



Verses (*Coplas*) written by Bouena Sarfatty appearing in *An Ode to Salonika* (IUP, 2013)

Translated from the Ladino by Renée Levine Melammed

(5) A Salonique aye rumores ke Hitler se va a mouerir,
Ma yo digo: ke pene i ke non mouera.
Ke le venga oun negro mal
I ke non eskape mas a el i sou deredor mouta dolor de korason,
Espero ke el Dio me va a sentir estas maldiciones ke le et(c)hi.
Bevamos a la saloud de Bessanthi.

There are rumors in Salonika that Hitler is going to die,
But I say: Let him suffer and not die.
May a great misfortune befall him
And may he and those around him no longer avoid great heartache.
I hope that God is going to hear (me and) these curses that I have cast upon
him.
Let us drink to the health of Bessanthi.

(7) Papanoum se izo amigo kon Hasson.
Todos dizian ke tiene este antisemit kon oun djidiio?
Estan aziendo endjuntos los planos por la deportacion del los djidios,
I tomar todos los bienes de loz desmazalados.
Esperamos ke non van aparvenir,
Porke Salonique eze ciudad de nese.
Bevamos a la saloud de akeyos, ke kreyen ke vamos a bevir.

Papanoum befriended Hasson.
Everyone says: What is this antisemite doing with a Jew?
They are making the plans together for the deportation of the Jews,
And to take all the belongings of these unfortunates.
We hope that they are not going to succeed,
Because Salonika is a city of miracles.
Let us drink to the health of those who believe that we are going to live.

(10) Amigos gregos mos kieren ayoudar.
Se espantan ma ine moz vienen avijitar.
Demandan si kierech ke ayamos algouna koza,
Ma mozotros semos espantozos.
Bevamos a la saloud de estos amigos ke non mankaron de mos enkorajar.

Greek friends want to help us.
They are afraid, but even so, they come to visit us.
They ask if we need anything, but we are fearful.
Let us drink to the health of those friends who never failed to encourage us.



(14) Paresemos ounos kodredos enfrente de los almanes.
La djouventoud se kiere revoltar, ma la kaye de Salonique eze de asfalt.
Non aye ni piedras para arrojar.

Bevamos a la saloud de Avraam Yonatan.

We appear to be like sheep facing the Germans.
The youth ought to revolt, but the street of Salonika is of asphalt.
There were no stones to throw.
Let us drink to the health of Avraham Yonatan.

(24) Foue a vijitar a loz mansevos
Ke los almanes tomaron a lavoro forsado.
De 18 a 28 todo djidio devia yir.
Komo lavorava a la Croix Rouge, tinia carta para entrar.
Loz mansevos estavan koumiendo lahna bouyida kon avoua;
Gosti non avia ni sal.
Bevamos a la saloud de estos mansevos ke estan soufriendo sin kedar.

I went to visit the young men
Whom the Germans took for forced labor.
Every Jew age 18 to 28 had to go.
Being a worker for the Red Cross, I had an entrance pass.
The fellows were eating cabbage boiled in water;
It had neither taste nor salt.
Let us drink to the health of these young men who are suffering without
complaining.

(25) Kouando vine en kaza de las ergas (lavoro forsado),
Estava mouerta kansada, de ver estos mansevos soufriendo.
En atornado, mi kaza estava yena de madres
A demandar si vidé a sou ijo i komo esta.
A todas les diche ke estan bouenos, ma,
El corazon me douwilyo de ver estos mansevos en dolor.
Bevamos a la saloud de estos mansevos ke estavan sin kolor.

When I came home from the labor camp,
I was dead tired after seeing those young men suffering.
Upon my return, my house was filled with mothers,
(Each) Asking if I saw her son and how he is.
I told them all that they are fine, but
My heart ached to see these fellows in pain.
Let us drink to the health of those young men who had no color (in their
faces).

(26) El primo ke vide a las ergas foue Salomon Shaki.
Le estava kouriendo sangre de la naris.



Non tenia riza para se alimpiar;
Le di la mia ke non abasto.
Arazgui el volan del vistido i se lo di.
Kontinuyi mi vijita, ke el alman me dicho de avansar.
Por seguro ke esta chena nounka me la vo a olvidar.
Bevamos a la saloud de los ke van a kedar.

The first one I saw at the camps was Salomon Shaki.
Blood was running down his nose.
He did not have a handkerchief to wipe himself clean;
I gave him mine which did not suffice.
I tore the petticoat of my dress and gave it to him.
I continued my visit, since the German told me to move on.
There is no doubt that I will never forget that scene.
Let us drink to the health of those who are going to remain (survive).

(36) Todos se espantan de avlar; parese ke aya politofilaka sin brasar.
La sola cosa ke dizen: "boka serada non entra mochka."
Bevamos a la saloud de akejos ke aseran la boka.

Everyone is afraid to talk; there seem to be Jewish police everywhere.
The only thing they say (is): "Flies don't enter closed mouths."
Let us drink to the health of those who close their mouths.

(38) Koretz mos vendio a todo la djouderia
Para se salvar el i su familia i toda su kompagnia.
Mos dicho ke el viene de venir de la Europa
I todos los djidios komen bien i non la babota.
Bevamos a la saloud de Daniel Serotta.

Koretz sold us out, the whole Jewish community,
In order to save himself, his family and his entourage.
He told us that he just came from Europe
And all the Jews are eating well and not just cornbread.
Let us drink to the health of Daniel Serotta.

(71) La ermana de Hasson es empregada de la komounidad.
Save todos los sekretos de la djouderia.
Se loz dio a Hasson para sou koulevreria.
El tiempo de la deportation se intho de oro ke el ermano arovo.
Hasson la mando kon los privilijiados i a Salonique atorno.
Estouvo djousgada.
Malhorozamente non avia testiomognos para la kondanar.
Todos se mourieron al krematorio del Alman.

Hasson's sister is an employee of the community.
She knows all the secrets of the Jewish community.
She gave them to Hasson for his lowdown (snakelike) business.
At the time of the deportation,



She stuffed herself with gold that her brother stole.
Hasson sent her with the privileged and she returned to Salonika.
She was tried.
Unfortunately, there were no witnesses to condemn her.
Everyone had died in the German crematorium.

(77) Estamos Athena.
Salimos a merkar sena; vemos amigos o konosidos.
Non dizimos ni Shalom ni bouenos dias.
Non savemos si eze pouro djidio
O politofilaka del Alman.
Bevamos a la saloud de los ke toman prekotion.

We are in Athens.
We go out to eat dinner; we see friends or acquaintances.
We say neither hello nor good day (to them).
We do not know if this (person) is a loyal Jew
Or a German collaborator.
Let us drink to the health of those who take precautions.

(97) La souerte de Daniel Modiano foue ouna trajedia.
Estava en Italia, en oun hotel al Lac Superiere.
Los almanes vigneron, mataron a el i a su kompagnia.
Los katavres foueron ethados al lac.
Esto izo el Alman mas Negro de pharo i Aman.

The fate of Daniel Modiano was a tragedy.
He was in Italy, in a hotel on Lake Superior.
The Germans came, killed him and his coterie.
The cadavers were thrown into the lake.
This was done (by) the German more evil than Pharoah and Haman.