

I WILL ALSO SURELY BRING YOU UP AGAIN*

אָנְכִי אֶרְדּוּ עִמָּךְ מִצְרַיִם

אָנְכִי אֶעֱלֶךָ גַּם-עֹלָה

וַיֹּסֶף יָשִׁית יָדוֹ עַל-עֵינֶיךָ:

I will go down with you to Egypt;
and I will also surely bring you up again;
and Joseph shall put his hand upon your eyes.

I will go down with you to Egypt—“I shall protect you both on the journey and in Egypt” (N. Sarna). However abandoned we feel in the narrow places in our lives, when the pressures are greatest and our hopes are shattered, God is present for us—“the God of Israel is not bound to a particular place” (N. Leibowitz in the name of M. Buber). *And I will also surely bring you up again*—The promise that we will be brought up again is “both personal and national” (N. Sarna). When we are in that place of our greatest trial, surrounded by darkness and fear, it is through God that as individuals and a community we will can revive our courage and find our way to the light. *And Joseph shall put his hand upon your eyes*—We shall again find those whose care and kindness will sustain us and heal our spirits.

* Genesis 46:4 (in Vayigash)