

# SYRIA a PRISON for JEWS SYRIA a PRISON

AMNON SHAMOSH

## FOUR HUNDRED WOMEN\*

In the name of four hundred women  
I accuse

Four hundred women  
Who did not give birth  
Who will not give birth  
Four hundred families  
That were not created and will not  
Be created  
Speak to them  
and they will thunder

Four hundred women

Four hundred potential mothers  
Who will never  
Never forget  
Four hundred yearnings  
To breast-feed  
To wrap napkins  
To rejoice

The sound of their bodies  
Withering  
And their flowering in despair  
Crying from Kamishli  
Aleppo and Damascus

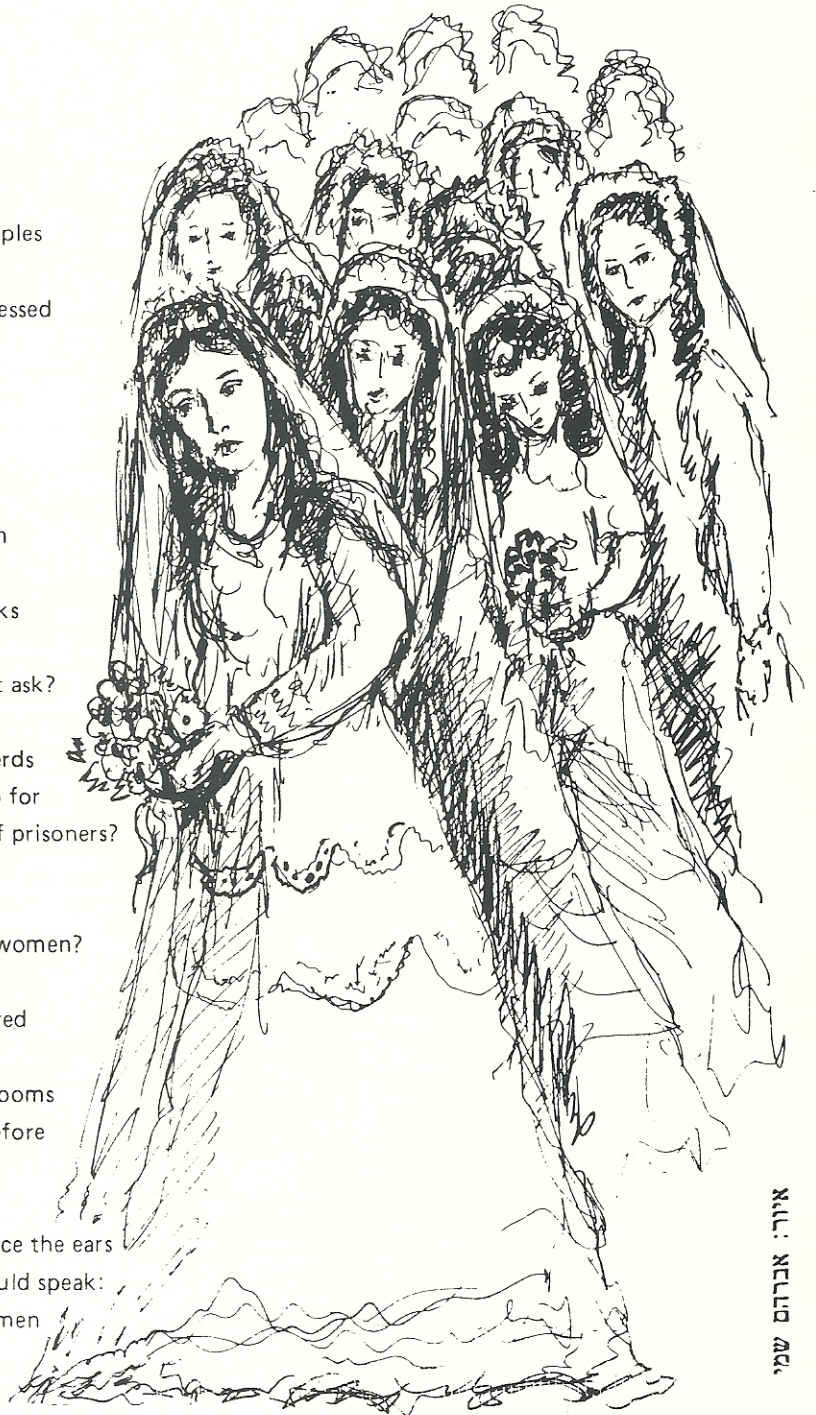
Four hundred women

Four hundred couples  
Of breasts  
That were not caressed  
Not filled  
Did not taste lips  
Did not feed  
Did not give —  
Fallow fields  
never turned green  
Trees  
turned to dry sticks

Zion, will you not ask?  
Will you not ask  
What your shepherds  
Your ministers do for  
Your flock of prisoners?  
Are they deaf  
To the sounds  
Of four hundred women?

Cry of four hundred  
Brides  
Brides without grooms  
Never heard of before  
By Satan

Let the voice pierce the ears  
of those who should speak:  
four hundred women



איור: אדם אהרונים

\* The Poem was translated from Hebrew by the poet ADA AHARONI.

This poem is dedicated to the young Jewish girls in Syria, who cannot find a husband within the dwindling community. By the time these young women may be able to leave Syria, they will probably not be of childbearing age, and will be deprived of the most elementary human right — that of motherhood.

# LET SYRIAN JEWS OUT! LET SYRIAN JEWS