



**IN GEVEB** A JOURNAL OF YIDDISH STUDIES

**רויך • Smoke**

by Jacob Glatstein, translation by Hershl Hartman

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For the online version of this article:

[<http://ingeveb.org/texts-and-translations/smoke>]

רויך

## Smoke

Jacob Glatstein  
translated by Hershl Hartman

**Introduction:** While our usual practice is to publish short poems in clusters of two or three, sometimes a poem retains more of its power and force when read in isolation. In this spirit, *In geveb* is pleased to present the first in a series of stand-alone poems: Jacob Glatstein's 1946 poem "Smoke", in a rhyming translation by Hershl Hartman.

Hartman notes that, like many Yiddish poets who had escaped the khurbn by pre-war emigration, Glatstein devoted a significant part of his subsequent creativity to commemorating that horror, as well as to glorifying the resistance that is too often overlooked.

## Smoke

In the rising smoke of the crematory flue  
The Elder of Days greets the smoke of a Jew.  
And as soon as that poof of smoke is defiled  
There appear the wisps of his wife and his child.  
And above in heavenly sojourn  
Holy vapors sob and yearn.  
God, wherever you choose to be  
There, too, one cannot find such as we.

## רויך

דורכן קרעמאַטאַריע־קווימען  
קרויזט אַרויף אַ ייד צום עתיק־יומין.  
און ווי נאָר דער רויך פֿאַרשווינדט,  
קנילן אַרויף זײַן ווייב און קינד.  
און אויבן אין די הימלישע הייכן  
וויינען, בענקען הייליקע רויכן.  
גאָט, דאָרט וווּ דו ביסט דאָ,  
דאָרטן זײַנען מיר אַלע אויך נישטאַ.