Y. L. Gordon: “Awake, My People”
First printed in *HaKarmel*, 18 April 1866

1 Awake, my people! How long will you sleep? The night has passed, the sun shines through. Awake, cast your eyes hither and yon. Recognize your time and your place.

5 Has the march of time stood still? From the day you left for all parts of the globe? Thousands of years have come and gone. Since your freedom was lost and you wandered away.

9 Many generations have been born and died. Oceans and continents have intervened. Remarkable changes have taken place. A different world engulfs us today.

13 Awake, my people! How long will you sleep? The night has passed, the sun shines through. Awake, cast your eyes hither and yon. Recognize your time and place.

17 The land where we live and are born. Is it not thought to be part of Europe? Europe, the smallest of continents. But the mightiest of all in wisdom and knowledge.

21 This land of Eden is now open to you, Its sons now call you "brothers." How long will you dwell among them as a guest? Why do you reject their hand?

25 They have already removed the burden from your back. And lifted the yoke from around your neck. They have erased from their hearts hatred and folly. They stretch out their hands to you in peace.

29 So raise your head high, stand up straight. Look at them with loving eyes, Open your hearts to wisdom and reason. Become an enlightened nation, speaking their tongue.

33 Everyone capable of learning should study. Laborers and artisans should take to a craft. The strong and the brave should be soldiers. Farmers should buy fields and ploughs.

37 To the treasury of the state bring your wealth. Bear your share of its riches and bounty. Be a man in the streets and a Jew at home. A brother to your countryman and a servant to your king.

41 Awake, my people! How long will you sleep? The night has passed, the sun shines through. Awake, cast your eyes hither and yon. Recognize your time and your place.