

Binding

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BINDING

by Yehuda Amichai

translated by Jeff Friedman and Nati Zohar

To bind is to tie
and one can also tie
with ropes of love
on an altar sweeter
than any bed.

And that is my good angel
with her silky ropes, tearing
off her dress, my good angel
ready on the carpet—
only sixteen.

And as I rise
the light bathes her cheeks,
and a voice comes
down from the ceiling,
“Don’t lay your hand.”

“You ruin everything,” the girl says
and unties her knot.