For Our Soul

Teshome Wagaw

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For Our Soul: Ethiopian Jews in Israel. 
Glossary

ETHIOPIC

abba—title of a monk.
addis mette—newcomer.
agew—term for the indigenous people who practiced Judaism before the fourth century.
aleka—chief or leader (scholar).
assadagih ayideg—used when a child has done something seriously wrong. It means “May the one who brought you up be destroyed.”
astergwami—interpreter.
atinkugn—do not touch me.
Ato—Mr.
balege—uncouth.
bale-i—artisan, one who uses his or her hands to make a living.
baltet—elderly woman.
buda—one with the “evil eye”.
debrta (woch)—deacon(s) or cantor(s).
dejmettinat—waiting at the gate in expectation of a favorable outcome.
Derg—a committee or junta that ruled Ethiopia from approximately 1978–1990.
Egziabher—God. Lord of the universe; a term used by Ethiopian Jews and Christians alike.
enjera—Ethiopian bread.
ferenj—foreigner, white people.
Falasha—Beta Israel or Ethiopian Jews, a term used most by outsiders.
Glossary

gieyed—covenant regulating sexual consummation with an underage bride.
gizret—circumcision.
gobbatta—hunchback.
gojo mewttat—establishing a home by a couple.
irgman—curse.
itran—incense.
kaula—another name for Ethiopian Jew.
kes or kabin—priest.
Kibre Negest—the Ethiopian equivalent of the Talmud.
kibua Eziabber—anointed of God.
Kimant—a religious community found in the Gondar region.
Kubet—dry cow dung used for fuel.
libam—a wise or thoughtful female in family or community matters.
merdo—breaking news of the death of a family member.
mesgid—place of worship.
mugogo—frying pan.
Orit—the Old Testament or Torah.
Seged—religious holiday observed by Ethiopian Jews.
Sharia—a Muslim term meaning Islamic Law.
shemagile—elderly man.
shifeta—vagabond.
Tabot—the tablets on which the Ten Commandments were inscribed.
tabt—derogatory name applied to Ethiopian Jews.
Tezaz Sanbat—commandments of the Sabbath.
tezkar—a feast in remembrance of a dead person.
Tigray—north-central region of Ethiopia.
ttilmet—religious immersion.
Woizero—Mrs.
yebalege lij—an uncouth child or child of an uncouth parent; a child of improper upbringing.
yechiwa lij—a child of proper or gentle upbringing.
yejegina lij—son of a brave parent.
Yedem or yemergem gojo—hut of curse or malediction.
yenjera lij (och)—stepchild (ren).
yeset lij—a child of unmanly behavior, “son of a woman.”
yetebarke—meat of a slaughtered animal (blessed).
yezemed irdata—help of a relative.
ynefis abat—soul father or confessor.

HEBREW

Agudat Israel—the ultra-Orthodox religious group.
aliyah (aliot)—immigration.
aliyat banoar—boarding schools, youth aliyah.
Beta Israel—The House of Israel, another name for Ethiopian Jews.
edot—ethnic community or tribe.
Halakah—Religious Law.
Hovevei Zion—lovers of Zion.
Histadrut—Israeli Labor Federation.
kabbalat ol mitzvot—oral declaration of acceptance of the commandments of the Torah.
kibbutz galuyot—gathering of exiles.
kibbutz—communal village.
kippa or yarmulka—head cover worn by religious Jewish males.
Knesset—parliament.
kushi—derogatory term equivalent to “nigger.”
mamzer—bastard.
merekze kilta—absorption center.
mikveh—ritual bath.
mila—circumcision.
Mishna—the oral laws.
moha—teacher.
mizug galuyot—the fusion and integration of exiles.
moshav—cooperative village.
olim—immigrant.
ozrot—maid.
sabra—Israeli-born.
salta—grandmother.
shehatim—religious (Israeli) slaughterers.
tevila—ritual immersion in a bath.
ulpanim—Hebrew language schools.
vatik (im)—veteran Israeli(s).
yeshivot—religious colleges (seminaries).