

In Tzefat, the holy city on the Hill

The Muslim Chiliasts are praying
as usual
for the utter destruction of the Jewish interlopers
upon whom all curses rail
as they have been all along
only now they pray then they arm
then they dispatch their Iranian rockets
into the north of the holy land.

Holy land indeed.
Only in Tzefat is there a messianism
to compare
but here it's more in lore
where the Messiah will walk
during these three weeks of our mourning
when the war was brokered by the ultramontane forces
of the army of God over the northern mountains.

In Tzefat we are counting the days until
the ninth of Av
the destruction of the Temple
the secret ascent hidden in the descent
cockeyed optimism of the Kabbalist
who believes the Messiah will be born
on the saddest day of the year.

The Rabbi of Breslov has miracle stories to tell
miracles are happening at every moment he says.

The Ethiopians here say
God has brought us home
God will protect us
Uncle walked across Ethiopia
then the Sudan to arrive here
he shows a hole in the wall of his office
where a Katyusha hit minutes after he left it
God must love me, he says

and in one of the nicest northern towns
this side of the mountain, lower montane
see that guy bowed in the sun in Chassidic black?
he used to be the stage set designer for Frank Zappa
how wrong can the world be with such a remedy?

peace poem #1
jsg