease; / For the LORD hath afflicted her / For the multitude of her transgressions; / Her young children are gone into captivity / Before the adversary. / ॥ [6] And gone is from the daughter of Zion / All her splendour; / Her princes are become like harts / That find no pasture, / And they are gone without strength / Before the pursuer. / ↑ [7] Jerusalem remembereth / In the days of her affliction and of her anguish / All her treasures that she had / From the days of old; / Now that her people fall by the hand of the adversary, / And none doth help her, / The adversaries have seen her, / They have mocked at her desolations. / ॥ [8] Jerusalem hath grievously sinned, / Therefore she is become as one unclean; / All that honoured her despise her, / Because they have seen her nakedness; / She herself also sightheth, / And turneth backward. / ॥ [9] Her filthiness was in her skirts, / She was not mindful of her end; / Therefore is she come down wonderfully, / She hath no comforter. / ‘Behold, O LORD, my affliction, / For the enemy hath magnified himself.’ / ॥ [10] The adversary hath spread out his hand / Upon all her treasures; / For she hath seen that the heathen / Are entered into her sanctuary, / Concerning whom Thou didst command / That they should not enter

into Thy congregation. / ɔ [11] All her people sigh, / They seek bread; / They have given then pleasant things for food / To refresh the soul. / 'See, O LORD, and behold, / How abject I am become.' / ɔ [12] 'Let it not come unto you, all ye that pass by! / Behold, and see / If there be any pain like unto my pain, / Which is done unto me, / Wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me / In the day of His fierce anger. / ɔ [13] From on high hath He sent fire / Into my bones, and it prevaleth against them; / He hath spread a net for my feet, / He hath turned me back; / He hath made me desolate / And faint all the day. / ɔ [14] The yoke of my transgressions is impressed by His hand; / They are knit together, / They are come up upon my neck; / He hath made my strength to fail; / The Lord hath delivered me into their hands, / Against whom I am not able to stand. / ɔ [15] The Lord hath set at nought / All my mighty men in the midst of me; / He hath called a solemn assembly against me / To crush my young men; / The Lord hath trodden as in a winepress / The virgin daughter of Judah.' / ɔ [16] 'For these things I weep; / Mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water; / Because the comforter is far from me, / Even he that should refresh my soul; / My children are desolate, / Because the enemy hath prevailed.' / ɔ [17] Zion spreadeth forth her hands; / There is none to comfort her; / The LORD hath commanded concerning Jacob, / That they that are round about him should be his adversaries, / Jerusalem is among them / As one unclean. / ɔ [18] 'The LORD is righteous; / For I have rebelled against His word; / Hear, I pray you, all ye peoples, / And behold my pain: / My virgins and my young men / Are gone into captivity. / ɔ [19] I called for my lovers, / But they deceived me; / My priests and mine elders / Perished in the city, / While they sought them food / To refresh their souls. / ɔ [20] Behold, O LORD, for I am in distress, / Mine inwards burn; / My heart is turned within me, / For I have grievously rebelled. / Abroad the sword bereaveth, / At home there is the like of death. / ɔ [21] They have heard that I sigh, / There is none to comfort me; / All mine enemies have heard of my trouble, and are glad, / For Thou hast done it; / Thou wilt bring the day that Thou hast proclaimed, / And they shall be like unto me. / ɔ [22] Let all their wickedness come

before Thee; / And do unto them, / As Thou hast done unto me / For all my transgressions; / For my sighs are many, / And my heart is faint.'

