Several sorrows ago

by Yehiel E. Poupko in the June 21, 2017 issue

Several sorrows ago

Before grief came to echo and voice

And tears to a pulsing spring,

Several sorrows ago

Before the poem

And portrait

Dared word meaning

And purpose its bastard child,

Several sorrows ago

Before each witness

Knew silence

And its deafening cadence,

Several sorrows ago

Before blood coursed with pain

And flesh knew but itself,

Several sorrows ago

When only the old withered

And we were frozen young,

Several sorrows ago

Eyes that saw not

Ears that heard not

Several sorrows ago

Before children died

And life just moved with the sun

Several sorrows ago

When God still knew us

And we did not