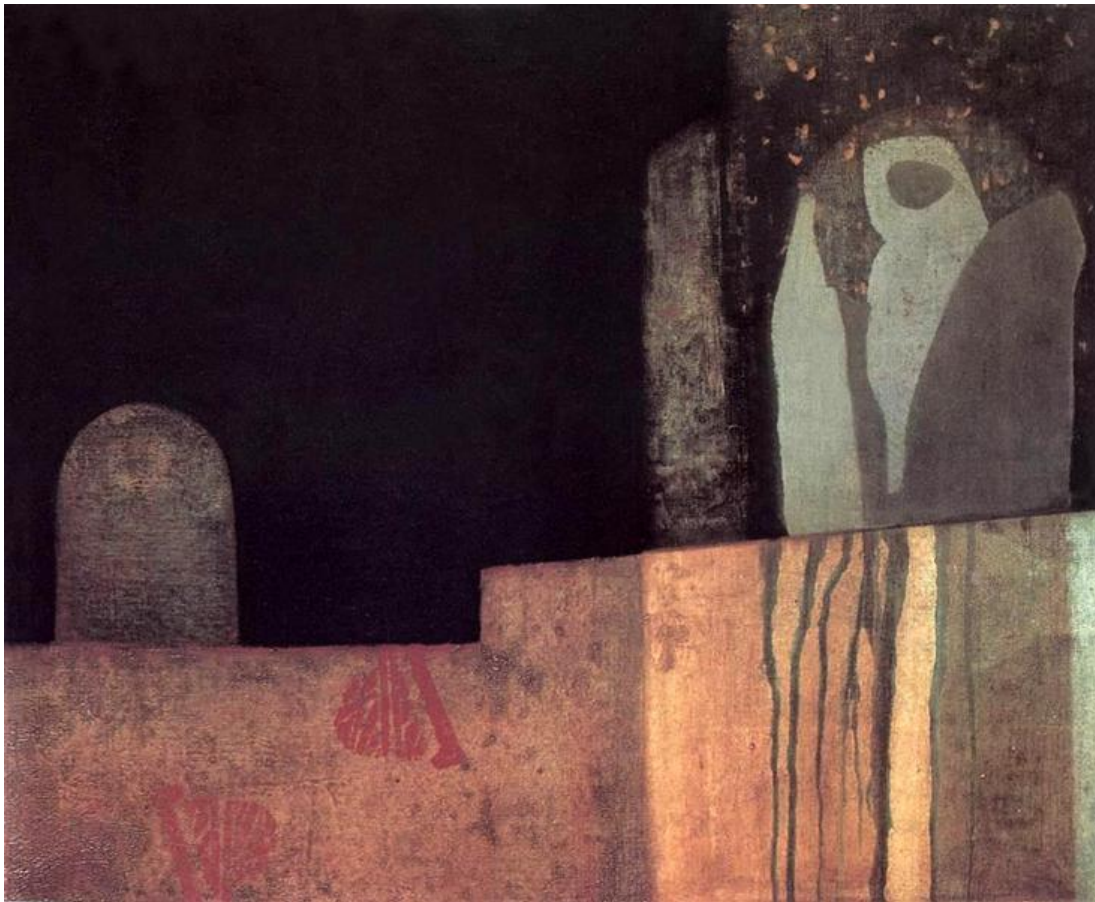


# Two Poems

by [Steven Sher](#) (December 2019)



*Statue in a Cemetery*, Endre Balint, 1959

## Day of Mourning

*after the Kosher Market murders, Paris, January 2015*

Although they were not citizens,

today they became citizens

when they were lowered into the earth

beside those who died in defense of the nation.

The bodies were flown here  
where many Jews come to die

and not enough come to live  
though we are waiting

for all to come home—  
where a Jew can also be killed

by a terrorist as in France,  
But here he can wear a kippah

and walk the streets without fear.  
Here he can live as a Jew.

Calling Out a Fellow Poet Who Brought a  
Blood Libel Charge Against the Jews

*“In our matzos is the blood of Palestinian youths” –Yitzhak  
Laor*

He mixes blood like leavening into the dough of hate,  
adds a dash of doubt, a pinch of scorn,  
and so it rises till it's beaten down.

He splashes blood against our doorposts and our lintels,  
paints the targets for the enemies  
who wait outside our gates.

He would smash us on the rocks of history  
then watch life drain into the sand,  
inviting every scavenger to feast upon our flesh.

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Brooklyn-born Steven Sher has lived in Jerusalem since 2012. His latest (16th) book is *Contestable Truths, Incontestable Lies* (Dos Madres Press, 2019). His work has appeared widely since the 1970s. Recent appearances range from *Veils, Halos & Shackles: International Poetry on the Oppression and Empowerment of Women* to *Mizmor Anthology* to the forthcoming *New Voices: Contemporary Writers Confronting The Holocaust*. Last year he received the Glenna Luschei Distinguished Poet

Award, headlining the 35th annual San Luis Obispo Poetry Festival. Visit him on his [website](#).

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