



*Father, come, tell me, speak,
What is this country I'm fighting for?
What hill or warm valley knew you
And, loving it, remember still?*

*On what lands did your bare feet walk?
What is this city Jerusalem?
This village Tarsheha?¹*

*Of what substance is your blood?
Is mine the same?
Father do your shrouded memories fade?*

*Are you telling me of the Eastern sun
That touched you on Jordan's shore?
Or was it in Lebanon that the night wind
Tore at you and made you sway?*

*Whose pious hand father, come, tell me
bore you to these remote and foreign lands?*

*Father wait! Speak to me!
Your words stir something deep in my heart.
They are my mirror, and in them
I see our country, father!*

*My feet may walk on alien soil,
but in my dreams, I live in Palestine,
My soul resides there,
My body fights for our country, father.*

*Father, come, tell me, speak,
What is this country called Israel?*

*I see Mount Masada²
I am standing upon it,
I am standing there with my people father
And we will stand there until victory!*

Miss Marianne Clark
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¹ Tarsheha: a small village in North Palestine.

² Masada: In ancient days, this mountain was attacked and surrounded by enemies. The people on the mountain resisted and kept the enemy at bay. After the food supply to the fortress was cut, their resistance was weakened and eventually overpowered. Instead of falling into the hands of the enemy, the people committed mass suicide before the enemy forces actually entered the fortress.