

Geshem

Verses for our Mothers (c) Composed by Mark Frydenberg, Translated to Hebrew by Rabbi Simcha Roth, (C) 1995,1998
New Verses in **Bold**; English translation of Traditional Verses based on Metsudah Siddur

זְכוֹר אֵב נִמְשָׁךְ אַחֲרַיִךְ כַּמַּיִם,
בִּרְכָתוֹ כְּעֵץ שֶׁתּוֹלַעַל פְּלִגֵי מַיִם,
גִּנַּנְתּוֹ הַצַּלְתּוֹ מֵאֵשׁ וּמַמַּיִם,
דִּרְשָׁתוֹ בְּזָרְעוֹ עַל כָּל מַיִם.
בְּעִבּוּרוֹ אַל תִּמְנַע מַיִם.

Abraham:

Remember the patriarch who was drawn to You like water;
You blessed him as a tree planted near water,
You protected him; You rescued him from fire and water
You sought him out when he sowed beside all waters
For his sake, do not withhold water.

זְכוֹר עֲקָרָה שֶׁלְקַחְהָ לְשִׁלְשָׁה מַעֲט מַיִם,
חִדַּל לְהִיּוֹת-לָהּ אוֹרַח מַיִם חַיִּים,
וְנִפְקְדָהּ בְּזִקְנֶתָהּ, וְשִׁפִּיר סוּבְבוּ אֶת עוֹבְרָהּ מַיִם -
בְּעִבּוּרָהּ אַל תִּמְנַע מַיִם.

Sarah:

Remember the barren one who prepared the three [strangers] water [Gen. 18:2][1]
At a time when she ceased to be as living waters [Gen. 18:11]
And God remembered her [Gen 21:1] in her old age, in her womb creating water [2]
For her sake don't hold back water.

זְכוֹר הַנוֹלָד בְּבִשׁוּרַת יִקַּח נָא מַעֲט מַיִם,
וְשַׁחַת לְהוֹרוֹ לְשַׁחֲטוֹ לְשִׁפְךָ דָּמוֹ כַּמַּיִם,
זֶהָר גַּם הוּא לְשִׁפְךָ לֵב כַּמַּיִם,
חָפַר וּמָצָא בְּאֵרוֹת מַיִם.
בְּצַדְקוֹ חוֹן חֲשֵׁרַת מַיִם.

Isaac:

Remember the one whose birth was foretold with "Let be brought a little water"
You told his father to sacrifice him, to spill his blood like water,
He too was dutiful to spill his blood like water,
In the desert he dug deep to find springs of water,
For his sake, grant the gift of water.

זְכוֹר חֲסוּדָה אֲשֶׁר מְלֵאָה מֵהַשְׂקֵת מַיִם,
לְעֹבֵד נִתְּנָה לְשִׁתּוֹת מִכְּדָה מַיִם,
בְּחָרֵן הָעִיר לְגִמְלֵיו שְׁאֲבָה מַיִם -
בְּצַדְקָהּ חוֹן חֲשֵׁרַת מַיִם.

Rebecca:

Remember the kind one who carried a pitcher of water [Gen 24:14]
To the servant she gave water [Gen. 24:17]
In Charan for the camels, she drew water. [Gen. 24:19]
For her sake, grant water.

זְכוֹר טַעַן מְקִלוֹ וְעִבֵּר יַרְדֵּן מַיִם,
יְחַד לֵב וְגַל אֶבֶן מִפִּי בְּאֵר מַיִם,
כְּנֹאֲבֵק לוֹ שָׂר בְּלוּל מֵאֵשׁ וּמַמַּיִם,
לְכֵן הִבְטַחְתּוֹ הִיּוֹת עִמּוֹ בְּאֵשׁ וּבַמַּיִם.
בְּעִבּוּרוֹ אַל תִּמְנַע מַיִם.

Jacob:

Remember the one, who, with his staff forded Jordan's water
He was single hearted and rolled the stone off the mouth of the well of water
When he was attacked by an angel comprised of fire and water
You promised to be with him through fire and water.
For Jacob's sake, do not withhold water.

זְכוֹר צְעִירָה שֶׁרְעֵתָה צֹאן לֵיד בְּאֵר-מַיִם,
וַיִּשָּׁק לָהּ אֶהוּבָהּ לֵיד בְּאֵר-הַמַּיִם,
בְּרַמָּה מִבְּכָה בְּנִיָּה וְעֵינֶיהָ יוֹרְדָה מַיִם -
בְּעִבּוּרָהּ אַל תִּמְנַע מַיִם.

