

## **Under Alien Skies by Yossel Birstein**

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### **See**

*Translated by Beni Gothajner*

See, we come again  
with devout words  
in sorrowful songs,  
to this sorrowful place.  
Once more with sincerity,  
to the sad human being  
after so many curses,  
to declare devoutly: I yearn  
to be joined once again  
with God's light, that streams  
into the abyss of all generations -  
and into our abyss too.  
Yes, we come again,  
aged and turned grey,  
to stubbornly insist  
that we're here to stay  
to defend the last gasp  
of a surviving Jew.  
To fill up a grave –  
the desolate heart.  
With the wisdom of life  
to contain the death  
that will now cling  
to each piece of bread.  
See, we come again  
with devout words  
in sorrowful songs,  
to this sorrowful place.