

1. MIRIAM TOOK HER TIMBRAL OUT - BY THE SHORES  
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EXODUS25:22 1984

By the shores, by the shores, Of the Red, Red Sea,  
By the shores of the Red, Red Sea; The light of day lit up the night; The children, they were free.

CHORUS: And Miriam took her timbrel out and all the women danced. (2X)  
***Va- te-kach Miriam ha-nivea et ha tof b'ya-da, va'taytzeh-na col ha-nashim ah-cha- re-ha.***

They danced, they danced; Oh, how they danced  
They danced the night away; Clapped their hands and stamped their feet; With voices loud they praised.

They danced with joy, They danced with grace  
They danced on nimble feet; Kicked up their heels, threw back their heads; Hypnotic with the beat. CHORUS

They danced so hard, they danced so fast; They danced with movement strong  
Laughed and cried, brought out alive; They danced until the dawn.

Some carrying child, some baking bread, Weeping as they prayed  
But when they heard the music start- They put their pain away. CHORUS

Enticed to sing, drawn to move, Mesmerized by such emotion  
The men saw us reach out our hands, Stretching across the ocean.

As they watched, and they clapped, they began to sway, Drawn to ride the wave  
And all our brothers began to dance, They dance with us today!

They danced, we dance, Shechinah dance  
They danced the night away, And all the people began to sing, We're singing 'til this day!!

FINAL CHORUS: And Miriam took her timbrel out and all the people danced. (2X)  
***Va- te-kach Miriam ha-nivea et ha tof b'ya-da, va'taytzeh-na col ha-nashim ah-cha- re-ha.***

2. SHIFRA AND PUAH\* 1986 Exodus 1:15ff  
Lyrics Rayzel Raphael, Music by: Gary Wise

It started out in Egypt, Such a long, long time ago  
When women had the power to tell ole Pharaoh "NO!"  
Was the power of the right to birth, Our heroes had the art  
Of saving the Hebrew children, Defying Pharaoh's heart.

Chorus:  
**Shifra and Puah, sitting stride the birthing stool  
Shifra and Puah, bravely flouting Pharaoh's rule  
Singing and cooing the cause of disobedience  
Guaranteeing civil independence!**

Summoned once before the court, Before the mighty king  
Pharaoh said "I want them dead, "I had a frightening dream.  
Kill all their male babies and Bury fast their bones  
For the Hebrews need a leader , To take them to their home." (Chorus)

The midwives returned To Pharaoh's court to say  
"Pharaoh, we've tried But these women have their ways,  
Of birthing their children Fast and in the fields  
For with Shechinah's\*\* helping hand , To you they'll never yield. (Chorus)

\*One of the interpretations of these names is singing ( Shifra) and cooing(Puah).  
\*\*The feminine Divine Presence

3. BAT YIFTACH\* Judges 11:1 - 40 Jan 1989

In the days of war when the judges judged,  
there was no king and every man did as he pleased.  
A child was born, A harlot's son was he  
Driven from his home, Cast out from his family.  
Yiftach, the Giladi, was a valiant warrior  
Yiftach, the Giladi, was soon to be so sorry.

**Chorus:**

**We weep our bitter tears for our sisters who have no names,  
Restore their histories, or our fate will be the same.**

He was begged to lead against the Ammonites,  
But instead of peace his armies began to fight.  
Then he vowed his vow to his G-d on high,  
"To sacrifice- the first to leave my house will die."  
The daughter of Yiftach, was a graceful dancer,  
Yiftach the Giladi, will soon be called to answer. (Chorus)

She ran and greeted him with the sound of timbrels  
She was the only one she hadn't any siblings.  
He tore his clothes and wept but blamed the innocent one.  
For the oath he swore that couldn't be undone.  
Bat Yiftach replied, "Do what you must do!"  
Then Yiftach replied, "If I only knew!" (Chorus)

"Grant me one request, let me be free  
for two months to mourn my virginity."  
She went away to weep with her women friends  
They were her comfort until the bitter end.  
The daughter of Yiftach, she never knew a man,  
Bat Yiftach, mourned throughout the land. (Chorus)

No, we'll never know if the fires did burn  
Or did he lock her up? What lessons did we learn?  
That the daughters of Israel  
Leave home every year to mourn lament and wail.  
Bat Yiftach, loved to sing and dance.  
Bat Yiftach, never had a chance! (Chorus)

\*Bat Yiftach- means: "the daughter of Yiftach"- she is unnamed in the Biblical text.

