

## A Jew I shall remain

✠ I heard from some elders who fled from Spain that one of the boats was infested with the plague; the captain put the passengers ashore at some uninhabited place. There most of them died of starvation, while some gathered up all their strength and set out on foot in search of some settlement.

There was one among them who struggled on afoot together with his wife and two children. The wife, unaccustomed to so much difficult walking, grew faint and died. The husband carried his children along until both he and they fainted from hunger. When he regained consciousness, he found that his two children had died.

In great grief he rose to his feet and said, "Lord of the universe, You are doing a great deal that I might desert my faith. But know for a certainty that—even against the will of Heaven—a Jew I am and a Jew I shall remain. And neither that which You have brought upon me nor that which You will yet bring upon me will be of any avail."

Thereupon he gathered some earth and some grass, covered the children, and went forth in search of a settlement.