

## I Spread Out My God's Names In Front Of Me

פְּרַשְׁתִּי לְפָנַי אֶת שְׁמוֹת אֱלֹהֵי  
עַל רֹצְפֵת חֲדָרַי הַקְּרִירָה.  
שֵׁם שֶׁקָּרָאתִיו בּוֹ כְּשֶׁרוּחוֹ נָפַח בִּי.  
וְשֵׁם שֶׁקָּרָאתִיו בּוֹ בְּהִיוֹתִי נְעָרָה.  
שֵׁם שֶׁקָּרָאתִיו בּוֹ כְּשֶׁלְּאִישׁ נִמְסַרְתִּי.  
וְשֵׁם שֶׁלְּכֹל שׁוֹב אֲנִי מִתְּרָה.  
שֵׁם שֶׁקָּרָאתִיו בּוֹ כְּשֶׁהוֹרִי הָיוּ גַג לִי. וְשֵׁם בְּאֵין לִי תִקְרָה.  
שֵׁם שֶׁקָּרָאתִיו בּוֹ לְמַעַן אֵירָאֵנוּ. וְשֵׁם בּוֹ קָרָאתִיו לְמַעַן לֹא אֵירָא.  
שֵׁם שֶׁקָּרָאתִיו בּוֹ לְמַעַן יִזְכְּרֵנִי. וְשֵׁם כִּדִּי שֶׁיִּמְנַע מִזְכִּירָה.  
כָּחַם הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁתַּטַּח אֶפְיָם  
עַל רֹצְפֵת חֲדָרַי הַקְּרִירָה.

I spread out my God's names in front of me  
On the cold floor of my room.  
The name by which I called him when his spirit breathed in me.  
And the name by which I called him when I was a girl.  
The name by which I called him when I was given to a man.  
And the name by which I called him when again permitted to all.  
The name by which I called him when my parents were a roof to me. And the  
name when I had no ceiling.  
The name by which I called him that I might fear him. And the name that I called  
him so that I would not be afraid.  
The name by which I called him so that he would remember me. And the name so  
that he would not remember.  
In the heat of the day I will prostrate myself  
On the cold floor of my room.

Rivka Miriam