

ParshaPoem

by Richard Shavei Tzion

EIKEV

Image of God

From the beginning I searched
For His image within
Shadow of perfection
Suggestion of transcendence
Delving immaculate minds
Of compass and cure
Fission and Zyklon B
Finding no trace
Then God summoned our love
With all heart, soul, might, all
Yet before instructing
Love your fellow as yourself
Is it not all to be absorbed by Him?
No, love inherently infinite
There the image of God

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R'EI

The Curse, the Blessing and the Blind Man

Cantor Abraham Immerman (1904-2000)*

Avraham ben Avraham
No mother or father
For the blind boy to speak of
Ethereal lullaby floats
Above immense memory of
The swirling labyrinth of our years
Cantor, coach
Torah Tefillah
A thousand disciple's voices
Echoed in the imagining of his heart
He raised his voice
With clarity of vision
The master sculpture
Shaping splinter to sublime
Whittling the torment
Hewing away heartbreak
Patiently as the redwood
Exposing a core of the deepest belief
Acceptance
And desire to serve his pupils his progeny
Fashioning curse into blessing

* He memorized the Tefilot, the Torah,
Haftarot and perpetual Jewish calendar