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ALL ALONE

SPRING - The sun shines with rays of gold,
Scattered, crushed, my People of old.
The world, so grievous, smiles and blooms,
But we are chained, destined for doom.
The river springs to life - shakes off its icy chain,
And flows along merrily, gurgling a refrain.
The birds with their song, seek to soften our spirit,
But too deep the wound in the Jewish heart.

WILNO - joyous city of yesteryear,
Illumined in the rays of our treasures there.
And now locked within its ghetto walls -
Lurk shadows, in terror, hunger and fear.
I walk its empty streets, "for everyone's sake!"
Wilno is mourning - its very stones weep.
Thousands perished at the murderer's hands.
You see only specters, tormented, alone.
You hear the lament of the sick,
The cry of a child, the voice of a mother.
"Go back to sleep my child, I have no bread
Close your eyes and dream alone."
Father will come - and bring FREEDOM to you!
But a fear comes creeping into my heart,
Casts a shadow over my soul -
Will I still find someone of my own
After this bloodbath of a tyrant so foul?
I lie with my father, my mother, and sisters too -
Was only but yesterday so lovely, so bright.
1941 came - with its tortures and woes -
They took away my father one dark night...
Our glass, our lanterns, fell on dead ears,
From that day on
The world to me became -
A vain of tears.

1942 - More Aktions, more tears,
With Mother and sister Clara perished in fear
My sister Liza and I - remained alone
Our hearts as heavy as stone.
Like a bird over its nest Liza hovered about me,
Tried to still our suffering, but in vain!
1943 - brought the cruelest lot of all...
My only sister born from my side
And left me alone with my pain
All alone I remained...
To a Death Camp confined
Where in hunger, cold and fear
For FREEDOM I pined.
Lo and Behold! FREEDOM is here
I hear a shout from afar,
Eyes brimming with tears,
And hearts bursting with joy
FREEDOM! At long last you came...
Alas! too late!
Such is my fate
My loved ones all gone!
And I remained alone,
All alone...
(Chosenka Ben Hattich)



Dignitaries, guest speakers and the Johannesburg Jewish Male Choir assembled against the backdrop of Herman Wald's historic monument to the six million victims of the Holocaust at West Park Cemetery on Yom Hashoa.
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Henia Brazg - Magdeburg 1945

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