



*Transformation* by Barbara Goldberg

This beautiful and intimate anthology of poems of love and war offers a single poem by many of Israel's most gripping poets. Each poem is a world, translated with tenderness and tremendous skill. There is great diversity in ethnicity, background, age, and outlook—from Naim Araidi, who is Druze, to Shimon Adaf, who grew up in a family of devout Moroccan Jews—but there is always an engagement with elemental subjects: peace, fear, sea, lips, dreams, and speech.

Those who ask why it is important for a poet to translate poets should look to *Transformation* for an answer.

Aviya Kushner, author of *The Grammar of God*

Languages are living organisms, according to George Steiner. Barbara Goldberg, in *Transformation*, comes into her true landscape as she moves between languages, exploring the evolution of her restless and profound journey. At long last, she can call on her multiple resources—poetry and prose, humor and tragedy, life in this century cast in the shadow of “19<sup>th</sup> Century Vienna.” The hidden memories of loved ones. “Even the dead” who “can’t keep a secret.”

Myra Sklarew, from the *Introduction*

In *Transformation*, Barbara Goldberg gives us an engaging memoir of how she first entered the world of translation, growing up as she did amidst languages of Holocaust survivors, the challenges of translating poems that are faithful ambassadors of their originals, and marvelous transformations of modern Hebrew poems of love and war. A poet of distinction herself, Goldberg is also an editor who revels in the pleasures of bringing poetry of other languages into compelling English idioms.

Merrill Leffler, author of *Mark the Music*



Transformation

Barbara Goldberg

Poet's Choice

# Transformation

## The Poetry of Translation



### BARBARA GOLDBERG



Winner of the Valentin Krustev  
Award for Translation