

## When God Left the Earth

כְּשֶׁאֱלֹהִים עָזַב אֶת הָאָרֶץ הוּא שָׁכַח אֶת הַתּוֹרָה  
אֶצֶל הַיְּהוּדִים וַיֵּמָאֵז הֵם מִחִפּוּשֵׁים אוֹתוֹ  
וְצוֹעֲקִים אַחֲרָיו, שְׂכַחְתָּ מַשְׁהוּ, שְׂכַחְתָּ, בְּקוֹל גְּדוֹל  
וַיִּבְנִי אָדָם אַחֲרֵים חוֹשְׁבִים שֶׁזֶהִי תַפִּילָתָם שֶׁל הַיְּהוּדִים.  
וַיֵּמָאֵז הֵם טוֹרְחִים לְמַצָּא רְמָזִים בַּתַּנְכ"ךְ  
עַל מְקוֹם הַמָּצְאוֹ כִּמוֹ שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר, דַּרְשׁוּ אֲדוֹנִי בְּהִמָּצְאוֹ,  
קְרֹאוּהוּ בְּהִיּוֹתוֹ קְרוֹב. אֲבָל הוּא רָחוֹק.

When God left the earth he forgot the Torah  
at the Jews' and since then they look for him  
and cry after him, you forgot something, you forgot, in a loud voice  
and others think that this is the prayer of the Jews.  
And ever since they strain to find hints in the Bible  
as to the place he might be found as it says, Seek the Lord where he is to be found,  
Call upon him when he is close. But he is far.

Yehuda Amichai  
Translated by Rabbi Steven Sager