

Five poems

by [Yehiel E. Poupko](#) in the [April 2024](#) issue

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The Lord God called out . . . “Where are you?”

(Gen. 3:9)

Where are you:

Eve asks

from his flank
and dark dread
You built me
him You kneaded
him You breathed
me You built
from him
and now
You ask
where are you
where
have
You
been

Where are you:

Sarah asks

age withered
driven
from crescent's fertile
to famine land
to Pharaoh's bed
from Abraham's

for Hagar's son
and now
at ninety

and Sarah
will bear
your seed

who would
not laugh
even at His
word
and only now
from my tent
does He seek
where is
your wife
Sarah

**Where are you:
for Rachel and
Jacob, too**

in your father's
blind night
and brother's rage
you sought Him
on stone pillow
at ladder's foot
you sought Him
at the well
you sought me
in my sister's bed
you did not
cry out
where are you

on the road to Efrat
you buried me
later
long after
when a voice
was heard in Ramah
you were no more
He alone
heard me
our children
shall return
but you
where are you

Where are you:
Hannah asks

You saw
You knew
mocked
for my barrenness

in seeing
in knowing
You did
not ask
where are you

in barrenness
I sought You
breaching
Your holy
into Your presence

You needed
a prophet
to get with child

a redeemer

trapped

trapped

in Your holy

I found You

forced a contract

got my baby

who gave You

David

couldn't You

find Your way

to me

Where are you:

Yeshu asks

after all

you are

still asking

after the wise men

stars and animals

after Tabor

Moses radiance

after the crowds

I brought

to mountain teaching

after Torah learning

from My

Pharisees

fishes loaves

watery wine

after all

and more

what was

never imagined
by Israel
after the flesh
found its way
to your lips
my God
my God
why hast
Thou forsaken me
who did
you say
you were