



**LITERATUR IN DEN SPRACHEN
BERLINS 2024**

emet ezell

WE WERE REMOVED IN A FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

*"Children, it will pass. Thousands of years of pain and suffering have already passed.
And now let us say Hallel."**

dressed in white we
annulled our vows our
children sang torah
in cheder
till dawn we
bathed babies
in the river where
dragonflies
propelled eternity our
butchers
knicked knives
to evade their own
slaughter and we
adorned doorways
with lace
wooden chairs
turned backwards
from tables
women cut
cloth with
great shears
we stood on stones
faced the stream
made eye contact with

a lily pad
that could not blink
and lucky fern flower
which blooms
only on this night
of all nights
church bells
vibrated from hunger
twenty-four hours
to pack we
gathered nine
different species
of flower
brought them
together
in single bouquets
placed them
under pillows
and bundles of
books dreamt redemption
which did not
come mommy
white stork
shaved our beards
tied knots
in our tzitzits we
slept wrapped

in chuppahs
which bloomed
white
on this night
of all nights we
jumped
over fires boundless
summer fields we
gargled green we
signed our names
for the last
time in this place
let us say Hallel
imprint our song
onto petals
for future generations
to pick

* The Jews of Sabile, Latvia were deported by the Russian Army on the holiday of Shavuot, May 18, 1915.

* This quote was spoken by Rabbi Meir Atlas to Jewish refugees deported in Lithuania, 1915.