[A Dirge for the Ninth
of Av]

[1.]
Let us chant together this dirge, my brothers,
for God has cut off our hands
by this event.

[2.]
We have become orphans,
like children without a father.
Let us turn to God,¹
so that he would protect us from a greater evil.

[3.]
Chelebi Behor karmona, famous throughout the world,

the crown of the Jews,
and Adjiman, the second one,

[4.]

as we saw each of them murdered by his death
tears streamed from our eyes like torrents.

[5.]
They came to strangle him,
while he was lying in bed.
"What is this fury?"
They did not know, either.

[6.]
"Come, my sinyora mother,
to kiss me and embrace me.
Be quick, hurry up,
or it will be too late."

[7.]
Gendarmes are everywhere in the house,
like raging fate.
His mother is agonizing in the house
looking through the window.

[8.]
"You were not ill,
my precious Behorachi."
You left me all of a sudden,
without being guilty and without having sinned.

[9.]
Everybody is mourning him,
because he was much loved.

He was taken from me
without being guilty and without having
sinned.”

[10.]
Let us weep and lament
the evil that befell us.
even if we live a thousand years,
we will not forget it.

[11.]
When they ousted his mother from the palace,
they brought her in front of him,
so that she would see this gentleman’s body.

[12.]
We are crying day and night,
as we look around and see that
we have lost the best among the Jews.

[13.]
Moans and anguish,
fasts and lamentations
became the lot of the Jews,
particularly of [this] community.iv

[14.]
There was no one better than him
among the Jews.
God took him from us [too] soon
and put him in a grave.

[15.]
He was in danger
because of the [financial] report,
which the Deputyv demanded from him,
and this upset him.

[16.]
Let us continue weeping and lamenting
this disaster,
and let us turn to the heavens,
and demand justice

[17.]
for this gentleman [who served] the Porte,
who was gracious and merciful.
Since the rebellion [of the Janissaries]
we have not had any respite.

[18.]
No one else in the world
did so much charity,
there was enough for everybody,
especially for the Jews.

[19.]
When he finished his report,
which came out right,
he was [nevertheless] strangled,
and his brother exiled.

[20.]
Let us pray to the Almighty,
that [the Messiah] might come to us soon in peace,
and that we might have the joy
[of seeing] the Temple rebuilt.

[21.]

We will offer sacrifice
every day.
We will see the Messiah
seated in his throne.

[22.]

Let us pray to our Father
that he would give us the joy,
that [the Messiah] would come soon without
delay
and reveal to us the miracle.

\[\text{1 Lit. “raise our eyes.”}\]

\[\text{ii Lit. “you will be left without satisfaction.”}\]

\[\text{iii Lit. “our tears do not dry.”}\]

\[\text{iv This must be a reference to the Sephardi}\]

\[\text{community of Istanbul.}\]

\[\text{v One of Carmona’s biographers claims that it was}\]

\[\text{the bostanci başı (lit. chief gardener, i.e. a high-}\]

\[\text{ranking palace administrator), who asked him for}\]

\[\text{an account and then went to his house with two}\]

\[\text{gendarmes to strangle him. (See Elena Romero,}\]

\[\text{Entre dos (o más) fuegos (Madrid, 2008), 212.}\]