There are always a batch of questions that I'm asked about my poems, for example; How do I write a poem?  That's not easy to answer.  It's easier to answer the question: **when** do I write; what's the inner spark that gets me to write a poem.

A poem is life; one can say it's the biography of a poet.  A biography, like time, is not static, and the poet expresses his time and his place.

I will begin with the earliest phase, when I arrived in Israel after our Holocaust, after my personal Holocaust, when I came to kibbutz Ha-Ma'apil, with the one who was closest to me, Mula Ben-Haim, the artist. We anchored ourselves in the land, which flowers and withers and doesn't stop living, ; [and it was] as though I was reconstituting my life.

So I will begin with [selections from] my first book, "Doves at the Well", which was published in 1949 in kibbutz Ha-Ma'apil.  But before I read the poem, let's hear what the poem has to say about itself, how the poem presents itself:

  Poems, too, are a cure

  One drinks them to their dregs

  And it becomes easier to admit

  That there is no cure.

I will recite poems which encompass a variety of periods in Mula's life and [in] my life.  I will include various social events outside Israel.

To listen to the poem called  "In Bloom", click on the following