

Prayer Against Lust

Yehoshua November

Before the Silent Prayer
some men slip the hood of their prayer shawls
over their heads,
so that even among numerous worshipers
they are alone with G-d.

Primo Levi once wrote about the sadness
of “a cart horse, shut between two shafts
and unable even to look sideways...”

Please G-d,
let me be like those pious men
or that horse,
so that, even amidst a crowd,
no other woman crosses the threshold
of my dreaming.

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