

## Psalm 137

'Al naharót bavel  
 sham yashavnu gam bachinu  
 b'zochrénu et tsiyyón.  
 'Al 'aravim b'tóchah  
 talinu kinnóróteinu.  
 Ki sham sh'elunu shóveinu divrei shir  
 v'tólaleinu simcha  
 shiru lanu mishshir tsiyyón.  
 Ech nashir et shir adónai  
 'al admat néchar.  
 Im eshkachéch y'rushalayim  
 tishkach y'mini.  
 Tidbaq l'shóni l'chiki im ló ezk'réchi  
 im ló a'ale et y'rushalayim  
 'al rósh simchati.  
 Z'chor adónai livnei edóm  
 et yóm y'rushalayim  
 haóm'rim 'aru 'aru  
 'ad hay'sód bah.  
 Bat bavel hashsh'duda  
 ashrei shey'shallém lach et g'muléch  
 shegamalt lanu.  
 Ashrei sheyóchéz v'nipéts  
 et 'ólalayich el hassala!

By the waters of Babylon,  
 there we sat down and wept  
 when we remembered Zion.  
 On the willows there  
 we hung up our lyres.  
 For there our captors required of us songs,  
 and our tormentors, mirth:  
 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion.'  
 How shall we sing the Lord's song  
 in a foreign land?  
 If I forget you, O Jerusalem,  
 let my right hand wither.  
 Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth  
 if I do not remember you, Jerusalem,  
 above my highest joy!  
 Remember, O Lord, against the Edomites  
 the day of Jerusalem  
 how they said: 'Raze it, raze it!  
 Down to its foundations!'

Daughter of Babylon, you devastator!  
 Happy shall he be who requites you  
 with what you have done to us!  
 happy shall he be who takes your little ones,  
 and dashes them against the rock!

### Al naharot Bavel

Salomone Rossi  
 (Italian; 1570–c.1630)

*By the waters of Babylon,* *there we sat down and*

1 8

S 'Al naha-rót ba-vel sham ya-shav nu  
 A 'Al naha-rót, 'al naharót ba-vel sham ya-shav nu  
 T 'Al naha-rót, naha-rót ba-vel sham ya-shav nu  
 B 'Al naha-rót ba-vel sham ya-shav - - nu

Source: Music from a transcription by Joel Newman from the edition of 1628 for the New York Pro Musica Antiqua. Text from the edition of 1623, as transcribed by Cantors Assembly of America, published by The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, 1967. The present edition is by John Hetland and the Renaissance Street Singers, 1999. The translation here is from *The Holy Bible, Revised Standard Version*. Notation is a minor third higher here than the original.

Pronunciation guide: Most consonants are pronounced as in English; g is always hard; ch is a guttural sound, resembling German ch as in Buch; ' is a slight guttural sound, best omitted by those not familiar with it. Vowels are to be given Italian values; e and o are short as in get and bought; é and ó are long as in where and door; apostrophe (') is pronounced as the second e in benefit.

*wept* *when we remembered Zion.* *On the willows there*

9 16

gam ba - chi - nu b'zochré - nu et tsiy - yón. 'Al 'a-ra - vim b' - tó -

gam ba - chi - nu b'zochré - nu et tsiy - yón. 'Al 'a-ra - vim b' - tó -

gam ba - chi - nu b'zochré - nu et tsiy - yón. 'Al 'a-ra - vim b' - tó -

gam ba - chi - nu b'zochré - nu et tsiy - yón. 'Al 'a-ra - vim b' - tó -

*we hung up our lyres.* *For there our captors*

17 24

-chah ta - li - nu kin - nó - ró - tei - - nu. Ki sham sh' - e - lu - nu shó -

-chah ta - li - nu kin - nó - ró - tei - - nu. Ki sham sh' - e - lu - nu shó -

-chah ta - li - nu kin - nó - ró - tei - - nu. Ki sham sh' - e - lu - nu shó -

-chah ta - li - nu kin - nó - ró - tei - - nu. Ki sham sh' - e - lu - nu shó -

*required of us songs,* *and our tormentors, mirth:* *'Sing us one*

25 32

-vei - nu div - - rei shir v' - tó - la - lei - nu sim - cha shi - ru

-vei - nu div - rei shir v' - tó - la - lei - nu sim - cha shi - ru

-vei - nu div - rei shir v' - tó - la - lei - nu sim - cha shi - ru

-vei - nu div - rei shir v' - tó - la - lei - nu sim - cha shi - ru

*of the songs of Zion.'* *How shall we sing the Lord's song* *in a*

33 40

la - nu mishshir tsiy-yón. Ech na - shir et shir a-dó-nai `al

la - nu mishshir tsiy-yón...

