

Under Alien Skies by Yossel Birstein

The Plea

Translated by Beni Gothajner

I come now from caves, from forest and field.
Wonderful – wonderful God – is your world...
What am I to do with myself?

More than alarm felt for my home town
the fear pursues every step of my own...
What am I to do with myself?

How cruel it is here? How quiet, how still?
I too am made numb and tired of it all...
What am I to do with myself?

I envy the stone that someone has thrown
into a well, where it sinks straight down...
What am I to do with myself?

Your call: Let light be! has dimmed and turned dark.
My life is laid waste. But not yet my heart...
What am I to do with myself?