

Reflection

Jewish and Palestinian Women: You and I are the Conscience

Bat Shalom is a women's peace organization working toward a just peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors. To learn more about Bat Shalom, visit their web site at <http://www.batshalom.org/>.

On the second day of the Sukkat Bat Shalom (the celebration of the Fall Festival Harvest), a Palestinian woman from Ramallah was visiting her sister in the area of Nazareth. She saw the women of Bat Shalom during one of their peace demonstrations, and she stopped and asked to read a poem to those assembled. She read the poem in Arabic, and a Bat Shalom activist translated it into Hebrew. Below is the English translation.

I and You

I wept today and you will weep tomorrow.
 Maybe you've wept for your husband
 and tomorrow you'll weep for your son.
 Let me tell you, I've already wept
 for both my son and husband.

I wish I could walk into every house around carrying
 within me anguish and heartache and mourning.
 Come, mother of Ibrahim and mother of Itzhak,
 let's weep together, you and me.
 Longing for our loved ones unites us, you and me.
 Motherhood unites us, you and me.
 The heart aches.

Let's remember if in life there is no place for us on this earth,
 We have place enough under it.
 Let's pray together, mother of Ibrahim and mother of Itzhak.
 You and I are the conscience.
 You and I are love and peace.
 You and I are the bridge to truth.

— a Palestinian mother

