

I Love You With All My Broken Heart*

I was sitting with the
truthful linguist
the Gerer
just before
he became nifter, er dead
it must have been
04, 05.
The Sukkah is a chuppah
he opened with,
we wedded God
on the way out of Egypt.
I am the Holy One who marries you
he sang
quoting Vayikra 22
then he sang the prayers
who spreads out a sukkah of peace over us
he stopped and cocked his head sideways
spreads out means to choose a portion
a part of the whole
but God is wholeness itself
he said resuming the song
I dwell with the partial
he sang in God's voice now
I dwell with the lowly with the humble
quoting Isaiah 57.
Who is a whole person
he was quoting the Book of Splendor now
me of the broken heart.
His voice ascended
Wherever God dwells
there is wholeness
he was almost howling now
God makes whole out of half
who spreads the sukkah of peace over us?
He was bringing down the idea now
to its resting place
his voice settled into a whisper
a low hum heard from one corner of the room
to the other
God sets aside the partial
the inner point that is everywhere
the part that is All
this is us among the many
the wounded among the well

the partial among the whole
everywhere
everywhere
God dwells
is whole.

*A Blessing for the Chag

james stone goodman

- From the Sefat Emet Rabbi Yehudah Leib Alter,
the rebbe of Ger (near Warsaw)
d. 1905.

Sukkah: temporary booth of the wilderness
chuppah: wedding canopy