

HaTikvah ("The Hope") Israel's National Anthem

The words to Israel's national anthem were written in 1886 by Naphtali Herz Imber, an English poet originally from Bohemia. The melody was written by Samuel Cohen, an immigrant from Moldavia. Cohen actually based the melody on a musical theme found in Bedrich Smetana's "Moldau."

*Kol ode balevav p'nimah -
Nefesh Yehudi homiyah*

*Ulfa'atey mizrach kadimah
Ayin l'tzion tzofiyah.*

*Ode lo avdah tikvatenu
Hatikvah bat shnot alpayim:*

*L'hiyot am chofshi b'artzenu -
Eretz Tzion v'Yerushalayim.*



הַתִּקְוָה

כָּל עוֹד בְּלִבְּב פְּנִימָה,
נֶפֶשׁ יְהוּדֵי הוֹמְיָה.
וְלִפְאַתִּי מִזְרַח קְדִימָה
עֵין לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפְיָה.
עוֹד לֹא אֶבְדָּה תִּקְוַתְנוּ,
הַתִּקְוָה בֵּת שְׁנוֹת אֲלָפִים,
לְהִיּוֹת עַם חֶפְשִׁי בְּאֶרְצֵנוּ,
אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם.

English translation:

As long as the Jewish spirit is yearning deep in the heart,
With eyes turned toward the East, looking toward Zion,
Then our hope - the two-thousand-year-old hope - will not be lost:
To be a free people in our land,
The land of Zion and Jerusalem.