**4. BATYA- DAUGHTER OF GOD April 1996/Nisan 5756 Exodus 2:5ff**

Long ago in Pharaoh's time a princess felt alone  
Longing and praying for a child to call her own  
One day by the riverside - while washing her hair  
Looking down she saw - a basket floating there.

**Chorus: She drew him from the water, water, water,  
She drew him from the Nile  
Today she sits in Paradise underneath God's smile**

Mother and sister watched as the princess held him near  
Breathing sighs of relief, fighting back their tears  
Batya now knew her task, she must stand up to the hate  
Confront her own father, and she must not hesitate. Chorus:

As the princess looked across the banks at the women standing by  
Knowing of their sacrifice, the child she held might die  
Woman to woman they gazed, eyes locked in embrace  
Not a word was spoken, yet a covenant was made.

The silent bond of sisterhood is stronger than the chains  
For arms linked through the ages, soothe the knots of pain  
To nurse each others children, and listen with a willing ear  
Creates a legacy of love, defiant in the face of fear.<sup>2</sup> Chorus:

When it came her time to leave the earth  
Batya did not die  
Because of her goodness, she entered Paradise alive  
They say she teaches Torah to the women in the heavenly scene

And as a stranger is welcomed, she bestows the blessing. Chorus:

## 5. RITZPAH\* Jerusalem 1989

Ritzpah was the concubine of old King Saul 2 Sam 3:7  
The legend of her beauty, she stunned one and all;  
They say that she was the power behind the throne  
Yet many words are missing, her deeds won't be known.

### CHORUS:

**She was on the ground, But she was not down  
Her sons were bound , But she was not down  
Such pain profound, But she was not down  
Ritzpah! Eyes burning hot like coals.**

After King Saul died, his son desired her 2 Sam 21:1  
Yet she turned for comfort to General Abner;  
Yes, many men they wanted to possess her soul  
But Ritzpah was fiery, dangerous to hold. (Chorus)

Then came a famine in the reign of David  
So he went before the Lord to inquire and to plead;  
'twas the sins of Saul on the Gibonites  
So the sons of Ritzpah --doomed to death on that night (Chorus)

They were hung on the hill, before the harvest began 2 Sam 21:8  
Left to rot and dangle in the wind;  
Ritzpah spread her sackcloth upon the rock  
Guarding those bodies, till the water dropped. (Chorus)

She shielded them from the buzzards that flew by day  
Awake through the night to scare wild beasts away;  
David heard of her kindness and gathered the bones  
Claiming Ritzpah for concubine, her final home. (Chorus)

\* Ritzpah means "floor" in modern Hebrew - hence the pun: " she was not down" and it also means "burning coals" in the Biblical text

## 6. TAMAR\* Gen 38

She was the wife of Judah's first born, The second one as well-  
She was promised the third, But she never heard a word  
That's why Tamar rebelled, Yeah! That's why Tamar rebelled.

**Chorus: Tamar connived, Tamar survived, Tamar she did defy!  
She took aim, felt no shame, of having Judah's child.**

She stood by the road as Judah went by  
Widows clothes no more, Covered by a veil, So he couldn't tell  
Judah thought she was a whore, yeah! Judah thought she was a whore! Chorus:

But she was a smart lass and she covered her (ass)Takin' him to pledge  
Then she disappeared and she had no fear  
This woman had the edge, yeah! This woman had the edge.

