

March 14 2009

Dear Rachel and Hamutal Bar-Yosef,

First I apologize for taking so long before telling you where I stand on the book I have in hand. But first among firsts, there is much just plain and complex beautiful poetry here. Then, there are poems that happen to be about life, personal and national history, tragedies, beauty, art, nature, all of which comes through in this translation, which is testimony to both of you.

I would very much like to publish this book in Hebrew and English (unless getting the UK and US Hebrew rights runs into a minefield of obstacles set up by Israeli publishers). In any case, I would pay a \$1000 advance, I suppose to be shared by you both, for the exclusive English rights to publish a paperback book against 7% of the royalties received. 100% of the subsidiary rights (magazines, anthologies, etc) would go to you both and I assume they would be shared on a 50/50 basis. I apologize for talking about money, but money is money. Rachel, as I remember you retained your American citizenship. If so, there are very sizeable grants you might be able to get for this work. Chana Bloch and Chana Kronfeld are experts on the subject. I could make inquiries.

I have read the manuscript carefully. To say I have, give or take, a hundred questions and suggestions is not an exaggeration. It would be best if the three of us could meet over the manuscript. Any trips planned to the US? The second best is to speak on the telephone. I will also write you both giving those corrections, but still there's nothing like a face to face meeting. I have Hamutal's phone number. And, of course, Rachel, I will speak to you too. Of course, there could be no corrections that do not meet with the approval of both you. I could not come to Israel before November at the earliest and I would not want to delay our working on the manuscript until then. I'll give you both time to absorb this letter then call you. I can be of help in having these translations published in US and English magazines, particularly in American Poetry Review. The final issue of Parnassus is soon to come out. I don't know if it is closed, but I will call Herb Leibowitz today and ask him. I could bring the book out in the Spring of 2008 and I would do so if we decide it is really in your best interest to do so. These poems are selected from a number of books. I wonder what you have not translated? Anything more about the current mess, Palestinians, flowers, insects, birds? There are certainly a number of great poems in this book, so I stand up and take off my hat to you both.

Faithfully,

Stanley Moss