

The Weight of Emptiness

(from: *Songs of Orphe'ah*)

Hava Pinchas-Cohen

1.

Lord, the whole weight of emptiness

You placed on my shoulders. The whole weight of emptiness

Bends my back

Pulls my neck

To follow you.

2.

The power of your touch that hovers

Over my neck and earlobes

The power of longing

To make you present for me

In my lying down and my rising up

And especially

My going out. My going out in the morning

On my journey where a shadow of a white dog

Whose simple desires are before me—

And you are with me. To you I tell

My wishes, I hear my voice

Fill the emptiness with words.

And you inhabit the chambers of my body, my throat, my guts,

Every place that is open and hollow is yours.

Cleaving to your silence. No voice, no word on the phone,

No letter, no touch. No human thing I can claim.

I went out to declare it in the streets

Gathering signs for my children to find their way through this cold and empty place.

Translated by Sharon Green