

Moshe Yitzhaki – an unknown poet and enigmatic poetry

Noga Rubin

Abstract

This essay is examined the "Farewell Poems" that the poet Moshe Yitzhaki dedicated to his parents departure from this world. Leave-taking from one's parents is a complex issue, and surprisingly, not many works have been written on this subject. Accordingly, there is not much critical analysis of this topic. Yitzhaki approaches this leave-taking on two levels: cognitively he is aware that he could help his parents by lessening their suffering and even speeding up their end. With that being said emotionally it is difficult, and nearly impossible to take leave of them forever. Yitzhaki's solution is to "freeze the moment of departure". This way he attempts to preserve his parents' existence not only in his memory but also in a "seemingly genuine" way. Yitzhaki uses the many strata of the Hebrew language to create a variety of allusions. Sometimes he retains the original meaning of his sources, and sometimes he intentionally negates the standard meaning. It is apparent that this poet alludes to others (few), who have dealt with this topic. A comparison between his work and the work of others enables us to focus on his individuality and uniqueness. An examination of this group of Yitzhaki's poems provides an appreciation of this important and productive poet.