



*A Great Tranquility:  
Questions and Answers*

*The people in the painfully bright auditorium  
spoke about religion  
in the life of contemporary man  
and about God's place in it.*

*People spoke in excited voices  
as they do in airports.*

*I walked away from them:  
I opened an iron door marked "Emergency"  
and entered into a great tranquility:  
Questions and Answers.*

BY YEHUDA AMICHAÏ

One of the giants of modern Israeli poetry, Yehuda Amichai is the author of *Time, Open Closed Open*, and numerous other books and collections of poetry. During his lifetime, Amichai received the Israel Prize and was considered a candidate for the Nobel Prize; his subtly ironic, densely allusive poems have been translated into over thirty languages, and are cited as formative by a generation of modern poets.

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