

## unrecognizable

Like wildfire through Sighet spread the news,  
It's not lethal... So what? The yellow star?  
The Germans were in our town, and still smiling were the Jews.  
We walked toward a convoy of cattle cars.  
The smell of burning flesh in the air.  
In front of us, those flames.

Mother was stroking my sister's blond hair.  
I didn't know I was leaving my mother and Tzipora forever.  
Why should I sanctify his name? For the first time, I felt anger rising within me.  
I was alone in a world without God, without man, without love or mercy.  
In a few seconds, we had ceased to be men.  
Left was a shape that resembled me.

Deep inside, I felt a great void opening. I was out of tears.  
My soul had been invaded and devoured by a black flame.  
I did not fast. I had become a different person.  
That's all we thought about. Only of bread.  
I saw Julieck facing me, hunched over dead.  
We had ceased to be men.

Above my father, who was still alive, I had to go to sleep.  
If I searched, I might have found something like: Free at last!  
I did not weep.

No thought of revenge, or of parents.  
In the heart of the desert, we were withered trees.  
From the depths of the mirror,  
A corpse was contemplating me