2 ¶ How hath the Lord covered with a cloud / The daughter of Zion in His anger! / He hath cast down from heaven unto the earth / The beauty of Israel, / And hath not remembered His footstool / In the day of His anger. / 2 [2] The Lord hath swallowed up unsparingly / All the habitations of Jacob; / He hath thrown down in His wrath / The strongholds of the daughter of Judah; / He hath brought them down to the ground; / He hath profaned the kingdom and the princes thereof. / 3 [3] He hath cut off in fierce anger / All the horn of Israel; / He hath drawn back His right hand / From before the enemy; / And He hath burned in Jacob like a flaming fire, / Which devoureth round about. / 4 [4] He hath bent His bow like an enemy, / Standing with His right hand as an adversary, / And hath slain all that were pleasant to the eye; / In the tent of the daughter of Zion / He hath poured out His fury like fire. / 5 [5] The Lord is become as an enemy, / He hath swallowed up Israel; / He hath swallowed up all her palaces, / He hath destroyed his strongholds; / And He hath multiplied in the daughter of Judah / Mourning and moaning. / 6 [6] And He hath stripped His tabernacle, as if it were a garden, / He hath destroyed His place of assembly; / The LORD hath caused to be forgotten in Zion / Appointed season and sabbath, / And hath rejected in the indignation of His anger / The king and the priest. / 7 [7] The Lord hath cast off His altar, / He hath abhorred His sanctuary, / He hath given up into the hand of the enemy / The walls of her palaces; / They have made a noise in the house of the LORD, / As in the day of a solemn assembly. / 8 [8] The LORD hath purposed to destroy / The wall of the daughter of Zion; / He hath stretched out the line, / He hath not withdrawn / His hand from destroying; / But He hath made the rampart and wall to mourn, / They languish together. / 9 [9] Her gates are sunk into the ground; / He hath destroyed and broken her bars; / Her king and her princes are among the nations, / Instruction is no more; / Yea, her prophets find / No vision from the LORD. / 10 [10] They sit upon the ground, and keep silence, / The elders of the daughter of Zion; / They have cast up dust upon their heads, / They have girded themselves with sackcloth; / The virgins of Jerusalem hang down / Their heads to the ground. / 11 [11] Mine eyes do fail with tears, / Mine inwards burn, / My liver is poured upon the earth, / For the breach of the daughter of my people; / Because the young children and the sucklings swoon /

In the broad places of the city. / נ [12] They say to their mothers: / ‘Where is corn and wine?’ / When they swoon as the wounded / In the broad places of the city, / When their soul is poured out / Into their mothers’ bosom. / נ [13] What shall I take to witness for thee? what shall I liken to thee, / O daughter of Jerusalem? / What shall I equal to thee, that I may comfort thee, / O virgin daughter of Zion? / For thy breach is great like the sea; / Who can heal thee? / י [14] Thy prophets have seen visions for thee / Of vanity and delusion; / And they have not uncovered thine iniquity, / To bring back thy captivity; / But have prophesied for thee burdens / Of vanity and seduction. / ס [15] All that pass by clap / Their hands at thee; / They hiss and wag their head / At the daughter of Jerusalem: / ‘Is this the city that men called / The perfection of beauty, / The joy of the whole earth?’ / ס [16] All thine enemies have opened / Their mouth wide against thee; / They hiss and gnash the teeth; / They say: ‘We have swallowed her up; / Certainly this is the day that we looked for; / We have found, we have seen it.’ / ו [17] The LORD hath done that which He devised; / He hath performed His word / That He commanded in the days of old; / He hath thrown down unsparingly; / And He hath caused the enemy to rejoice over thee, / He hath exalted the horn of thine adversaries. / ו [18] Their heart cried unto the Lord / ‘O wall of the daughter of Zion, / Let tears run down like a river / Day and night; / Give thyself no respite; / Let not the apple of thine eye cease. / ר [19] Arise, cry out in the night, / At the beginning of the watches; / Pour out thy heart like water / Before the face of the Lord; / Lift up thy hands toward Him / For the life of thy young children, / That faint for hunger / At the head of every street.’ / נ [20] ’See, O LORD, and consider, / To whom Thou hast done thus! / Shall the women eat their fruit, / The children that are dandled in the hands? / Shall the priest and the prophet be slain / In the sanctuary of the Lord? / ו [21] The youth and the old man lie / On the ground in the streets; / My virgins and my young men / Are fallen by the sword; / Thou hast slain them in the day of Thine anger; / Thou hast slaughtered unsparingly. / נ [22] Thou hast called, as in the day of a solemn assembly, / My terrors on every side, / And there was none

in the day of the LORD's anger / That escaped or remained; / Those that I have dandled and brought up / Hath mine enemy consumed.'

