

# *To A Jew By Choice*

*O*ur Sages taught

You who come of your own accord into our family of faith  
Are dearer to God than all the assembly of Israelites  
Who stood before Mount Sinai  
Had they not witnessed the thunder, lightening, quaking mountains  
The sounding of trumpets  
Would they have accepted the Torah?

You saw no opening of the heavens  
Heard no peals of thunder  
Felt no earth moving beneath your feet  
But of your own will came to trust in God  
Join our family  
Once with our fate and purpose  
To bind the wounds of the afflicted  
And raise up the fallen.

Can anyone be dearer to God than you  
Who come to us knowing the history of our oppression  
The residual forms of harassment in our own time  
The record of Inquisition, pogroms, concentration camps, crematoria  
Came to us.

We honor the courage of your heart and the compassion of your soul  
You who enrich our family  
Are blessed by us.