Then, she had a baby kickin' inside her belly, A baby kickin' inside  
She was almost burned , She almost died  
They thought Tamar had lied, yeah!They thought Tamar had lied! Chorus:

Then they dragged her out to stand for trial, Accused of harlotry  
But she had the last laugh, For his ring and staff  
Were there for all to see, yeah! Were there for all to see! Chorus:

**\*Tamar means date tree**

## 7. RIVKA\* July 1993

Gen 24:27

Rivka- bride to be of Yitzchak, Watered a thousand camels at the well  
When asked to leave she said, "I'm going", Rivka, you leave us the mystery of the veil.

**Chorus: And Rivka said three times; "Listen to my voice, Sh'ma b'Koli Listen, listen, listen, Listen to my voice, Sh'ma b'Koli"\*\*\***

Rivka- sought an oracle for bearing children, G-d answered with a sign of twins inside her Well.  
Rivka- mastermind of subversion, Dressed the youngest as the oldest so Yitzhak couldn't tell.  
(Chorus)

Rivka- knew the legacy of her bloodline, She claimed her rights as a mother in Israel  
Rivka- seized the power of the moment, All she touches falls under her spell. Chorus:

**\*Rebecca**

**\*\*Listen to my voice**

## 48. JUDITH

It happened in the eighteenth year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar of Assyrians  
He sent his general, Holofernes, To bring the Jews down to their knees.  
Charging with their chariots from Nineveh, Soldiers with their horses on the long way  
They raped, pillaged, destroyed the towns, Riding to burn Jerusalem down.

**Chorus: Hey, ho Where you going Judith? Hey, ho where you going to?  
You're dressed to kill to meet the enemy,  
And he'll be dead if he's messing with you!**

The Jews, they prayed and fasted through the night  
with ashes on their heads and the enemy in sight;  
Surrounded by army, the water jugs were dry  
Crying to their G-d, "We're not prepared to die!" (Chorus)

A woman arose with a plan to save the day,  
Beseeching her people, "Join me now and pray!"  
"For tomorrow I go to turn the evil tide, We can not loose with our G-d on our side.!"  
So she dressed with jewels and a turban on her hair,  
Perfumed, anointed, she took her food for fare.  
The gates were opened, she marched to set them free  
This woman changed the course of our Jewish destiny. (Chorus)

She knelt before him, charmed him with her smile  
Saying, "Listen to me, General, I'll make it worth your while.  
I'll tell you when they're helpless, the Jews, your enemy."  
He fell for her beauty and her subtle trickery.  
Three days she prayed to the One up above,  
Crying, "Heaven, help me! Guard me with your love."  
When he tried to seduce her....She cut off his head  
A triumph for Israel, Holofernes was dead. (Chorus)

## 9. SHE SAID, "NO"

Margot Azen, Rayzel Raphael, Bayla Ruchama, Juliet Spitzer  
Rosh Chodesh Adar, February 17, 1988

Without her gown, He summoned her down Said it was his right, As a man with a crown  
He was obsessed; She should be undressed, Vashti refused to be a woman oppressed.

**CHORUS: She said "no" to the king, She said "no" to the king,  
She said "no-no-no-no-no-no-no" She said "no" to the king!**

The king then cried "Find me a bride, She must be beautiful, And have no pride";  
When Esther came He said "You I will tame, And if you don't like it, Well, Vashti's to blame!"

Esther took heart, It was her time to start, Thinking of others and doing her part  
She was to find to get out of the bind, She needed her body and also her mind. (CHORUS)

So Esther behaved, But the court was depraved, And Haman the Evil One Ranted and raved;  
She took a stand, Yes, she made a demand , That the Jews should be saved  
Throughout the land. (CHORUS)

10. TZLOPHANIT\* AND THE ANGEL JUDGES 13

Chorus: I said, "The wife of Manoah heard an angel!"  
I said; "Tzlophanit harkened to the call."