3 ¶ I am the man that hath seen affliction / By the rod of His wrath. / [2] He hath led me and caused me to walk / In darkness and not in light. / [3] Surely against me He turneth His hand / Again and again all the day. / ¶ [4] My flesh and my skin hath He worn out; / He hath broken my bones. / [5] He hath builded against me, and compassed me / With gall and travail. / [6] He hath made me to dwell in dark places, / As those that have been long dead. / ¶ [7] He hath hedged me about, that I cannot go forth; / He hath made my chain heavy. / [8] Yea, when I cry and call for help, / He shutteth out my prayer. / [9] He hath enclosed my ways with hewn stone, / He hath made my paths crooked. / ¶ [10] He is unto me as a bear lying in wait, / As a lion in secret places. / [11] He hath turned aside my ways, and pulled me in pieces; / He hath made me desolate. / [12] He hath bent His bow, and set me / As a mark for the arrow. / ¶ [13] He hath caused the arrows of His quiver / To enter into my reins. / [14] I am become a derision to all my people, / And their song all the day. / [15] He hath filled me with bitterness, / He hath sated me with wormwood. / ¶ [16] He hath also broken my teeth with gravel stones, / He hath made me to wallow in ashes. / [17] And my soul is removed far off from peace, / I forgot prosperity. / [18] And I said: 'My strength is perished, / And mine expectation from the LORD.' / ¶ [19] Remember mine affliction and mine anguish, / The wormwood and the gall. / [20] My soul hath them still in remembrance, / And is bowed down within me. / [21] This I recall to my mind, / Therefore have I hope. / ¶ [22] Surely the LORD's mercies are not consumed, / Surely His compassions fail not. / [23] They are new every morning; / Great is Thy faithfulness. / [24] 'The LORD is my portion', saith my soul; / 'Therefore will I hope in Him.' / ¶ [25] The LORD is good unto them that wait for Him, / To the soul that seeketh Him. / [26] It is good that a man should quietly wait / For the salvation of the LORD. / [27] It is good for a man that he bear / The yoke in his youth. / ¶ [28] Let him sit alone and keep silence, / Because He hath laid it upon him. / [29] Let him put his mouth in the dust, / If so be there may be hope. / [30] Let him give his cheek to him that smiteth him, / Let him be filled full with reproach. / ¶ [31] For the

LORD will not cast off For ever. / [32] For though
He cause grief, yet will He have compassion /
According to the multitude of His mercies. /
[33] For He doth not afflict willingly, / Nor grieve
the children of men. / ↗ [34] To crush under
foot / All the prisoners of the earth, / [35] To turn
aside the right of a man / Before the face of the
Most High, / [36] To subvert a man in his cause, /
The Lord approveth not. / ↘ [37] Who is he that
saith, and it cometh to pass, / When the Lord
commandeth it not? / [38] Out of the mouth of
the Most High proceedeth not Evil and good? /
[39] Wherefore doth a living man complain,
A strong man because of his sins? / ↙ [40] Let
us search and try our ways, / And return to the
LORD. / [41] Let us lift up our heart with our
hands / Unto God in the heavens. / [42] We have
transgressed and have rebelled; / Thou hast not
pardoned. / ♂ [43] Thou hast covered with anger
and pursued us; / Thou hast slain unsparingly. /
[44] Thou hast covered Thyself with a cloud, /
So that no prayer can pass through. / [45] Thou
hast made us as the off-scouring and refuse / In
the midst of the peoples. / ♂ [46] All our enemies
have opened their mouth / Wide against us. /
[47] Terror and the pit are come upon us, /
Desolation and destruction. / [48] Mine eye
runneth down with rivers of water, / For the
breach of the daughter of my people. / ↘ [49] Mine
eye is poured out, and ceaseth not, / Without
any intermission, / [50] Till the LORD look
forth, / And behold from heaven. / [51] Mine eye
affected my soul, / Because of all the daughters
of my city. / ↙ [52] They have chased me sore like
a bird, / That are mine enemies without cause. /
[53] They have cut off my life in the dungeon, /
And have cast stones upon me. / [54] Waters
flowed over my head; / I said: 'I am cut off.' /
↗ [55] I called upon Thy name, O LORD, / Out
of the lowest dungeon. / [56] Thou heardest my
voice; hide not / Thine ear at my sighing, at my
cry. / [57] Thou drewest near in the day that I
called upon Thee; / Thou saidst: 'Fear not.' /
↗ [58] O Lord, Thou hast pleaded the causes
of my soul; / Thou hast redeemed my life. /
[59] O LORD, Thou hast seen my wrong; / Judge
Thou my cause. / [60] Thou hast seen all their
vengeance / And all their devices against me. /
↘ [61] Thou hast heard their taunt, O LORD, /

And all their devices against me; / [62] The lips of those that rose up against me, / And their muttering against me all the day. / [63] Behold Thou their sitting down, and their rising up; / I am their song. / ॥ [64] Thou wilt render unto them a recompense, O LORD, / According to the work of their hands. / [65] Thou wilt give them hardness of heart, / Thy curse unto them. / [66] Thou wilt pursue them in anger, and destroy them / From under the heavens of the LORD.

