

Rosh Hashanah Prayer

Adonai, may it be Your will that in this coming year, I will continue to appreciate the manifold gifts with which You surround me, that I might feel Your support for me when I feel uncertain, just as I have done over this last year, in looking for a job.

In the years since this recession began, many of us have had our lives disrupted by economic hardship. Many of us have lost our jobs, some have lost our dwellings, and many of us have lost much of our savings and investments. It has been frustrating and discouraging, making many of us question ourselves, and our abilities to provide for ourselves and for our families. Although this wave of economic misfortune wafts over whole nations, each of us can find something personal in its wake. For me, it has caused me to question my worth as a man, and my purpose in this world. I lost my job in May of this year.

So I made a point to ground myself spiritually while I looked for work. I spent an hour each morning in prayer and meditation before job-hunting each day. I would go through the Shacharit prayers, and focus on feeling surrounded with great gifts. When we focus on what we lack, we can get very absorbed by that emptiness. But when we focus on the gifts we have, it can make us feel truly blessed with gifts.

I began to cultivate a feeling of gratitude towards the Architect of this and of every world. I would pray, “Thank You for all the gifts you have given me. Thank You for the gifts you are currently giving me. Thank You for all the gifts you will ever give me.” It was important for me to see the future as being as full of gifts as the past and present.

I would ask God to consider the gifts He had implanted in me, and allow them to flourish, and allow them to sustain me and perpetuate my existence, and allow me to help others through my work. In this period of vulnerability, I made sure to come to TBZ and participate in this wonderful community. I let people know I was struggling. Everyone here was so supportive of me. By opening myself up to my friends and my community, I allowed them to help sustain me.

After some searching, I received two job offers at the same time. One job paid a higher wage than I had ever been offered before, but it involved work I had done before but didn’t enjoy. The other job didn’t pay as much, but it offered me a chance to make a difference with a new company, helping people heal through my work, and challenging me to grow in many new directions. A month and a half later, I love what I do, and feel very blessed.

By connecting with my gratitude to the Author of my being, I found myself in a place where the cause for gratitude was multiplied. By focusing on the gifts implanted in me by the Source of Generosity, I could use those gifts to help myself out of trouble, and to help others to heal and grow. By seeing the bounty rather than the lack, I never felt destitute or diminished. While there were some scary and discouraging times between jobs, by feeling my connection with the One, I never felt alone.

And so I conclude with this prayer, a prayer that I share with all of you:

Thank You, God, for all the gifts You have ever given us.
Thank You, God, for the gifts You are giving us right now as we pray.

Thank You, God, for all the gifts You will ever give us.

Amen.