She was walking in the field, minding her own business  
When an angel did appear, calling her to witness  
Saying to her very clear, "A son will be born this year." Chorus:

She ran into the house, looking for Manoah;  
He said, "What's this all about?" she said; "I've got something to show ya."  
He said, "I don't believe what I hear, there are no angels, dear.  
"Yes, oh, yes, there is, for this is what he told me, "  
"Don't drink any wine, or eat foods unclean,  
Don't put a razor to his head, it'll bring about his death." Chorus:

They ran back to the field, Manoah oh, so shocked  
For sitting there quite calmly, an angel on a rock  
Manoah said, " my, oh, my , I think we're gonna die." Chorus"

They asked the angel's name, with an offering to eat  
but he rose into the flames, ascending through the heat;  
Manoah was quite alarmed, Tzlophanit knew he wouldn't harm.  
She was strong and brave, not at all afraid,  
She knew that they'd been blessed, by the heavenly guest,  
While Manoah was a little dense, Tzlophanit had common sense. Chorus:

\*Tzlophanit means “in the shadows”, and is not found in the Biblical text only the Rabbinic legends

11. Daughters Dancing 1993

Summoned from the hillsides, answering the *shofar's* blare  
Calling, calling, calling It was the time to be there  
Carrying belongings, gathering their fare, *Kinorot* commenced a'ilting,  
Strains of music in the air.

Chorus: *Gi-li Bat Tzion, Ha'ri-i Bat Yerushalayim\** Zech 9:9  
*The daughters came dancing to the Holy City.*

Grasping their bundles, piled upon their heads  
along the paths they wandered sunset gold and red  
Wildflowers waving, stepping stone over stone  
Arms linked one another, Her Spirit called them home. Chorus

Baskets for the harvests, grapes upon the vine  
Rings and earrings jingled, garlands intertwined;  
Women set for dancing, flowing with the wine  
Stamping out a rhythm, keeping sacred time. Chorus:

A cloud lit up the daytime- pillar of fire by night  
Guiding the dancing maidens, streaming towards the light  
Moon began a'singing, Beaming as the sun  
Proclaim the first reign of the Daughter! Her festival had begun! Chorus:

Drawing water from the wells of wisdom running deep  
Scaling Har Bat Tzion no more time to weep  
For the Temple is paved with love with the daughters radiance  
The time of joy is upon us, time for us to dance. Chorus:

\*Rejoice daughters of Zion and be glad Daughters of Jerusalem

## 12. TIFTACHI RACHMI 1989

When we were young, we were often told, Having children was the goal.

"Find yourself a man and, A family will be planned" Fantasies that won't release their hold;  
Be we married or divorced, Single, widowed, gay, of course--Longings that ache the soul.

**Chorus: Oh, Holy One Above! Fill my womb with your love,  
Complete my dreams of laughing children,**

***Tiftachi Rachmi!, Moshivi Akeret, Habayit, Em Habanim S'maycha, Halleluya !\**** Ps 118

Sarah waited for her children ninety years Gen 17:18  
Stoically choking back her tears. Or did she choose to lead? Hoping every month to bleed  
The light within her tent glowing strong; Each cycle that we wait, We wrestle with our fate  
Wondering if something's going wrong. (Chorus)

Mother Rachel cried her painful words, Yaakov's heart, was disturbed.

"Oh, give me a child, Or I will surely die, I need to see my flesh and bones!"

"Am I in G-d's place? Its your anger you must face!" Trust your destiny and you'll not be alone.  
(Chorus)

Hannah, the wife of Elkana, Was taunted by her rival, P'nina.

Yet with prayer she was soothed, Silently she moved

To fill a void so deep and wide; For our own tribulation May yet be jubilation  
Finding courage, hope and faith way down inside. (Chorus)

We ask these questions of ourselves, Seeking a answers that may help.

For we don't always understand, Why things don't work as planned  
Like others, we must search for stronger roles;

More than mother, more than wife, Putting richness in our life  
Laughing, loving, helping others be our goals. (Chorus)

\*Return the childless one home, a happy mother of children.

## 13. DEVORAH

June 1988

Dwelling underneath the palm, Devorah sat so wise and calm, Judging the children of Israel  
They came from far and wide to sit by her side, On the road from Ramah to Bethel.