4 ¶ How is the gold become dim! / How is the most fine gold changed! / The hallowed stones are poured out / At the head of every street. / ॥ [2] The precious sons of Zion, / Comparable to fine gold, / How are they esteemed as earthen pitchers, / The work of the hands of the potter! / ॥ [3] Even the jackals draw out the breast, / They give suck to their young ones; / The daughter of my people is become cruel, / Like the ostriches in the wilderness. / ॥ [4] The tongue of the sucking child cleaveth / To the roof of his mouth for thirst; / The young children ask bread, / And none breaketh it unto them. / ॥ [5] They that did feed on dainties / Are desolate in the streets; / They that were brought up in scarlet / Embrace dunghills. / ॥ [6] For the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater / Than the sin of Sodom, / That was overthrown as in a moment, / And no hands fell upon her. / ॥ [7] Her princes were purer than snow, / They were whiter than milk, / They were more ruddy in body than rubies, / Their polishing was as of sapphire; / ॥ [8] Their visage is blacker than coal; / They are not known in the streets; / Their skin is shrivelled upon their bones; / It is withered, it is become like a stick. / ॥ [9] They that are slain with the sword are better / Than they that are slain with hunger; / For these pine away, stricken through, / For want of the fruits of the field. / ॥ [10] The hands of women full of compassion / Have sodden their own children; / They were their food / In the destruction of the daughter of my people. / ॥ [11] The LORD hath accomplished His fury, / He hath poured out His fierce anger; / And He hath kindled a fire in Zion, / Which hath devoured the foundations thereof. / ॥ [12] The kings of the earth believed not, / Neither all the inhabitants of the world, / That the adversary and the enemy would enter / Into the gates of Jerusalem. / ॥ [13] It is because of the sins of her prophets, / And the iniquities of her priests, /

That have shed the blood of the just / In the midst of her. / ፩ [14] They wander as blind men in the streets, / They are polluted with blood, / So that men cannot / Touch their garments. / ፪ [15] 'Depart ye! unclean!' men cried unto them, / 'Depart, depart, touch not'; / Yea, they fled away and wandered; / Men said among the nations: / 'They shall no more sojourn here.' / ፫ [16] The anger of the LORD hath divided them; / He will no more regard them; / They respected not the persons of the priests, / They were not gracious unto the elders. / ፯ [17] As for us, our eyes do yet fail / For our vain help; / In our watching we have watched / For a nation that could not save. / ፱ [18] They hunt our steps, / That we cannot go in our broad places; / Our end is near, our days are fulfilled; / For our end is come. / ፲ [19] Our pursuers were swifter / Than the eagles of the heaven; / They chased us upon the mountains, / They lay in wait for us in the wilderness. / ፳ [20] The breath of our nostrils, the anointed of the LORD, / Was taken in their pits; / Of whom we said: 'Under his shadow / We shall live among the nations.' / ፴ [21] Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, / That dwellest in the land of Uz: / The cup shall pass over unto thee also; / Thou shalt be drunken, and shalt make thyself naked. / ፵ [22] The punishment of thine iniquity is accomplished, O daughter of Zion, / He will no more carry thee away into captivity; / He will punish thine iniquity, O daughter of Edom, / He will uncover thy sins.

5 Remember, O LORD, what is come upon us; / Behold, and see our reproach. / [2] Our inheritance is turned unto strangers, / Our houses unto aliens. / [3] We are become orphans and fatherless, / Our mothers are as widows. / [4] We have drunk our water for money; / Our wood cometh to us for price. / [5] To our very necks we are pursued; / We labour, and have no rest. / [6] We have given the hand to Egypt, / And to Assyria, to have bread enough. / [7] Our fathers have sinned, and are not; / And we have borne their iniquities. / [8] Servants rule over us; / There is none to deliver us out of their hand. / [9] We get our bread with the peril of our lives / Because of the sword of the wilderness. / [10] Our skin is hot like an oven / Because of the burning heat

of famine. / [11] They have ravished the women in Zion, / The maidens in the cities of Judah. / [12] Princes are hanged up by their hand; / The faces of elders are not honoured / [13] The young men have borne the mill, / And the children have stumbled under the wood. / [14] The elders have ceased from the gate, / The young men from their music. / [15] The joy of our heart is ceased; / Our dance is turned into mourning. / [16] The crown is fallen from our head; / Woe unto us! for we have sinned. / [17] For this our heart is faint, / For these things our eyes are dim; / [18] For the mountain of Zion, which is desolate, / The foxes walk upon it.

[19] Thou, O LORD, art enthroned for ever, / Thy throne is from generation to generation. / [20] Wherefore dost Thou forget us for ever, / And forsake us so long time? / [21] Turn Thou us unto Thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned; / Renew our days as of old. / [22] Thou canst not have utterly rejected us, / And be exceeding wroth against us! / Turn Thou us unto Thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned; / Renew our days as of old.