

## Tender Torah

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In the Wetzlar D. P. Camp,  
Germany, 1948, I, a toddler,  
became a tender Torah vessel  
for the minyan of survivors  
who aged before their time.

My Grandpa Hirsh Zvi,  
who suffered a Siberian hard-labor  
camp, son of martyred Rabbi Yaakov  
and Dena of Zamosc, would proudly  
parade me as a Torah scroll  
in his father's Polish shul, joyfully  
declaring to tired but expectant ears,  
"Jews, do not despair, the good God  
gave us back the Torah."

They hovered over me—caressing, kissing,  
blessing my soft face of a velvet  
Torah cover, gratitude uttered  
with clenched lips, "Not all is lost,  
the Torah was returned to us."