**CHORUS:Where she said,"I am the mother of Israel,  
Hear Ye Children of Israel, Awake! Awake! Awake!"**

Ruled by *Yavin*, A mighty and sinister king, For the Jews did evil in the land  
They prayed to *Ba'alim*, It angered *Elohim*, Until Devorah issued her command. (CHORUS)

The captain of the guard, Oppressed the Jews so hard, They cried out for their salvation  
Devorah called Barak, Said, "We must attack, See, I've had a revelation. For today I prophecy  
Sisera must die, By the hands of the woman, Yael, She'll feed him milk to eat, He'll fall into a sleep  
His plans for domination will fail. (CHORUS)

So today we praise, The glory of G-d be raised, We dance and sing to the One  
Who guides us with Her might, Who brings us to the light, Strong and bright like the sun. (CHORUS)

**\*Devorah= Deborah, which means bee. She is also called the women of flames.**

## 14. RUTH

Sit rightdown to hear the sounds of the story of Ruth,

Woman of faith-- The risks aren't safe

When searching for the truth; Sons and husbands were dead

Pain in their stead, Naomi was leading the way,

From Moab they fled-- There were mouths to be fed, And Ruth began to pray:

**Chorus: Where you'll go.....I will go, Where you'll be..... I will be;  
Your people are my people, And I will never leave, I'll never leave!**

Home they returned, A Hunger burned  
Ruth went to glean the grain, She worked hard in the field  
G-d was her shield, She never revealed her name;  
Naomi was pleased, The moment seized, furthering the game,  
For Boaz the man never knew the plan, He was a wealthy cousin of fame. (Chorus)

Ruth lay in the wheat, Uncovered his feet, the good woman knew her task,  
Do what you can to please the man, Is it too much to ask?  
But as the sun did rise, There was love in his eyes  
With her his fate was cast, Raise the name of the dead  
They were soon wed, From her we trace our past. (Chorus)

### **15. WHO WERE THE WOMEN?\***

Who were the women and where were their voices?  
What were they doing and what were their choices?  
Who were the women and what what they saying?  
When were they singing and why are we praying?

Dina! Dina! Dina went out to the land, to the land, Gen 34:1  
Dina! Dina! She went out to meet the women of the land, of the land.  
She was raped by the hand of Shechem, Shechem  
**She was never heard from again, again; She was never heard from again.**

Hulda! Hulda! A prophetess of Josiah, Hulda! Hulda! Proclaimed the law for Judah.  
To her we owe Deuteronomy; The story of our people, our history  
**She was never heard from again, again, Not a word from her again.**

Rahav! Rahav! A harlot of old Jericho, Rahav! Rahav! Hid Joshua's spies so the king wouldn't know.  
She gave them room and she gave them board, Binding the sign of a scarlet cord  
**She was never heard from again, again, Not a word from her again.**

Daughters! Daughters! Daughters of Tzelophehad,  
Daughters! Daughters! Wanted the land for their own blood; Married among the tribal brothers, Women  
of inheritance unlike the others  
**They were never heard from again, again Not a word from them again.**

Yael! Yael! Put her hand to the tent spike, Yael! Yael! Struck Sisera with all her might.  
She saved the Jews with bravery, Sporting the head of the enemy.  
**She was never heard from again, again, Not a word from her again.**

Women, women, we've found our voices, let's join hands ;  
Sisters, sisters, we know our choices, let's take this stand,  
Our Biblical mothers were strong and bold  
**Let's learn their stories they must be told, They will be heard again.**

### **16. PROPHETESS April 1995**

Miriam, music she heard, Packed those timbrals with 'nary a word;  
Rivka's veil flying in the wind, Sought an oracle to learn about her twins;  
Sara saw in the desert at night, Wise woman with eyes of the sight.

