

(Note: In our Rabbinic and mystical traditions, the Divine Presence (Shechina) is feminine. And in that tradition, letters/numbers point to hidden and ultimate truths. This underlies the passage that follows. There is also, in this passage, a climactic movement from singular to plural, and mystical personalism unites with the powerful moral demand of Torah.) *Kabbalistic*

Mothering Presence
enfold me/
unfold me
and walk with me
and walk with me.

*I need to turn to You
I need to move in You
I need to walk with You.*

Beloved come to me
but not to win my wars.
Beloved come to me
but not to make my peace.
Come, O Loved One,
but not to build my house.

If only You will walk with me
if only You will be with me
if only You will **shelter** me.

Maker of arithmetic
Weaver of number-worlds
Redeemer of equalities
Mother of odd/Sister of even
Creator of Aleph/ of Bet:
Author

If only You will walk with me
if only you will shelter me
if only You will be with me.

Do not tell me no,
do not tell me,
no, do not tell me NO!
Do not say my life adds up to naught.

If only You will shelter me
if only You will be with me
if only You will walk with me.

Nor say that two and two are always four
and must be so,

nor say because our hearts shall stop
that love must end.

Today (2 Feb 79) my friend Rabbi Chaim Stern brought to my home this poem, saying "I wrote this because you pointed out, in the poetry for my new prayerbook, the absence of the feminine--so it's my gift to you."....The typing is that of Rabbi Stern.

over

Tell me YES!
that two and two need not make four,
for five & 7 will often do,
for now and then again and now again
the sum I ask is life.

If only You will walk with me
if only You will be with me
if only You will be

I swear that one & one are three:
I see it always so
when lovers kiss
& friends embrace.

If only You will walk with me
if only You will be

YES!
Although my heart is stone.
YES!
Because my heart is stone.
I need to turn to You.

I need to hope in You
I need to move in You
I need to turn to You.

Mother present in all
Mother present in all presence
in all whom I am present to:
move me, move all of us;
move head, move hand
with the promise of Your word
with the Presence of Your life.
Move the heart in us,
that stranger in our midst,
and let it turn to flesh from stone.

We need to turn to You
we need to move in You
we need to walk with You.

So the garden planted
garden planted in our wilderness
be safe from harm.
So the planted flowers bloom
while empires wither.
So You be our dwellingplace
and we are free.

If only You will be with us
if only You will be

- Chari Stone,
J. Edgar, 1981