

Alexandra Zelman-Doring:

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Hebrew Melody

You cry above the sudden snatching
Away of birth, or butter, or breath.

You sleep on a frozen stream
As on a feather-pillow

And won't dream: you beg for everything
To be returned, but expect only theft.

Back and forth, speaking to yourself
(No louder than a huff), you rock

Chairlike, in the pleasure of the night
Surrounded; sometimes it seems

You sing alone, and stop. But you know
What is left. You have enough.

Enough food to feed the ghosts.
Enough patience in your hands.

A man walks by and drops his bag
Of apples. From the bottom

Of your heart, you
Pick them up.

For R.G.