**Chorus: Oh, Voice of Prophecy! Speaking now through you and me  
Call it intuition -call it -6th sense, The Holy Voice speaks in present tense.**

Devorah, known across the land, Knew the battle would be won by a woman's hand;  
Hulda, prophetess at the gate, Sayin' "here's the law, we shall not wait."  
Hanna knew of the kingdom to come, She wrote a song to the Holy One. Chorus

Avigail stopped David - right in his tracks, Pleaded with him- not to attack;  
Rachel named so her family 'd increase, Knew her blessings wouldn't cease  
Esther came before the mighty throne, Knowing clearly she wasn't alone. Chorus

Women of the Bible, mother of the child, daughters of the earth, sisters running wild  
Students in the dorm, wisdom of the sages, Bubbies in the kitchen,  
Voices through the ages, Soothing in the night, defiant in the hour,  
Visions in dreams, harvesting power.

### **17. SOPHIA'S SONG July 1995**

I will pour out my spirit to you, I will make known to you my word,

Lend your ear to wisdom and your heart to understanding, Finding the knowledge of God.

**Chorus: k'nay Hochmah, K'nay Binah, Rashit hochmah, k'nay hochmah  
u'v'chol kinyancha k'nay vinah.**

Before the mountains were settled before the hills and the fields  
In the time of the heaven and the circle on the deep I played at the side of the One. Chorus:

The beginning of wisdom is this: "get wisdom!" Find your way to understanding  
For the commandment is a lamp and the Torah is a light, the light and the life of your mother.

Keep my commandments and live - my Torah as the apple of your eye.  
Say to wisdom, "You are my sister. and call "Understanding" kinswoman. Chorus:

## **18. RACHEL ©Geela Rayzel Raphael, Dec 1998**

Chorus: She taught in the ways of women, her visions heaven sent  
The wisdom of our ancestors as she taught in the red red tent.

When she was young she used to gather with the women at the well  
to talk and laugh and share such secrets as women often tell  
she sauntered with her sister as they laughed along the way  
until a man rode between them kissing her one day. Chorus:

Now Rachel was a beauty, eyes of liquid fire;  
So Jacob agreed to labor - seven years for hire  
Yet on her wedding day, Leah took her place  
For Rachel taught her the secret signs, so Leah could save face. Chorus:

Rachels heart grew a hole that love couldn't close  
A longing for children only the barren knows  
so she bargained for the mandrakes- a night of passion for a potion  
then Bilha, Zilpa Leah's prayers moved heaven with their devotion.

Rachel, so wise and wily, knew the power of the teraphim  
and sitting on them in her tent; She said, " Ani b'derech nashim."  
Rachel still cries in Bethlehem for her children on the way  
and we still wind the red thread round our hands and hearts as we pray. Chorus:

## **19. Dangerous Dames @Geela Rayzel Raphael Sept 1999**

chorus:  
Dangerous dames, deadly, deadly fame  
Dangerous dames, dare not forget their names.

Deliah, oh Deliah, Judges 16:4 -18  
lured Sampson to her lair  
In the dark of night she cut off his hair.

Atalyah, Atalyah 2 Kings 11:1-20  
killed her grandchildren to be the Queen.  
for six long years ruled Israel like a fiend.

Bridge:  
When you're hot, your hot and when your not your not  
only women who can't be tamed will drive you insane.

Yael, Judith Judges 4:17-5:24  
sunk that knife so deep Book of Judith  
first feeding those generals then killing them in their sleep.

Jezebel, Jezebel 1 Kings 16:-19, 21:5-25  
wearing make up in her tower 2 Kings 9:7, 10, 22, 30,36,37  
woman at the gates of hell worshiped lust and power



## 20. BATSHEVA, THE BABE

(Nov 1997)

Geela Rayzel Raphael

2 Samuel 11

Chorus:

Batsheva was a babe, if you know what I mean  
Batsheva was a babe, a mother and a queen.

One day she was bathing up on the roof  
Her husband was away she could really cut loose.  
David took a look through his ole spyglass  
Liked what he saw, a voluptuous lass.

Chorus:

He said to himself, "Who could she be?"  
Then he told his messengers, "Bring her to me!"  
When she got there she stared him right in the eye  
Thought to herself "This is my kind of guy."