la - nu mishshir tsiy-yón. Ech na - shir et shir a-dó-nai `al

la - nu mishshir tsiy-yón. Ech na - shir et shir a-dó-nai `al

*foreign land?* *If I forget you, O Jerusalem,* *let*

41 48

ad - mat né - char. Imeshka-chéché y' - ru - sha - la - - yim tish -

'al ad - mat né - char. Imeshka-chéché y' - rushala - - - yim tish -

ad - mat né - char. Imeshka-chéché y' - ru - sha - la - - yim tish -

ad - mat né - char. Imeshkachéché y' - ru - sha - la - - yim tish -

*my right hand wither. Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth*

49 56

-kach y' - mi - ni...

-kach y' - mi - ni. Tid - baq l'shó-ni l'-chi-ki im ló ez-k'-ré - - -

-kach y' - - mi - ni. Tid - baq l'shó-ni l'-chi-ki im ló ez-k'-ré - - -

-kach y' - mi - ni. Tid - baq l'shó-ni l'-chi-ki im ló ez-k'-ré - - -

*if I do not remember you, Jerusalem,*

*above my*

57 64

-chi im ló a-'a - le et y' - ru - sha - la - - yim 'al rósh simcha-

-chi im ló a-'a - le et y' - ru - - sha - la - yim 'al rósh sim - cha-

-chi im ló a-'a - le et y' - ru - sha - la - - yim 'al rósh simcha-

*highest joy! Remember, O Lord, against the Edomites*

*the day of Jerusalem*

65 72

Z' - chor a-dó - nai liv - nei e - dóm et yóm y' - ru - sha -

-ti. Z' - chor a-dó - nai liv - nei e - dóm et yóm y' - ru - sha -

-ti. Z' - chor a-dó - nai liv - nei e - dóm et yóm y' - ru - sha -

-ti. Z' - chor a-dó - nai liv - nei e - dóm et yóm y' - ru - sha -

*how they said:*

*'Raze it,*

*raze it!*

*Down to*  
81

73 81

-la - - yim ha - - ó - m' - rim 'a - ru 'a - ru 'ad ha -

-la - - yim ha - - ó - m' - rim 'a - - ru 'a - ru 'ad ha -

- - - yim ha - ó - m' - rim 'a - - ru 'a - ru 'ad ha -

-la - - yim ha - ó - m' - rim 'a - ru 'a - ru 'ad ha -

*its foundations!*

*O daughter of Babylon, you devastator! Happy shall he*

82 90

-y' - - sód bah. Bat ba - vel hash-sh'-du - da ash - rei she-y'shallém

-y' - - sód bah. Bat ba - vel hash-sh'-du - da ash - rei she-y'shallém

-y'-sód bah. Bat ba - vel hash-sh'-du - da ash - rei she-y'shallém

-y' - - sód bah. Bat ba - vel hashsh'-du - da ash - rei she-y'shallém

*be who requites you with what you have done to us! happy shall he be who*

91 98

lach et g' - mu - léch shega - malt la - - nu. Ash - rei sheyó - chéz

lach et g' - mu - léch shega - malt la - - nu. Ash - rei sheyó - chéz v' -

lach et g' - mu - léch shega - malt la - - - nu. Ash - rei sheyó - chéz

lach et g' - mu - léch shegamalt la - - nu. Ash - rei sheyóchéz

*takes your little ones, and dashes them against the rock!*

99 107

v' - ni - péts et 'ó - la - la - yich el has - sa - - - la!

- ni - péts et 'ó - la - la - yich el has - sa - - - la!

v' - ni - péts et 'ó - la - la - yich el has - sa - - - - - la!

v' - ni - péts et 'ó - la - la - yich el has - sa - - - - - la!