

# NETA ELKAYAM

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ARÉNAS – Album Lyrics

## 1. SHRBIL

**Lyrics:** Neta Elkayam

**Music:** Amit Hai Cohen

### Description

“Shrbil” means an embroidered Moroccan slipper. Entirely handmade, each pair carries unique patterns rooted in tradition and personal memory. The song expresses longing for a distant loved one, like a wandering dove that refuses to return home. Part of the new album, its melody is inspired by Ito Swissa, one sentence that inspired Neta to continue and add her own lyrics - is she that dove now that refuse to come back home?

### Lyrics

“Bismillah I began  
To tell myself and tell the tale  
I had imagined  
And to again tell myself  
As though it happened to me

A photo I found in your home  
Comes to me as from the past  
As the dove who was in exile  
Still refuses to go home  
...”

## 2. A LALLA YA IMA

**Lyrics:** Neta Elkayam

**Music:** Amit Hai Cohen

### Description

A contemporary repetitive song inspired by Moroccan Tahdid singing, the text receives a new feminist interpretation, usually the songs praised the heroic groom who arrives on his horse and Neta transformed the meaning and in her imagination

the image of Dahiya al-Kahina that according to the legend was an Amazigh hero from a tribe of Cohen

### **Lyrics**

A Lala ya Ima – Come home all those whose pain lies in their soul  
A Lala ya Ima – Glasses of mahia and sticks of incense spread their scent  
A Lala ya Ima – Come to our home all those in love  
A Lala ya Ima- For all who wish are welcome  
A Lala ya Ima – I'll distance all those who've betrayed me  
A Lala ya Ima – He shall be as air, the one who did not want me  
A Lala ya Ima – Who let you out, like a fish from the water?  
A Lala ya Ima – To run among the trees until you find the fruit  
A Lala ya Ima – Come you folk, behold this beauty  
A Lala ya Ima – The best of the women and the most charming  
A Lala ya Ima – Here, she draws near, her hair in the wind  
A Lala ya Ima – If there were fifty more like her  
A Lala ya Ima – Her beloved ones shall respect her  
A Lala ya Ima – G-d keep evil from her home  
A Lala ya Ima – here she comes Spreading her wings in her sky  
A Lala ya Ima – A free woman needs no one to control her

## **3. HAWA HAWA**

**Lyrics:** Neta Elkayam

**Music:** Amit Hai Cohen & Neta Elkayam

### **Description**

A farewell song the meaningless word that repeats itself its role in a double sense to fill the void

### **Lyrics**

I carried for you, my love, through enmity and hardship,  
As your absence grew long and envy came between us,  
The same that separated you from me,  
And this separation, love, is hard on me.

You are the vessel of perfection within which all prayers are received,  
One whose mother and sisters are blessed...

You are the soul which visits my dreams,  
My tormented sought you, but came up short.

Bless his mother and bless his sisters,  
And bless the dove who carried his words.

I wanted you, my love, and you wanted me,  
But we argued and you forsook me.

I'll reunite with you in Paradise,  
Just come to me my love with the beautiful eyes.

I've waited so long and still am.

## 4. HNA JINA (Here We Come)

**Lyrics:** Neta Elkayam

**Music:** Amit Hai Cohen

### Description

An original song by Neta Elkayam and Amit Hai Cohen. "Here We Come" reflects on migration and the sacrifices of leaving home in search of safety, dignity, and belonging - journeys that can sometimes leave one vulnerable to manipulation by the system.

### Lyrics

With trust and hope – we came  
No belongings, not stability – we came  
Strangers without a language – we came  
With faith and thought – we came  
With hands raised -we came  
From the pains of exile – we came  
Without our neighbours – we came  
With G-d in our hearts – we came

What can we do?  
What hope is left?  
A home, some quiet, and safety  
No more fear ever

Seeking God – we came  
Our hands held by strangers – we came  
From the land of our fathers – we came  
From one desert to another – we came

What can we do?  
What hope is left?

A home, some quiet, and safety  
No more fear ever

Slaves to the authorities – we've become  
Lost with no direction – we've become  
Closed off from the world – we've become  
To suffering and loneliness...

We came

## 5. JUJ NJIMAT (Two Little Stars)

**Adaptation & Lyrics:** Neta Elkayam

**Music:** Neta Elkayam & Amit Hai Cohen

### Description

A lullaby inspired by a Jewish melody from the Atlas Mountains. Dedicated to a child whose beauty shines like stars, interwoven with verses from the Song of Songs translated into Darija by Neta.

### Lyrics

A ha ya lala You are two stars  
A ha ya lala In a shining sky  
A ha ya lala The Goddess of Joy  
Who resides forever in you

Queen of the Garden  
Open the door for me  
I shall remove the seeds from its fruits  
Tell me they are from Paradise

Oh, love of my youth  
My head holds all the moments from it  
While your image is with me  
I remain unharmed

O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock,  
in the hiding place of the cliff,  
Let me see your face,  
let me hear your voice  
For sweet is your voice,  
and your face is beautiful.

## 6. YA LATIF

**Lyrics:** Neta Elkayam & Reuven Abergel

**Music:** Amit Hai Cohen

### **Description**

A song about departure and following your dreams, invoking “Ya Latif” (“Oh Gosh”) as a spiritual presence in times of transition. Lyrics by Neta Elkayam and Reuven Abergel, a founder of the Israeli Black Panthers and a human rights activist.

### **Ya Latif, I left my home**

I gathered my things, with my walking stick in my mind

I left everything behind me

My face will bring you my news

Half asleep, half awake

I follow my dreams

And the dreams push me forward

They rush my sleep and my thoughts

If fortune could be built with bricks

I would build my luck and my destiny

And decorate it, adorn it, just as it appeared to me in my dreams

I do not complain, I do not cry

And what God has written for me

That is my fate

## 7. TKUN MBARKA

### **Description**

A song of blessings - Neta ends the album exactly like the grandmothers end - with endless blessings that will accompany the listeners until the end of days

Be blessed, Y'all

With riches and happiness

Let good shine around you  
Love is well-born

It will grant you and add to your  
Joy and satisfaction

The world lays in your palm my love  
Live and enjoy its fruits!

The day your love came to you, fortune opened wide.

My girl, you are the best of women  
You came to me clean of heart With eyes to drown in  
And your pure brows

Be blessed my girl, ya lalla  
With riches and children and happiness all days

I've brought you these words Y'all  
To uphold you  
In harsh days