

## Turning to Tkhines: Voices in the Vernacular

### 1. Moses ben Henoch Yerushalmi Altshuler. *Brantshpigl* (Burning Mirror), 1596. Chapter 3.

Digital version linked [here](#).

MS text:

דער פרק בשייט ווארום איך עש טויטש מך:

דאש בוך ווערט גימכט טויטש דען ווייברין און מאגן דיא דא זיין אז ווייבר אונ' קוינן ניט פיל לערנן אונ' עש קומט אום שבת אונ' יום טוב אונ' לייאן דרינן דא קוינן זיא עש פֿר שטין ווש זיא לייאן דען אונזרי ספֿרים זיין אין לשון הקדש אונ' שרייבן צו וויילין פלפול אויש דער גמרא מויכטן זיא ניט פֿר שטין

Translation:

The chapter describes why I made a translation (into a Germanic language, Yiddish):

The book is written (in translation) because women and men who are like women who cannot study much, and on Shabbos and Yom Tov they can read here and understand that which they read, because our books are in loshn-koydesh and from time to time write pilpul from the Gemara so they cannot understand.

For further reading: :

[Weissler, Chava](#). "For Women and for Men Who Are like Women': The Construction of Gender in Yiddish Devotional Literature." *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, vol. 5, no. 2, 1989, pp. 7–24.

### 2. *Seder Tkhines u bakoshes*, 1736 edition printed in Fürth

Digital version linked [here](#).

MS Text:

איר ליבע ווייבר און מיידן טוט לויפֿן צו דיא ליבה נייאה תחינה אונ' טוט זיא קויפֿן אונ' לאזט אייך ניט זיין צו טיאר אין געלט איך האב טאג אונ' נאכט איבר דער תחינה געטראכט אונ' האב זיא ניט וועגן מיינר גימאכט נאר לכבוד השם יתברך דרום קויפֿט ביהענט אי דיא תחינה האט איין ענט

Translation:

You, dear women and girls, run to the dear, new tkhine and buy it, and let it not be too expensive, as I considered this tkhine day and night, and I did not do it for my own (honor) but for the honor of God Blessed Be He, so buy it quickly before the tkhine has an end (is sold out).

### 3. "Ayn gor sheyne tkhine." אײן גאָר שײנע תחינה (printed in Prague, c. 1600)

Digital version linked [here](#).

MS text (Faierstein, p.188)

איז פיל צייט לנג אין סוד גיוועזין ביי איין טייל פֿ רומי ווייבר האבן זיא בייא זיך לאשין בלייבן אונ' נימנט לאשין אויש שרייבן נון האבן זיא זיך בידאכט אונ' האבן זיא דרוק גיבראכט:

English:

"[This tkhine] was for a long time kept secret among a group of pious women; they let it remain among themselves, and let no one copy it. Now they have rethought the matter, and have brought it for publication." (trans. Chava Weissler, *Voices of the Matriarchs*, p.24)

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[Faienstein, Morris M.](#) "The Earliest Published Yiddish Tehinno (1590–1609)." Hebrew Union College Annual, vol. 9], 2020, pp. 157–206.

4. תחנה אמהות | Prayer for the Blowing of the Shofar, from the Tkhine of the Matriarchs by Seril Rappaport (ca. 18th century)

Full text available at this [link](#):

Transcription: (Open Siddur Project): Aharon N. Varady

Translation: Tracy Guren Klirs (*The Merit of Our Mothers: A Bilingual Anthology of Jewish Women's Prayers*)

5. Leah Horowitz, Tkhine Imohos

Full text available at [this link](#):

[Moshe Rosman](#), "Leah Horowitz's Tkhine Imohos: A Proto-Feminist Demand to Increase Jewish Women's Religious Capital," *Polin Studies in Polish Jewry*, vol. 33 no. 1, 2021, p. 17-50.

6. Sore bas Tuvim, Tkhine imohos

Digital version available [here](#). Excerpts cited below are available in: Chava Weissler, *Voices of the Matriarchs*, pp.136-141. Further descriptions of this folk ritual can be found at [Pulling at Threads](#).

"May it be God's will that today, on the eve of Yom Kippur, we be remembered before you with the mitzvah of the lights that we shall make in the synagogue...May the [lights] awaken and each inform the next all the way back to the holy patriarchs and matriarchs...

...May [the souls] pray for us that the resurrection of the dead will come to pass. And may all the holy and pure angels pray that the dry bones live again, speedily and soon..."

Resources for further reading:

Fram, Edward. *My Dear Daughter: Rabbi Benjamin Slonik and the Education of Jewish Women in Sixteenth-Century Poland*. Cincinnati: Hebrew union college Press, 2007. Print.

Kay, Devra. *Seyder Tkhines: The Forgotten Book of Common Prayer for Jewish Women*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2020. Print.

Klirs, Tracy Guren. *The Merit of Our Mothers. A Bilingual Anthology of Jewish Women's Prayers*. Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College Press, 1992.

Parush, Iris. *Reading Jewish Women: Marginality and Modernization in Nineteenth-Century Eastern European Jewish Society*. Hanover [N.H.: Brandeis University Press, publ. by University Press of New England, 2004. Print.

Weissler, Chava. *Voices of the Matriarchs: Listening to the Prayers of Early Modern Jewish Women*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2008. Print.

YIVO Links: [Tsene-rene](#), [Professional Talkers](#), [Tkhines](#)

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