

Kriah 2024
Tear on canvas
105Cm x 75Cm

--

Kriah, derived from the Hebrew word "karah," meaning "to tear," the act of tearing one's clothing serves as a moment of grief, symbolizes a break in normalcy, and signifies the visceral impact of loss on the individual and communal psyche. On October 7, 2023, Israel experienced profound national trauma as a result of a series of violent attacks. In light of the events on October 7th, Kriah has transcended its conventional parameters to address collective grief arising from societal trauma. Kriah aims to explore the complexities of grief and the healing legacy of ancient mourning rituals.

David Lament and the Emotional History of Kriah

In the context of Jewish spirituality, the concept of "Kriah" holds a place of reverence, often linked to the act of tearing one's clothing as a physical manifestation of mourning. Among biblical figures, King David emerges as a pivotal character, whose own expressions of grief provide a lens through which the emotional history of Kriah can be examined. The traditions surrounding Kriah embody both positive and negative aspects, revealing a complex interplay of cultural practices, religious significance, and personal expressions of sorrow.

In 2 Samuel 1:11-12, David's lament over Jonathan and Saul encapsulates a deep sense of loss, emphasizing the anguish felt by the king upon losing his beloved companion. "Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and all the men who were with him did the same." This episode not only underscores Kriah as an expression of profound grief but also signifies a communal engagement with sorrow, as those surrounding David participated in the mourning process.