Toward a Season of Peace

[1] I. Annunciation

(Hebrew; Jeremiah 4:19-21)

Mey-ay Mey-ay!
o-chi-la ki-rot li-bi
Ho-meh li li-bi!
Lo ach-a-rish
ki kol sho-far sho-mat naf-shi
t’nu-ah mil-cha-mah.

She-ver al she-ver nik-rah:
ki shu-d’-dah kol ha-ar-etz
Pt-lom shu-d’-du oh-ha-lij
reh-reh yi-ri-o-tai
Ad ma-tai er-eh nes
esh-mah-ah kol sho-far?

(Deborah 12:4)

Ad ma-tai t’e-val ha-ar-etz
v’g-sev kol ha-sa-deh yi-vash?

(Psalm 103:15-16)

Eh-nosh ke-char-tzir ya-may
k’-tziz ha-sa-deh ken ya-tziz
ki roo-ach ah-v’raha bo v’ey-neh-nu
v’la ya-ki-reh-nu
od m’ko-mo

(From the ‘Sim Shalom’)

Bar-che-nu a-vee-nu ku-la-nu
K-e-chad b’or pa-na-cha

(Farsi; from Rahim M. Kermanshai):

Aj-ab sab-reh Gho-dah dar-ad…

[2] II. Vision

(Jalâluddin Rumi, Divan 943;
Translation by Rafiq Abdulla)

Time passes, time passes, wearing out all clocks
Travelling into the eye of night. The dance
Of senses is stilled in night prayer
The path to the Unseen unveils itself.
Sleep's angel shepherds its flock of spirits towards
Spectral cities and rose-proofed gardens
Beyond the deadly confinement of place and time.
Now the spirit freed from the cell of the sleeping
Body...feels with the heart's revealing eye
A thousand forms and shapes, origin of origins,
Of one eternity and unblemished moment.
You could justly say the spirit has come home…

[3] III. Celebration

(Arabic; poem by Al Mutanabbi)

A-lad-thuu min al-mu-dam al khan-dar-ijii
wa-ah-ja min-aa-taa-ti al kuu-uus-ii
ma-aa-taa-ti es-sah-faa-ih wa’d a-waa-li
wai Quwa-an fi kha-mi-lis
Fa-mau-ti fi al-wa-gha all-sha li a-na-ni
Ra-su-y tu al-al-sha fi a-a-ra-bi an-nu-kuu-sii

*Ja:-a al ra-bi-a bi-bay-a-di
Wa bi suu-di-hii

(Translation: Revised Standard Version, Holy Bible)

My anguish, my anguish!
I writhe in pain
Oh the walls of my heart!
I cannot keep silent;
for I hear the sound of the shofar,
the alarm of war.

Disaster follows hard on disaster;
the whole land is laid waste.
Suddenly, my tents are destroyed,
my curtains in a moment.
How long must I see the standard
and hear the sound of the shofar?

As for man, his days are like grass,
he flourishes like the flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it
and he is gone,
And his place knows it no more…

Bless us, our Father, as one
with the light of your countenance

Look how patient God is…

(Translation by F. Deknatel)

Tastier than old wine,
and sweeter than the passing of winecups,
is the play of swords and lances.
The clash of armies at my command
to face death in battle is my life
for life is what fulfills the soul.

Spring has come
with his whites and his blacks,
s’an-fa-ni min sayy-i-dan-ni-hii
wa a-Bi-di-hii
jay-shun tha-waa-bil-hu al-ghus-suun
wa-faw †Qui-hii
aw-raa Quu-ha man-shuur-a-tun
ka-bu-nu-du-hii

* ("J" pronounced like the English “juice")
† (Qui pronounced like the English “key"

[4] IV. Atonement

(Hebrew; Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

For everything there is a season,
And a time for every matter under heaven.
A time to be born, and a time to die,
A time to kill, and a time to heal,
A time to weep, and a time to laugh,
A time to mourn, and a time to dance,
A time to seek, and a time to lose,
A time to love, and a time to hate,
A time for war, and a time for peace.

(La kol zman)

V’et le khol khe-fetz ta-khat ha-sha-maim
Et la-le-det v’et la-moot
Et la-har-og v’et lir-poh
Et liv-kot v’et liss-ko1k
Et sfod v’et re-kod
Et le-va-kesh v’et le-a-bed
Et le-e-hov, v’et liss-no
Et mil-cha-mah v’et sha-lom.

