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Sloan-Kettering: Poems

By Abba Kovner

Schocken Books, United States, 2004. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 178 x 147 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. In this luminous collection of poems, Abba Kovner records his deep engagement with life during his last days, as he lay dying of cancer in Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Kovner, the famed Jewish resistance fighter who led the Vilna ghetto uprising during World War II, was also a beloved master of Hebrew literature, and his work has seldom appeared in English. This translation brings us the fierce and humble gratitude of a visionary who has been a fighter not just for himself but for a whole people, as Kovner takes up his pen to say goodbye to a precious, if flawed, world. Weaving together his perceptions of the present moment (How little we need/to be happy: a half kilo increase in weight, /two circuits of the corridors); his sorrow at leaving the world (his wife knitting at his bedside, the chatter of his grandsons); the dramatic loss of his vocal cords (Have I no right to die/while still alive?); and memories of his heroic comrades in the Baltic forest, Kovner emerges from these pages with yet...



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