

## I Believe With Complete Faith

אָנִי מֵאֲמִין בְּאֲמוּנָה שְׁלֵמָה בְּתַחֲיַת הַמֵּתִים כִּי,  
כְּמוֹ אָדָם שֶׁמְבַקֵּשׁ לְחַזֵּר לְמָקוֹם אֲהוּב, יִשְׂאִיר  
בְּכוֹנֵה, סֵפֶר, סֵל, מְשַׁקְפִים, תְּצֵלוֹם קָטָן  
שֶׁיְהִי לּוֹ תְרוּץ לְחֹזֵר, כִּד הַמֵּתִים מִשְׂאִירִים  
אֶת הַחַיִּים וְיִחְזְרוּ.  
פֶּעַם עָמַדְתִּי בְּעֶרְפִילֵי סֵתוֹ רְחוֹק  
בְּבֵית קְבָרוֹת יְהוּדֵי נְטוּשׁ, אֲבָל לֹא נְטוּשׁ עַל-יְדֵי מֵתָיו.  
הִגִּנּוּ הָיָה מִמָּחָה לְפָרְחִים וּלְעוֹנוֹת הַשָּׁנָה  
וְלֹא מִמָּחָה לְיְהוּדִים הַקְּבוּרִים,  
אֵף הוּא אָמַר: הֵם מֵתְאַמְנִים לְיָלָה, לְיָלָה, לְתַחֲיַת הַמֵּתִים.

I believe with complete faith in the resurrection of the dead for  
just as a person who wants to return to a beloved place will leave  
intentionally a book, basket, glasses, a small picture  
such that he has some reason to return, just so the dead leave behind  
life for which they can return.  
Once, in the mists of a distant fall, I stood  
in an abandoned Jewish cemetery, but it had not been abandoned by its dead.  
The groundskeeper was an expert in flowers and in the year's seasons  
but he was no expert in buried Jews,  
yet he said: Every night they practice for the resurrection of the dead.

Yehuda Amichai

Translated by Rabbi Steven Sager