

Shirat Machar's "Shir BaBoker BaBoker" (Song of the Morning) is an adaptation of Amir Gilboa's 1953 poem celebrating the founding of the state of Israel a few years earlier. The melody was composed by Shlomo Artzi in the 1970's and was revived as a protest song during the 2011 social justice protests. Around the same time, the Groovatron recorded a cover which combined the cover of the song with recitations from Israel's Declaration of Independence. These questions are meant to guide discussion around Shirat Machar's video.

1) What do you see as the message of this video?

2) How do you understand the phrase "Suddenly a person wakes up in the morning and feels that they are a people?"

Does it mean that each individual who acts has the power of a whole nation? Or perhaps that each person's individual needs should give way to those of the entire society? Can it be both?

3) Why do you think that the Groovatron chose to add quotations from the Declaration of Independence to the chorus of the original song? Do these additions change the meaning of the song?

4) This song (both this version and the original) became anthems of protest. What causes a person to "get up"? Can they do it alone, inspiring people to join them, or do they need the support of the people in order to get up in the first place?

5) Over the course of 60 years, the song went from a celebration of the State of Israel to a song of protest--people demanding more from Israel. In what ways can Zionism be expressed through activism in Israel in 2017?