Chorus:

With a toss of her head sent the messengers away  
and said to the king, "I'm gonna have it my way."  
She said, "If we do it, we do it right  
I'll be your queen, you won't forget this night."

Chorus.

Now the story is told of the children she had  
one who died too young, she was oh, so sad.  
The other a king, of magic and mystery  
Bathsheva with your wisdom, you made history.

## 21. WILD WOMAN

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Chorus: I'm a wild woman, daughter of Lilith  
I'm a wild woman, sister to the moon  
I'm a wild woman, when Shechinah comes calling,  
I need to go running, I need to be free.

When I look in the mirror, I see only beauty  
Eyes flashing passionate fire  
My bodys' a sculpture of infinite wisdom  
My visions are dreams of artistic desire

Chorus:

I'm at home in the earth, talking to flowers  
Mud slides on my face and my toes  
In sync with the seasons, cycles of living  
Death is my teacher, watching me grow

bridge:

blood and mystery, naked in the wood,  
chant in harmony, I feel good

I need to break rules, so don't stand in my way  
My anger gives birth to justice denied  
Talkin' back to the snakes who trap my sisters  
My voice holds my power to sing and to cry.

Chorus:

## 22. The Red Tent

© Geela Rayzel Raphael September 2007

dedicated to Jill Hammer, Holly Taya Shere and the Kohenet sisters

Chorus:

In the Red Tent (2x)  
I'm sitting with my sisters in the Red Tent.

It's the tent of compassion

Harmony and song,  
Dancing and singing  
We all get along;  
It's the tent of schmoozing  
Rhythm and rhyme,  
Ancestor magic  
Time out of time.

Chorus:

It's the tent of connection  
Mothers, daughters and friends,  
Holding up each other  
With support and wisdom;  
A shoulder to lean on  
A hug when we cry,  
Finding our light  
In each other's eyes.

Chorus:

It's the tent of desire  
And our vision of love,  
Where pain is suspended  
On the wings of a dove;  
We fly with the music  
Set our souls free  
Sisters with the power  
of what we can be.

Chorus:

From the deepest night  
to the dawn of the day,  
Keepers of the flame  
Circle to pray;  
A carpet of longing  
Hope in our lap,  
Hearth of hospitality  
We open the flaps.

### **23. Tent of Meeting   © by Geela Rayzel Raphael**

They walked in single file  
    Some breathing heavy with child  
Dancing, swaying all the while  
    To the Tent, to the Tent of Meeting.

**Chorus:**

*Haleluhah, Haleluhah (6x)*  
To the Tent, to the Tent of Meeting.

Why bring your offering down?  
    Why come to sacred ground?  
Women moving to the sound  
    At the tent, at the Tent of Meeting.

They brought their mirrors in hand  
    Letting go of illusions grand  
Piled high into the sand  
    At the tent, at the Tent of Meeting.

Who were these women of grace?  
    Setting aside vanity's face  
Sanctifying holy space?  
    At the tent, at the Tent of Meeting.

We'll never know the whys  
    We'll never hear the cries  
We'll only feel the sighs

Of the women, at the Tent of Meeting

Hebrew women of the light  
Dancing proudly through the night  
Must have been quite a sight  
The women at the Tent of Meeting.

## 24. FOUR CUPS

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Chorus: **L'chaim l'chaim** to life to life  
To love and dreams and laughter  
Our voices roar with the sounds of the sea  
And we'll come dancing after. La, la

You open your arms, Batya, Batya  
Surround us with love and affection  
Draw out our pain, comfort our hearts  
Deepen our sense of connection.

You birth us to life, Shifra, Puah  
Midwives of transformation  
From the depths of our core, to our crowning light  
You lead through initiation.

We drink from your well Miriam, Miriam  
From the cup of divination  
The waters of life, the song of the soul  
We toast in celebration.

Yocheved, Yocheved, courageous and brave  
Mother of hope and of faith  
Letting go into the unknown  
Shield us and keep us safe.