

# THE CHILDREN'S CRY

Tears that Reach the Heavens



Israeli children who are living through this war raised their voice by performing a moving rendition of Stand by Me. As the tagline of the clip reads, "The children of Israel are calling the world: Stand by me. Stand with us. Stand with Israel. Bring our kidnapped babies and kids back home!"

One of the most devastating pieces of the war is the impact on children. As you watch the clip, keep the following in mind:

- Children have been kidnapped.
- Children have been killed.
- Children have been orphaned.
- Children bore witness with no censorship.
- Children have been robbed of their childhood.
- Children have lost their innocence.



Capture your thoughts and emotions as you listen: [bit.ly/stand-by-me-israel](https://bit.ly/stand-by-me-israel)



## THREE YIDDISH PROVERBS

Yiddish proverbs have an uncanny ability to convey life's ironies and misfortunes, often through humor and wit. Seldomly, humor is shed and the proverbs serve as a poignant piece of wisdom, such as the following three:

"If the world will ever be redeemed, it will be only through the merit of children"

"I wish that I could have the pain instead of you, my child!"

"For your children's sake you would tear the world apart."

Add a sentence before and/or after one of the proverbs above to personalize it according to your experience. For example:

"You deserve to watch fireworks without being startled and go to sleep at night without worrying about rockets. **I wish that I could have the pain instead of you, my child!**"

## READ BETWEEN THE LINES

You are probably familiar with the original version of this song from 1961 by Ben E. King and may have noticed that the Israeli children's version is slightly different.

**Compare the two versions. What stands out?**

*Spoiler alert! Only proceed once you've compared the lyrics for yourself.*



## ISRAELI CHILDREN'S VERSION

Stand by me  
Oh stand, stand by me  
Stand by me

When the night has come  
And the land is dark  
And the moon is the only light we'll see

No I won't be afraid  
No I won't be afraid  
Just as long as you stand  
Stand by me

So all I ask is stand by me  
Oh, stand by me  
Oh stand, stand by me  
Stand by me

If the sky that we look upon, should stumble and fall  
Or the mountains should crumble to the sea  
No I won't be afraid  
And I won't be afraid  
Just as long as you stand by me

So all I ask is stand by me  
Oh, stand by me  
Oh stand, stand by me  
Stand by me

All I ask is stand by me  
Oh, stand by me  
Oh, stand, stand by me  
Stand by me

Stand by me  
Oh stand, stand by me  
Stand by me

Stand by me. Oh stand, stand by me. Stand by me.  
Stand by me. Stand by me. Stand by me. Stand by me.

## ORIGINAL VERSION

When the night, has come  
And the land is dark  
And the moon, is the only, light we'll see

No I won't, be afraid  
No I won't, be afraid  
Just as long, as you stand, stand by me

So darlin', darlin' stand, by me  
Oh-oh stand by me  
Oh stand, stand by me, stand by me

If the sky, that we look upon, should tumble and fall  
Or the mountains, should crumble, to the sea  
I won't cry, I won't cry, no-no-no I won't shed a tear  
Just as long, as you stand, by me

And darlin', darlin' stand, by me  
Oh-oh-oh, stand, by me  
Oh darling, stand by me, stand by me, stand by me

Whoa-oh-oh, ay-ay  
Ma-ma-my, my-ee

If the mountains should crumble to the sea  
Ma-ma-my-my-my

When the night, has come  
And, and the land is dark  
And the moon, is the only, only light we'll see

So darlin', darlin' stand, by me, oh-oh stand by me  
Oh darling, stand by me, stand by me  
Whenever you're in trouble won't you stand, by me  
Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh, stand by me, stand by me, stand by me

So darlin', darlin', stand, oh-oh, oo-oo, oh-oh  
As long as I know I got you right here  
Right here by my side  
Come on, come on, stand, stand right here



## THE CHILDREN'S CRY

One of the most noteworthy differences is the absence of the lyrics, "I won't cry, I won't cry, no-no-no I won't shed a tear." Why do you think those words were removed?

Tears aren't a sign a weakness, and holding back tears does not signal strength. Perhaps one of the most striking Yiddish proverbs in this context is the following:

**"A child's tears reach the heavens"**

What is unique about a child's tears? Why does the cry of children reach the heavens?

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If we read into the absence of this phrase in the Israeli children's version, we can assume that children are crying and their tears are embraced. And through this pain, they're repeatedly asking the world to stand by them. How might you stand by them?

**Complete the following sentences:**

I can stand by children in my family by \_\_\_\_\_

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I can stand by children in my community by \_\_\_\_\_

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I can stand by children who I don't even know by \_\_\_\_\_

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