

Like One Who Left Egypt:

In The Middle Of The Story

וַיְמַהֲמַה מִשָּׁדַח חַיִּי? אֲנִי כְּמוֹ אֶחָד שֶׁיָּצָא מִמִּצְרַיִם
וַיִּסְּסוּף נִבְקַע לְשָׁנָיִם וַאֲנִי עוֹבֵר בְּחַרְבָּה
וַיִּשְׁתִּי חוֹמוֹת מַיִם מִיְמִינִי וּמִשְׂמָאלַי.
מֵאַחֲרַי חֵיל פְּרָעָה וּפָרָשָׁיו וּלְפָנַי הַמִּדְבָּר
וְאוֹלַי הָאָרֶץ הַמְּבֹטָחַת. זֶה מִשָּׁדַח חַיִּי.

What is the continuity of my life? I am like one who left Egypt
With the Red Sea split in two and I passing through on dry ground
With two walls of water on my right and on my left.
Behind me Pharaoh's force and his chariots and before me the wilderness
and perhaps the promised land. This is the continuity of my life.

Yehuda Amichai

Translated by Rabbi Steven Sager