

*David intoned this lamentation over Saul and his son Jonathan.
He ordered that "The Song of the Bow" be taught to the people
of Judah; it is written in the Book of Jashar.*

The Song of the Bow
II Samuel 1:17-27
Dennis Dewey, 2012
TUNE: LLANGLOFAN

O Israel, your glory lies slain upon the hill!
The mighty one has fallen! Let voices now be still.
Proclaim it not in Gath, nor in streets of Ashkelon;
Lest daughters of the Philistines sing out a mocking song.

You mountains of Gilboa, may rain not grace your slopes!
On you great Israel's warrior was hung with cruel ropes.
For there the blood of heroes upon the ground did pour,
The shield of Saul anointed with precious oil no more.

In life they were together, young Jonathan and Saul;
Inseparable and lovely, of men beloved by all.
In life as swift as eagles, to them we sing this song;
In death they are united, who lived as lions, strong;

O daughters, sing the story, and let the tale be told,
For Saul it was who clothed you in crimson and in gold!
For Jonathan and Saul whose brave lives in war were spent.
That they so great and mighty have fallen, we lament!

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