

Kh'hob Dem Kheyshek (I Have Yearning)

based on I am Willing by Holly Near

Yiddish lyrics by Yuri Vedenyapin

Holly Near is an American singer-songwriter, actress, teacher, and activist.

Yuri Vedenyapin teaches Jewish Studies at McGill University and is active as a Yiddish singer, songwriter, and storyteller.

Yiddish lyrics

kh'hob dem gloybn, kh'hob dem kheyshek,
zayn fartsveyflt tor men nit,
mir gedenken doyres kemfers
far banayung un far likht.

mayn mishpokhe filt a veytik,
un mayn shtot iz ful mit tsar,
s'iz dos gantse land dershrokn,
es filt di velt a shvern gzar.

zoln kinder zen alts klorer,
un di firers kliger zayn;
blozt shoyrn, vintn fun banayung,
zol es baysn, s'iz keday.

helf mir, boym, un halt mayn dayge,
helf mir, midber, halt mayn shrek,
mikh farkishef, royte shkie,
nem, du yam, mayn trer avek.

English translation (not singable)

I have faith, I have yearning,
To be despondent is not allowed,
We remember generations of activists
For renewal and for light.

My family feels pain,
And my town is full of sorrow.
The whole country is frightened,
The world feels a hard decree.

May children see more clearly
And the leaders be wiser;
Blow, winds of renewal,
Let it bite, it's worth it.

Help me, tree, and stop my worry,
Help me, desert, stop my fear,
Enchant me, red sunset,
Ocean, take my tears away.