Lamentations 4—Disappearing Symmetry and One Voice

( Decompiled 4:1—

( Decompiled 4:2—Zion

( Decompiled 4:3—in the wilderness

( Decompiled 4:4—

( Decompiled 4:5—

( Decompiled 4:6—no/not

( Decompiled 4:7—

( Decompiled 4:8—not . . . in the streets

( Decompiled 4:9—

( Decompiled 4:10—

( Decompiled 4:11—poured out

( Decompiled 4:12—

( Decompiled 4:13—shed (i.e., poured out)

( Decompiled 4:14—in the streets

( Decompiled 4:15—not

( Decompiled 4:16—

( Decompiled 4:17—not

( Decompiled 4:18—

( Decompiled 4:19—in the wilderness

( Decompiled 4:20—

( Decompiled 4:21—

( Decompiled 4:22—Zion

How to account for the diminishing symmetry in chapter 4.
Structural observations

v. 1—poured out
   = ? → vv. ?

v. 11—poured out
   = ? → vv. ?

How many verses between v. 1 and v. 10?
How many verses between v. 11 and v. 20?
Leaving ?
What do you see there?

What else do you see bracketing v. 11 with v. 20?
?Possible ____________

vv. 1-10 use what pronouns?

vv. 11-20 use what pronouns?

vv. 21 and 22 use what pronouns?

Who is the subject of “my” (vv. 3, 6, 10), i.e., whose personal voice are we hearing in this chapter?

Clue: 1st word in the Hebrew text of chapters

1:1—‘êkah (יהיה) =

2:1—‘êkah (יהיה) =

4:1—‘êkah (יהיה) =

vv. 1-10, she speaks ______________
vv. 11-20, she speaks ______________
vv. 21-22, she speaks ______________

Is she echoing another voice in this drama?
Recasting the Narrative

1. Vividness (vv. 1, 5, 7, 8)

2. Madness (v. 10 with v. 3)

3. Invulnerability (v. 12)

4. Betrayal (v. 17; cf. Jer 37:5-10)

5. Role of Neighbor Adversary (vv. 21, 22)

6. Cowardice of Ruling Leader (vv. 19, 20)