

Forgetting and Remembering

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Forgetfulness leads to exile, while remembrance is the secret of redemption.

—BAAL SHEM TOV

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Rabbi Sh'lomo of Karlin asked: "What is the worst thing the Evil Urge can achieve?" And he answered: "To make a person forget that one is the child of a king."

—A HASIDIC TALE

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God does not forget those who have been abandoned by others. Some of the key verses in this section are taken from the story of the flood, when God remembers those who are left when the world has come undone, and from the story of the Israelites as slaves in Egypt, when God hears their cries. God remembers us even when we think that we are disgraced or abandoned.

—RACHEL KAHN-TROSTER

As it is written in Your Torah:

⌘ God *remembered* Noah and all the beasts and all the cattle that were with him in the ark, and God caused a wind to blow across the earth and the waters subsided. Genesis 8:1

⌘ God heard their agonized cry, and God *remembered* the covenant with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. Exodus 2:24

⌘ Then will I *remember* My covenant with Jacob; I will remember also my covenant with Isaac, and also My covenant with Abraham; and I will remember the land. Leviticus 26:42

And it is also written in the Book of Psalms:

⌘ God has made wondrous works to be *remembered*; ADONAI is gracious and compassionate. Psalms 111:4

⌘ God always *remembers* the covenant, providing sustenance for those in awe of the Divine. Psalms 111:5

⌘ God *remembered* the covenant and, with great love, relented. Psalms 106:45

And Your servants the prophets further wrote:

⌘ Go proclaim to Jerusalem: Thus said ADONAI: I *remember* the affection of your youth, your love when we were betrothed when you followed Me in the wilderness, a barren land. Jeremiah 2:2

⌘ I will always *remember* the covenant I made with you in the days of your youth, and establish it with you as a covenant that will last forever. Ezekiel 16:60

⌘ Is not Ephraim My dear son, My precious child, whom I *remember* fondly even when I speak against him? So my heart reaches out to him, and I always feel compassion for him, declares ADONAI. Jeremiah 31:20

Our God and God of our ancestors, remember us favorably, and from the highest heavens above fulfill Your promise of compassion and deliverance. For our sake, remember Your loving relationship with us, the covenant and the promise that You made to Abraham on Mount Moriah. Hold before You the image of our ancestor Abraham binding his son Isaac on the altar, when he overcame his compassion in order to obey Your command wholeheartedly. Now, allow Your compassion