

געבעט

Gebet (Prayer)

Setting of the Yiddish poem

by Abraham Reisen (Avrom Reyzn)

For Unaccompanied Mixed Chorus (SATB)

By Mark Zuckerman
1995

Duration: ca. 2'50"

American Composers Alliance (BMI)

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געבעט

באלער מיד, גאט, באלער,
ווי מענטשן צו באהאנדלען,
צו וויסן, ווי אזוי
דאס בייז אין גוטס פארוואנדלען.

און אויב דער מענטש אליין
איז אויך א חיה-רעה, —
באקערן זאל איך אים
צו מילדקייט און הכנעה ...

אין צירק האב איך געזען
א מאן מאכט מילד א טיגער,
באפרייט די שלאנג פון גיפט —
טא מאך מיד גאט נאך קליגער.

און בענטש מיד געדולד
און מאך מיד שטארק ווי אייזן,
איך זאל מיט מענטשן אויך
דעם זעלבן ווונדער ווייזן ...

A Prayer

Teach me, teach me how
To deal with the world, O Lord!
And how I may transform
Evil into good.

If a wild beast lurks
In our humanity,
Let me turn it toward
A mild humility.

I've seen a trainer in
The circus tame a tiger;
Seen him de-fang a snake.
Lord, let me be wiser.

Bless me with patience, too,
And make me iron hard
That I may show mankind
At least such wonders, Lord.

Translation by Leonard Wolf
The Penguin Book of Modern Yiddish Verse

Yiddish-English Transliteration (after YIVO)

Vowels:	A	L <u>Q</u> T
	E	more L <u>E</u> T than L <u>Q</u> T
	I, Y	between L <u>I</u> T and L <u>E</u> EK
	O	L <u>A</u> WN
	U	L <u>Q</u> OT
Diphthongs: (pronounce each component vowel separately)	AY (A-Y)	L <u>I</u> FE
	EY (E-Y)	L <u>A</u> TE
	OY (O-Y)	L <u>Q</u> ITER
Consonants: (as in English, except:)	R	(guttural or dental roll; otherwise more 'D' than 'R')
	KH	(guttural; not like German)
	ZH	PLEA <u>S</u> URE
	-N	(GN, TN, etc.) nasal; no vowel sound

Gebet (Prayer)

Duration: ca. 2'50"

for unaccompanied SATB

Poem: Avrom Reyzn

Music: Mark Zuckerman

[translation by Leonard Wolf]

[Teach me, teach me how
To deal with the world, O Lord!]

mp

mp

S BA - LER MIKH GOT, BA - LER, VI MEN - TSHN TZU BA - HAN - DLEN, TZU

A BA - LER MIKH GOT, BA - LER, VI MEN - TSHN TZU

[And how I may transform
Evil into good.]

[If a wild beast lurks
In our humanity,]

5

mf

mf

S VI - SN, VI A - ZOI DOS BEYZ IN GUTS FAR - VAN - DLEN, UN OIB DER MENTSH A -

A VI A - ZOI FAR - VAN - DLEN UN OIB DER MENTSH A -

T UN OIB DER

B UN OIB DER

[Let me turn it toward
A mild humility.]

10

S LEYN IZ OIKH A KHAY - E - RO - E, BA KE - RN ZOL IKH

A LEYN IZ OIKH A KHAY - E - RO - E, BA - KE - RN

T MENTSH A - LEYN IZ OIKH A KHAY E - RO - E, BA KE - RN ZOL IKH

B MENTSH A - LEYN IZ OIKH A KHAY E - RO - E, BA - KE - RN

[I've seen a trainer in
The circus tame a tiger;]

14

dim. *f*

S IM TZU MILD - KAYT UN HAKH - NO - E IN TZIRK

A ZOL IKH IM HAKH - NO - - - E IN TZIRK HOB IKH GE -

T IM TZU MILD - KAYT UN HAKH - NO - E IN TZIRK

B ZOL IKH IM HAKH - NO - - - E IN TZIRK HOB IKH GE -

[Seen him de-fang a snake.
Lord, let me be wiser.]

