

**Classic Poetry Series**

**Rahel Bluwstein**  
**- poems -**

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## Rahel Bluwstein(1890 - 1931)

Rahel was born in Vyatka in Russia in 1890 and arrived in Eretz-Israel at the age of 19. She first worked as a laborer in Rehovot and later joined a training farm near the Kinneret. In 1913 she went to France to study agriculture and from there to Russia where she contracted tuberculosis. In 1919 she returned to Eretz-Israel on board the ship "Ruslan," and for a while lived in Deganyah. Her poetry is set in the pastoral countryside of Eretz-Israel although her personal struggles add a sad and nostalgic mood to their reading. Many of her poems were set to music both during her lifetime and thereafter. She is buried in the kibbutz Kinneret cemetery alongside many of the socialist ideologues and pioneers of the second and third waves of immigration to Eretz-Israel .

# Here On Earth

Here on Earth - not in high clouds-  
On this mother earth that is close:  
To sorrow in her sadness, exult in her meager joy  
That knows, so well, how to console.

Not nebulous tomorrow but today: solid, warm, mighty,  
Today materialized in the hand:  
Of this single, short day to drink deep  
Here in our own land.

Before night falls - come, oh come all!  
A unified stubborn effort, awake  
With a thousand arms. Is it impossible to roll  
The stone from the mouth of the well?

Rahel Bluwstein

# Sad Song

Do you hear me, you who are  
So far away from me, my dear?  
Do you hear me crying aloud,  
Wishing you were well, wishing you were near?

The world is vast, its ways diverse,  
Brief meetings, partings long,  
Men, with unsure feet, post on never to return, too weak  
To find the treasure they have lost.  
My last day drawing near  
Of the tears of separation  
I will await you until  
my life leaves  
as Rahel did her beloved.

Rahel Bluwstein