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The following is a literal translation from the Hebrew by Yael Levine.

## **JERUSALEM, THE GOLDEN CITY**

### **By Naomi Shemer**

The mountain is clear as wine  
And the scent of pines  
Is carried on the breeze of twilight  
With the sound of bells.

And in the slumber of tree and stone  
Captured in her dream  
The city that sits solitary  
And in its midst is a wall.

*Jerusalem of gold, and of bronze, and of light*  
*Behold I am a violin for all your songs.*

How the cisterns have dried  
The market-place is empty  
And no one frequents the Temple Mount  
In the Old City.

And in the caves in the mountain  
Winds are howling  
And no one descends to the Dead Sea  
By way of Jericho.

*Jerusalem of gold, and of bronze, and of light*  
*Behold I am a violin for all your songs.*

But as I come to sing to you today,  
And to adorn you with crowns  
I am the smallest of the youngest of your  
children  
And of the last poet.

For your name scorches the lips  
Like the kiss of an angel  
If I forget thee, Jerusalem,  
Which is all gold...

*Jerusalem of gold, and of bronze, and of light*  
*Behold I am a violin for all your songs.*

We have returned to the cisterns  
To the market and to the market-place  
A ram's horn calls out on the Temple Mount  
In the Old City.

And in the caves in the mountain  
Thousands of suns shine—  
We will once again descend to the Dead Sea  
By way of Jericho.

*Jerusalem of gold, and of bronze, and of light*  
*Behold I am a violin for all your songs.*

YERUSHALAIM SHEL-ZAHAV

(Jerusalem, The Golden City)

Music and Original Words by NAOMI SHEMER-SAPIR

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## ירוּשָׁלַיִם שֶׁל זָהָב

אֲוִיר הָרִים צָלֹל כִּיּוֹן  
וְרִיחַ אֲרָנִים  
נִשָּׂא בְרוּחַ הָעֲרָבִים  
עִם קוֹל פְּעֻמוֹנִים.

וּבִתְרִדְמַת אֵילָן וְאַבֵּן  
שְׂבוּיָהּ בַּחֲלוּמָהּ  
הָעִיר אֲשֶׁר בְּדָד יוֹשֶׁבֶת  
וּבִלְבָּהּ חוֹמָה.

ירוּשָׁלַיִם שֶׁל זָהָב  
וְשֶׁל נְחֹשֶׁת וְשֶׁל אֹר  
הֵלֵא לְכָל שִׁירִיךָ אֲנִי כְּנוֹר.

אֵיכָה יָשְׁבוּ בִּזְרוֹת הַמַּיִם  
כִּכָּר הַשּׁוּק רִיקָה  
וְאֵין פּוֹקֵד אֶת הַר הַבַּיִת  
בַּעִיר הָעֲתִיקָה.

וּבִמְעָרוֹת אֲשֶׁר בַּסָּלַע  
מִיִּלְלוֹת רוּחוֹת  
וְאֵין יוֹרֵד אֶל יָם הַמֶּלַח  
בְּדֶרֶךְ יְרִיחוֹ.

ירוּשָׁלַיִם שֶׁל זָהָב  
וְשֶׁל נְחֹשֶׁת וְשֶׁל אֹר  
הֵלֵא לְכָל שִׁירִיךָ אֲנִי כְּנוֹר.

אֵךְ בְּבוֹאֵי הַיּוֹם לְשִׁיר לָךְ  
וְלָךְ לְקֹשֶׁר כְּתָרִים  
קִטְנֹתִי מִצָּעִיר בְּנִיךָ  
וּמֵאַחֲרוֹן הַמְּשׁוֹרְרִים.

כִּי שָׁמַךְ צוּרְב אֶת הַשָּׁפְתִים  
כְּנִשִּׁיקַת שָׁרֵף  
אִם אֲשַׁכַּחַךְ יְרוּשָׁלַיִם  
אֲשֶׁר כָּלָה זָהָב.

יְרוּשָׁלַיִם שֶׁל זָהָב  
וְשֶׁל נְחֹשֶׁת וְשֶׁל אֹר  
הֵלֵא לְכָל שִׁירֶיךָ אֲנִי כְּנוֹר.

חֲזַרְנוּ אֶל בּוֹרוֹת הַמַּיִם  
לְשׁוֹק וְלִכְפֹּר  
שׁוֹפֵר קוֹרֵא בְּהַר הַבַּיִת  
בְּעִיר הָעֵתִיקָה.

וּבְמַעְרוֹת אֲשֶׁר בְּסָלַע  
אֲלֵפֵי שְׁמֹשׁוֹת זֹרְחוֹת  
וְשׁוֹב גֵּרָד אֶל יַם הַמֶּלַח  
בְּדֶרֶךְ יְרִיחוֹ.

יְרוּשָׁלַיִם שֶׁל זָהָב  
וְשֶׁל נְחֹשֶׁת וְשֶׁל אֹר  
הֵלֵא לְכָל שִׁירֶיךָ אֲנִי כְּנוֹר.

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