18

mf *mf* *mf* *mf*

S GE - ZEN MAKHT MILD BA - FRAYT DI SHLANG FUN

A ZEN A MAN MAKHT MILD A TI - GER, BA - FRAYT DI

T GE - ZEN MAKHT MILD BA - FRAYT DI SHLANG FUN

B ZEN A MAN MAKHT MILD A TI - GER, BA - FRAYT DI

22

p *p* *p* *mf* *mf*

S GIFT, TO MAKH MIKH GOT NOKH KLI - GER

A SHLANG FUN GIFT TO MAKH MIKH GOT NOKH KLI - GER

T GIFT, TO MAKH MIKH GOT NOKH KLI - GER UN

B SHLANG FUN GIFT TO MAKH MIKH GOT NOKH KLI - GER UN

[Bless me with patience, too,
And make me iron hard]

[That I may show mankind
At least such wonders, Lord.]

25

mp UN MAKH MIKH SHTARK IKH ZOL MIT MEN-TSHN

mp UN MAKH MIKH SHTARK IKH ZOL MIT MEN-TSHN

mf BENTSH MIKH MIT GE DULD UN MAKH MIKH SHTARK VI AY - ZN, IKH ZOL

mf BENTSH MIKH MIT GE DULD UN MAKH MIKH SHTARK VI AY - ZN, IKH ZOL

30

dim. OIKH DEM ZEL - BN VUN - DER VAY ZN IN TZIRK HOB IKH GE -

dim. OIKH DEM ZEL - BN VUN - DER VAY ZN IN TZIRK HOB IKH *f* GE -

mf OIKH DEM ZEL - BN VUN - DER VAY ZN IN

mf OIKH DEM ZEL - BN VUN - DER VAY ZN IN

34

dim. ZEN A MAN MAKHT MILD A TI - GER, BA FRAYT DI

dim. ZEN A MAN MAKHT MILD A TI - GER, BA FRAYT DI

dim. TZIRK HOB IKH GE - ZEN A MAN MAKHT MILD BA FRAYT DI SHLANG FUN

dim. TZIRK HOB IKH GE - ZEN A MAN MAKHT MILD BA FRAYT DI SHLANG FUN

38

S SHLANG FUN GIFT, TO MAKH MIKH GOT NOKH KLI - GER UN *mp* *dim.* *mf*

A SHLANG FUN GIFT, TO MAKH MIKH GOT NOKH KLI - GER UN *mp* *dim.* *mf*

T GIFT, TO MAKH MIKH GOT NOKH KLI - GER UN *mp* *dim.* *mf*

B GIFT, TO MAKH MIKH GOT NOKH KLI - GER UN *mp* *dim.* *mf*

41

S BENTSH UN MAKH MIKH SHTARK VI AY - ZN, IKH *fp* *f*

A BENTSH MIKH MIT GE DULD UN MAKH IKH *fp* *f*

T BENTSH UN MAKH MIKH SHTARK VI AY - ZN, IKH *fp* *f*

B BENTSH MIKH MIT GE DULD UN MAKH IKH *fp* *f*

45

S ZOL MIT MEN - TSHN OIKH *dim.*

A ZOL MIT MEN - TSHN OIKH *dim.* *mp* DEM ZEL - BN VUN - DER

T ZOL MIT MEN - TSHN OIKH *dim.*

B ZOL MIT MEN - TSHN OIKH *dim.* *mp* DEM ZEL - BN VUN - DER VAY -

49

mp *mf* *f* *dim.*

S VAY - ZN DEM ZEL - BN VUN - DER VAY

mf *f* *dim.*

A VAY - ZN DEM ZEL - BN VUN - DER VAY

mf *f* *dim.*

T DEM ZEL - BN VUN - DER VAY

mf *f* *dim.*

B ZN DEM ZEL - BN VUN - DER VAY

53

p *dim.*

S ZN BA - LER MIKH, GOT, BA - LER

pp

A ZN BA - - - LER BA - LER

p *dim.*

T ZN BA - LER MIKH, GOT, BA - LER

pp

B ZN BA - - - - - LER