

## Like One Who Left Egypt:

*In The Middle Of The Story*

וַיֵּמָּה מִשְׁךְ חַיִּי? אֲנִי כְּמוֹ אֶחָד שֶׁיָּצָא מִמִּצְרַיִם  
וַיֵּם-סוּף גִּבְקָע לְשָׁנִים וְאֲנִי עוֹבֵר בְּחֶרֶבָה  
וְשִׁתִּי חוֹמוֹת מַיִם מִיְּמִינִי וּמִשְׁמָאלִי.  
מֵאַחֲרֵי חֵיל פָּרַעַה וּפָרָשָׁיו וּלְפָנַי הַמִּדְבָּר  
וְאוֹלֵי הָאָרֶץ הַמְּבֻטָּחִת. זֶה מִשְׁךְ חַיִּי.

What is the continuity of my life? I am like one who left Egypt  
with the Red Sea split in two and I passing through on dry ground  
and two walls of water on my right and on my left.  
Behind me Pharaoh's force and his chariots and before me the wilderness  
and perhaps the promised land. This is the continuity of my life.

Yehuda Amichai

Translated by Rabbi Steven Sager