

Vidui for the Complicit

Ari Yovel, 6/8/2021

Here I stand before You,
who sees me as I am.
I stand as myself and only myself,
but that is not all You see.
You see all those on whom I stand
all the souls that life made me step on
to bring me to this place

I see them all, as I didn't before
singles, circles, and systems of souls
and I see my own silence
in the face of their suffering
which is so interwoven with my own
though our world wills me away
from knowing, feeling, fighting, and failing.

Now I know. My guilt grinds me down
how, O G-d, can I praise Your name
when the clothes that I wear
and the food that I eat
and the air that I breathe
are bought and paid for
with the blood and pain of Your Divine Image?

Eternal One, Source of all Sight
sitting on Your throne of Judgment
see me as we are
see us as I am
may Your still-small-sound stir my spirit
let my complacent, complicit heart crack open
So I will be silent no more.