

Leaving Mother Russia

They call me Anatole
In prison I did lie,
My little window looked out
On a Russian sky.
For nearly nine long years
Secluded and in pain,
And all my people know
The charges were a frame.
See my accuser stranding in the hall,
He points his finger at us all.
You must now pay the penalty
For the crime of daring to be free.

We are leaving Mother Russia,
We have waited far too long.
We are leaving mother Russia,
When they come for us we'll be gone.

For all those centuries
We called this land our home,
We loved the Russian soil
As much as anyone.
In countless armies
Our young boys have died for you,
But never did you call them "sons,"
You always called them "Jew"!

We fell in battle for the Czar
One hundred thousand died at Babi Yar,
And yet your monument
Denies their faith
While on our passports
We read "yevrai."

I send my song of hope
To those I left behind.
I pray that they may know
The freedom that is mine.
For in my darkest hour
Alone in my cell
I kept the vision of
My home in *Yisrael*.

My friends we know what silence
brings,
Another Hitler waiting in the wings.
So stand up now and shout it to the sky.
They may bring us to our knees but we'll
never die!

"Leaving Mother Russia"

Words and music by Robbie Solomon © 1978.

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