



Asher Reich was born in Jerusalem 1937, then under British protectorate. He was raised in an ultraorthodox environment and his schooling as a child consisted solely of religious studies. At the age of 18 he choose to leave these surroundings, which was for him like taking "a leap in time onto another planet", and entered the world of secular western culture.

He graduated from the Hebrew university in Jerusalem in 1966 and worked as a newspaper editor. Between 1980 and 2002 he was the chief editor of *Moznain*, the literary publication of the Israeli Authors' Association, taught creative writing at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, and for 20 years has published a monthly column in the *Ha'aretz* newspaper in which he compares poetry translations. A selection of these comparisons, published by the "Am Haoved", appeared in 2001 under the title *The Kiss Behind the Scurf*.

His first book of poetry, *In the Seventh Year of My Wandering* was published in 1964 and his second, *Night Shine* (1969) won the ACUM award. Other books include *State of Affairs* (1975), *A View of the Land* (Ahshav, 1978), *Women's Rites* (Ahshav, 1980), *A New Packet* (Am Oved, 1983), *Table of Contents: Selected Poems, 1963 – 1983*, a volume of selected verse which won the Bernstein Prize, *Works on Paper* (Zmora Bitain, 1988) and *Fiction Facts* (Hakibbutz Hameuhad, 1992). Reich's autobiographical novel, *Memoirs of an Amnesiac*, was published by Ma'ariv in 1993. *Winter Music* (Helicon) appeared in 1997, *Face of the Land* (Rhythmus, Hakibbutz Hameuhad) in 1999 and *Lifeless Future* in 2003.

Reich's poems have been translated into 20 languages. A volume of poems in French was published by the University of Toulouse Press in 1980 and a volume of poems in English, *Long Distance*, was published in 1991. A collection of poems in German, *Arbeit auf Papier*, was published by Rowholt Publishers in 1992 and Bleicher Press published the German translation of the novel *Memoirs of an Amnesiac* in 2000. His *Tel Aviver Ungeduld* (2002) is another collection of poetry published in German.

Reich received a number of literature prizes (Anna Frank Prize for Literature, ACUM, Bernstein Prize from the Federation of Israeli Publishers, the Prime Minister's Award for Poetry and the President Of Israel's Prize for Poetry) and was granted a scholarship (Iowa, Berlin). In 1999 Reich was elected a member of the German Academy of Poetry and Languages in Darmstadt.

Asher Reich lives and works in Tel Aviv.