

Rahab's Lament

Music and Lyrics: Gary McGath, Copyright 2010

My trade is the kind that some people despise,
But I am a woman and sell what man buys.
I gave honest service, and comfort as well,
And this was my city, the city that fell.
 We'd heard of an army out raiding the lands
 And feared that our city would fall to their hands.
 They killed all they conquered, or so it was said —
 And two of their spies came to visit my bed.

They said our defenders were all going to die,
But that we could work out a deal, they and I.
If I would be quiet and help them to flee,
They promised that nothing would happen to me.
 I said, "Do you think, just because I'm a whore,
 My treason you'll buy with my life and no more?
 If you want my help, this is what you must do:
 Safe passage for me, and my family too!"

They hardly believed one like me could have kin.
They said that I was just a creature of sin.
I asked then what they were, by coming to me.
The lives of my family: that was my blood fee.
 And finally they promised my price would be paid.
 I now wish I'd died, but I was so afraid.
 So back to their camp they had good news to bring.
 The king asked what happened. I lied to my king.

The city was sacked, but the spies kept their vow.
My family came out, and they're all living now,
But in my dear homeland, the raiders ran wild,
And killed every man, every woman and child!
 I cried to their captain: "What is this you've done?
 I never expected you'd kill everyone!"
 The captain responded: "We keep God's command,
 And He has decreed that we take all this land!"

So now I am living, my people all dead,
The blood of a city is all on my head.
Now what do I have for my wretched attempt?
Not even the comfort of knowing contempt!
 I once thought that nothing on Earth could be worse
 Than to have my name known as the name of a curse.
 But now I have found, to my shame and distress,
 The worst is a name that my enemies bless.