

Songs in Hebrew, sung by captive Soviet Jews and by Free Jews in Israel

Created by: Anat Zalmanson-Kuznetsov

One was sung by Soviet Jews, trapped in the USSR: “Blue and White are the colors of my land, for now and ever after”.

The other was sung by Jews in Israel:

“Won’t you ask after, O Zion, the weal of your captive?”

Sing in Hebrew, and discuss the lyrics meanings and source.



SONG TITLE IN ENGLISH

Blue and White

SONG TITLE IN HEBREW

כחול ולבן

How to say it in Hebrew: Kachol Ve-Lavan

THE STORY BEHIND THE SONG

Kachol Ve-Lavan (Hebrew: Blue and White), in an Hebrew patriot song that became an anthem of Soviet Jewry and was also popular in Israel.

The song and its melody were written in the late 60’s by Israel Rashel, a Jewish resident of Minsk, who was then 21. Herschel wrote the poem in Hebrew in order to express his connection to Israel. He fought for his right to immigrate to Israel until he achieved it in March 1971.

THE SONG’S MEANING

The song expresses feelings and meanings associated with blue and white colors, the national colors of the State of Israel.

LINKS TO SONG’S MELODY

<https://youtu.be/qsVXn3bzGvl>

LYRICS IN ENGLISH AND HEBREW

ENGLISH	Transliteration	HEBREW
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
It's my color.	Ze tzeva sheli	זה צבע שלי
blue and white	Kachul ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
the colors of my land	Tziv-ay admati	צבעי אדמתי
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
It's my color.	Ze tzeva sheli	זה צבע שלי
All my days, forever.	Kol yamy, le-o'lam...	כל ימי לעולם
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
Like a song, like a dream.	Kmo shir, kmo chalom	כמו שיר, כמו חלום
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
Hope for Peace.	Tikva le-shalom	תקוה לשלום
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן

ENGLISH	Transliteration	HEBREW
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
It's my color	Ze tzeva sheli	זה צבע שלי
All my days, forever...	Kol yamy, le-o'lam...	כל ימי לעולם
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
Hermon and Kinneret	Hermon ve kineret	חרמון וכנרת
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
My heart is singing	Libi mezamer et	ליבי מזמר את
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
It's my color.	Ze tzeva sheli	זה צבע שלי
All my days, forever.	Kol yamy, le-olam...	כל ימי לעולם
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
Sky and snow.	Shamaeim ve sheleg	שמים ושלג

ENGLISH	Transliteration	HEBREW
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
It's a wonder and a wonder	Ze pelle ve pelle	זה פלא ופלא
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
It's my color.	Ze tzeva sheli	זה צבע שלי
All my days, forever.	Kol yamy, le-o'lam...	כל ימי לעולם
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
There is no other color.	Ein tzeva acher	אין צבע אחר
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
I'm just repeating and say	Ani rak chozer	אני רק חוזר
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
blue and white	Kachol ve-lavan	כחול ולבן
It's my color.	Ze tzeva sheli	זה צבע שלי
All my days, forever	Kol yamy, le-olam...	כל ימי לעולם



SONG TITLE IN ENGLISH

Won't you ask after, O Zion, the weal of your captives

Or

Zion, shall you not beseech the welfare of your prisoners?

SONG TITLE IN HEBREW

צִיּוֹן, הֲלֹא תִשְׁאַלִי לְשִׁלּוֹם אֲסִירֶיךָ?

How to say it in Hebrew: Tzion, halo tishali lishlom asira'ich

THE STORY BEHIND THE SONG

Associated with the tragedy of Tisha B'Av — the long Jewish exile — and its grand Zionist “correction” with the emergence of the State of Israel, the same song has since been drafted to serve a variety of other “Jewish prisoners”.

THE SONG'S MEANING

Rabbi Yehuda Halevi's poem is a song of love and longing for his beloved soul, to the Land of Israel. As a devoted and faithful lover, he faces the ups and downs of a whirlwind of heavy feelings - betrayal, difficulty dealing with the loss of his lover's youth, and the supposed loss of her special qualities.

In contrast to the emotional jolt of the speaker, the collective presented in the poem, exhibits a steady attitude towards Zion. They are prisoners of love for her. Apparently, the agitated speaker derives his stability from the collective's stability. At the end of the poem he becomes part of the collective, that awaits patiently. Source

http://www.daat.ac.il/daat/ktav_et/maamar.asp?ktavet=1&id=198

LINKS

Short version (pray like) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eusUnhpDEkQ>

Longer version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5k79SEedjVQ+>

Full Lyrics in English <http://www.soulandgone.com/2012/12/17/yehuda-ha-levi-tziyon-ha-lo-tishali/>

Full lyrics in Hebrew

<https://web.nli.org.il/sites/nlis/he/song/pages/song.aspx?SongID=391#25,75,989,225>

LYRICS IN ENGLISH AND HEBREW

ENGLISH	Transliteration	HEBREW
Won't you ask after, O Zion, the weal of your captives,	Tziyon, ha-lo tishali- li-shlom ashira-ich,	צִיּוֹן הֲלֹא תִשְׁאַלִי לְשָׁלוֹם אַסִּירֶיךָ
That part of your flocks which seeks to know yours?	Dorshei shlomech vehem yeter adaraich	דוֹרְשֵׁי שְׁלוֹמְךָ וְהֵם יִתֶּר עֲדָרֶיךָ
Water (West) and East and North and Yemen	Ma-eim u-mizrach u-me-tzphone u-timan shalom	מַיִם וּמִזְרָח וּמִצְפוֹן וְתִימָן שָׁלוֹם
Near and far, bring forth weal from your every direction,	Rachok ve-karov she-ee mikol avara-ich	רָחוֹק וְקָרוֹב שְׂאֵי מִכָּל עֲבָרֶיךָ
The weal of lust's captive, his tears Hermon's dews, Who yearns to let them fall on the slopes your peaks!	U-shalom ashir teava, noten dimotav ketal hermon ve-nichsaf lirdetam al harara-ich	וְשָׁלוֹם אֲסִיר תַּאֲוָה, נוֹתֵן דִּמְעָיו כְּטֶל-חֶרְמוֹן וְנִכְסֵף לְרֹדְתָם עַל הַרְרֶיךָ!

ENGLISH	Transliteration	HEBREW
<p>To bewail your affliction I cry out like jackals, But in times that I dream that your bondage might end, I become like a violin for your songs.</p>	<p>Livkot anutech ani tanim, ve-et achlom shivat shevotech - ani kinor leshira-ich</p>	<p>לבבות ענותך אני תנים, ועת אהלים שיבת שבותך - אני כנור לשיריך.</p>