

## Prayer and Song - Rabbi Steven Lewis, Temple Ahavat Achim

### Song of Songs 5:2

I was asleep, But my heart was wakeful. Hark, my beloved knocks! "Let me in, my own, My darling, my faultless dove! For my head is drenched with dew, My locks with the damp of night."

אני ישנה ולבבי עיר קול דודי דופק  
פתח־ידי אחותי רעיה יונתי  
תמתי שראשי נמלא־טל קווצותי  
רְסִיסִי לִילָה:

### Shir haShirim Rabbah

**I was sleep** The congregation of Israel said before the Holy Blessed One: "Master of the universe, I sleep from the sacrificial offerings but my heart is awake to saying Shema and Amidah [prayer]." I sleep from the central sacred [destroyed] shrine, but my heart is awake to the synagogue and the house of study.

אני ישנה אמרה בנטה ישראל לפני  
הקדוש ברוך הוא: רבונו של עולם אני  
ישנה מנו קרכנות, ולבבי עיר לאירוע  
שמע ותפלה. אני ישנה מבית המקדש,  
ולבבי עיר לבתי בניות ובתי מזרחות.

### Talmud Arachin 11a

**The Sages taught** in a *baraita*: **The song** that the Levites sing while a communal offering is being sacrificed **is an indispensable component of the offering**, which means that if the Levites did not sing, the offering is invalid. This is **the statement of Rabbi Meir. And the Rabbis say: It is not indispensable.**

תנו רבנן השיר  
מעכב את הקרבן  
דברי רבי מאיר  
והכמים אומרים  
אינו מעכב

### Kol Ha'Olam Kulo

Kol ha'olam kulo  
Gesher tzar me'od  
Veha'ikar lo lifached k'lal.

The whole world  
Is a very narrow bridge  
and the essential thing is to have no fear at all

Words: Rabbi Nachman of Breslov;  
Tune: Rabbi Baruch Chait.

כל העולם כלו

גשר צר מאד

והעיקר לא לפחד כלל

### Quite Early Morning by Pete Seeger (excerpts)

Don't you know it's darkest before the dawn  
And it's this thought keeps me moving on  
If we could heed these early warnings  
The time is now quite early morning (2)

Some say that humankind won't long endure  
But what makes them so doggone sure?

I know that you who hear my singing  
Could make those freedom bells go ringing (2)