(Isaiah 40:2)

Kol kor-ey ba-mid-bar
Pa-nu der-ech A-do-nai

(Farsi; Persian Proverb)

Nist Gho-da-yee be-jass Gho-dah

(The Lord’s Prayer)

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass
Against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

(continuing in Arameic)

Mud-tl de-di lukh hai mul-choo-tah
oo khai-la oo tush-bookh-ta
L’ai-am al-mein
A-men

[5] V. Consecration

(Hebrew; Isaiah 40:1-2)

Comfort, comfort my people
Says your GOD
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem
And cry to her
That her warfare is ended,
That her iniquity is pardoned
That she has received from the LORD’s hand
Double for all her sins

A voice cries: in the wilderness,
Prepare the way of the LORD...
And the glory of the LORD
Shall be revealed,
And all flesh shall see it together
(Arabic; poem by Ibn Arabi)

A-dee-nu bi-dee-ni al-hubb
an-nee ta-wai-a-hat
ra-kaa i-bu-bu fa-al hub-bu dee-ni
wa a(y)-maa-ni

La-Qad sur-ra Qai-bi Qaa-bi-laan ku-la-qaa
suu-ra-tan
Fa-ma-rai li-ghiz-al-aam-in wa dee-ru
li-ruh-baa-ni
Wa bai-tun li-aw-thaa-nin wa ka-ba-tu
taa-if-in
Wa alu-wa-hu taw ra-tin wa muss-ha-fu
Qu-raa-ni

(Hebrew; Isaiah 40:6-8)

Kol o-mer "Krål"
v'-a-mar ma ek-ra ?
Kol ha-ba-sar khat-zir
v'-el khas-do k'-tzitz ha-sa-deh
ya-vesh kha-tzir na-vel tzitz
Ud-var e-lo-hei-nu ya-kum l'-o-lam.

[6] VI. Parable

(Jalāluddin Rumi, Divan 2015;
Translation by Rafiq Abdulla)

A beggar smiled at me and offered me alms
In a dream last night, my heart sprang with delight.
His beauty and grace which shone from his tattered
Presence took me by storm until I woke at dawn.
His poverty was riches, it covered my body in silk.
In that dream I heard the beckoning sighs of lovers,
I heard soft cries of agonized joy saying: "Take this,
Drink and be complete!" I saw before me a ring
Jewelled in poverty and then it nested on my ear.
From the root of my surging soul a hundred tremors
Rose as I was taken and pinned down by the surging sea.
Then heaven groaned with bliss and made a beggar of me.

[7] VII. Apotheosis

(Jalaluddin Rumi, Divan 2967;
Translation by Rafiq Abdulla)

Once again to open to the melody
Of the wheel of good fortune, listen:
Sing my soul, dance my heart,
Clap your hands and stamp your feet
The dark shafts of a mine are now glowing
Ruby-red, and the world is festive with welcome,
The table is set for the coming celebrations.
We are drunk on Love, blatant with hope
And adoration of the Beloved's cheek
Fresh as a meadow in spring…

(Hebrew; Song of Solomon 8:6)

Si-may-ni ka-cho-tam
al le-be-cha
ka-cho-tam al z'-ro-e-cha
ki a-zah cha-ma-vel
a-ha-vah

(Farsi; Persian proverb)

Nist Gho-da-yee be-jass Gho-dah

(Translation by F. Deknatel)

I believe in the religion of Love
Whatever direction its caravans may take
For love is my religion
and my faith.

My heart has become able to take on all forms
It is a pasture for gazelles
For monks, an abbey
And a temple for idols
And a Káaba for
anyone
It is the tablets of the Torah and leaves the
Quran

(Revised Standard Version)

A voice says "Cry!"
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All flesh is grass
And all its beauty is like the flower of the field
The grass withers, the flower fades
But the word of our GOD will stand forever.

(Translation: Revised Standard Version)

Set me as a seal
upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
For love is strong
as death

(Translation by the composer)

There is no God but God
(From the Kaddish)

O-seh sha-lom
Bim-ro-mav
Hu ya-a-seh, sha-lom
A-lei-nu
V'-al kol yis-ra-el
V'-im-ru, A-MEN.

(Revised Standard Version)

May God,
who makes
peace on high,
Bring peace to all and
to all Israel,
And say AMEN.

NB: Phonetic pronunciation applies throughout, except where indicated.