Yearning for Empty Eternity

Time turns around
Turns around
Like a point on the horizon far from parting
Contracting
Shining
The dead settle
In the heart and do not relent
They disappear, they reappear
Constantly.

Their love is like a well-kept house
In a golden homeland
On its walls a treasure of shared memories
And it lives and breathes them
Every moment anew.

There are those who open an album every day
For fear that memories will fade
I do not understand
How their image is as clear in my heart as yesterday
And their voices echo in me
Pure as the color blue

I hear my grandfather
Trilling melodies
As the day breaks
It vibrates within me and the voice
Of my brother Absalom
Like a song in my heart's chambers
And my grandmother's tears
As she fell from my hands
Now fall on my cheeks…
Time turns on its axis.
The love of the dead lives
Like dew-fresh grass.

A Spray of First Rain

I stride into the darkness
Winds dance around my nape
Howling jackals and slanting rain.

The guard in his meager shack
Hides his anxieties.
A fox along the way
Looks out among the rocks
Waiting.

Fears of the past
Meet the wet nocturnal scene
Abandoned to the first raindrops
The imaginative power– and to
The creator of the poem.

A bridge opens setting alight
Memories and insights
Like bright reality on a screen:

Of the threshold of my mother's,
My father's days,
My noisy brothers
And threads of sorrow wound
Around my neck

The blackness of my father's beard
My grandfather's blind white eyes
And my mother's rough hands
Drawing on the easel of my heart

A sapling trembling in the wind
Turns its face skyward
But the wind bends its crown
To stare at its roots

In a corm of fears
Planted in the earth
A spray now like the first rain
From a cocoon of clouds.

– Dr. Rachelly (Chelly) Abraham-Eitan*

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