Rachel:

Remember the younger one who to the flock [of Lavan] she gave water [Gen 29:10]
Her lover kissed her near the well of water [Gen 29:11]
At Ramah for her children, her eyes weep tears of water [Lamentations 1:16]
For her sake, don't hold back water.

זְכוֹר אִם הַבָּנִים שִׁיבּוֹק רֵאשׁוֹנָה עָבְרָה מֵיָם,
עֵינֶיהָ הִרְכּוֹת זָלְגוּ דְמְעוֹת-מַיִם,
בְּנֵה שִׁכּוֹן לֵיד חוֹף-יָמִים וְהַפְּלִיג בְּמַיִם -
בְּצַדְקָה חוֹן חֲשֵׁרֶת מַיִם.

זְכוֹר מִשׁוּי בְּתַבַּת גִּמָּא מִן הַמַּיִם,
נָמוּ דְלָה דְלָה וְהִשְׁקָה צֹאן מַיִם,
סְגוּלֶיךָ עֵת צִמְאוּ לַמַּיִם,
עַל הַסֹּלַע הִךְ וַיִּצְאוּ מַיִם.
בְּצַדְקוֹ חוֹן חֲשֵׁרֶת מַיִם.

זְכוֹר אֲחוֹת שֶׁהִשְׁגִּיחָה עַל נֶעֱר בּוֹכָה בְּמַיִם,
שִׁירָה עֲנִתָה בְּעָבוֹר יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּגִזְרוֹת מַיִם,
בְּקֶדֶשׁ קְבוּרָתָהּ בְּקֶרֶבֶת בְּאֵר-הַמַּיִם -
בְּעָבוֹרָה אֵל תִּמְנַע מַיִם.

זְכוֹר פֶּקִיד שְׁתוֹת טוֹבֵל חֲמֵשׁ טְבִילוֹת בְּמַיִם,
צוּעָה וּמְרַחֵץ כַּפָּיו בְּקֶדֶשׁ מַיִם,
קוֹרָא וּמְזָה טְהוֹרַת מַיִם,
רַחֵק מֵעַם פַּחַז כַּמַּיִם.
בְּעָבוֹרוֹ אֵל תִּמְנַע מַיִם.

זְכוֹר שְׁנַיִם עֶשֶׂר שְׁבָטִים שֶׁהֶעֱבַרְתָּ בְּגִזְרַת מַיִם,
שֶׁהִמְתַּקְתָּ לָמוֹ מְרִירוֹת מַיִם,
תּוֹלְדוֹתָם נִשְׁפַּךְ דָּמָם עֲלֶיךָ כַּמַּיִם,
תַּפְּן, כִּי נִפְשָׁנוּ אֶפְפוּ מַיִם.
בְּצַדְקָם חוֹן חֲשֵׁרֶת מַיִם.

Leah:

Remember the Mother of Children who at Yabbok was first to cross the water [Gen 32:23/33:2][3]
Her eyes were tender from crying tears of water [Gen 29:18]
Her son lived out his days at the edge of the water [Gen 49:13] [4]
For her sake, grant water.

Moses:

Remember the one who was drawn out, in a reed basket from the water
About whom they said, "He drew water and gave the sheep water"
When your treasured ones thirsted for water
He struck the rock and out poured the water.
For his sake, grant the gift of water.

Miriam:

Remember the sister who watched the baby crying in the water [Ex. 2:6]
She sang and rejoiced after the people Israel crossed the water [Ex. 15:20]
In Kadesh she was buried near gurgling water [Num. 20:1]
For her sake, don't hold back water.

Aaron:

Remember the priest who immersed himself five times in water.
He cleansed and washed his hands to sanctify them with water.
He read, and was sprinkled with pure water
He was separated from the people who were turbulent as water.
For his sake, do not withhold water.

The Tribes:

Remember the twelve tribes, You brought them through divided water.
You sweetened the bitterness of water.
Their descendants, their blood was spilled for Your sake like water.
Turn to us for our soul is engulfed like water.
For all Israel's sake, grant the gift of water.

Notes: 1 While Abraham took the water to the three strangers, we suggest that Sarah helped prepare it along with the cakes she prepared in Gen 18:6.

2. Shafir in Hebrew means 'fine', but 'mey shafir' means the amniotic fluid that surrounds the foetus ('ubbar') in the womb.

3 "Mother of Children" [Ps. 113]. In Gen. 32:23, Leah and her children ford the Yabbok. Preceded by the maidservants and their children, Gen 33:2 explicitly names Leah as first, followed by her offspring, to brave Esau's expected wrath. We suggest that they forded the Yabbok first as well.

4 In Gen.49:13, Leah's son Zvulun is blessed saying he'll dwell at the shore of the sea.