

Good Shabbos, Shana Tova, G'mar Tov

Life at times feels like a dream...

A Fleeting Moment.

A Brief Journey Across Time and Space...

A Journey in which we are fortunate to encounter so many wonderful people... many wonderful people

And at the core...we have the ancient letters, the mysterious letters

And in our brief moment we do our best

To put the letters together

To Connect with One another

To Connect with You.

To Infuse our Lives with Meaning.)

Dear G-d...

I'm not sure how to address you. All the names we use seem insufficient...an attempt to name a Mystery that has no name, and can never be fully known and yet we sense You and have hints of you.

So to call to you...I'll just use the letters, using an old Ashkenasic melody used to teach children the Aleph-Beis in Cheder. My grandfather of Blessed Memory was a Rabbi, from a small shtetl in the Pale call Filipov. He was born in 1878 and perhaps he and many of our grandparents and great grandparents learned the Aleph Beis with this melody.

Aleph..Beis...Veis...Gimmel...Dalet...Heh ..Vav...Zayin...Ches...Tes...Yud.....

Kaf..Khaf...Final Khaf...Lamed...Mem...Final Mem..Nun...Final Nun...Samech..Ayin....

Peh...Feh..Final Fef...Tsadeh...Final Tasade...Qof...Reish...Shim...Sin...Tav...Final Saf

(Peh...Feh..Final Fef...Tsadeh...Final Tasade...Qof...Reish...Shim...Sin...Tav...Final Saf)

May it be your will...

That I will have the ability to find moments through your Miztvot and elsewhere

Where I might shut off the noise of the world

Where I might shut off the sometimes frenetic noise of everyday living

So I may be able to

Claim moments of silence...

Discover holy moments...

*Discover holy spaces...
Have holy encounters...*

*Where I may be open to you
Where I might know you
Where I might listen to you*

*So then
... I might turn to you....
So then
... I might be open to your Mystery
So then
...I might remember and turn and return to you over and over again
...and that we may turn to one another over and over again...*

Maybe it be your will...yud, hev, vav heh

*....That I might cling to you and your Torah...
....That I might dance with the letters and worlds
... That I might know wonder, wisdom and joy
...Connection, balance and love*

May it be your will....

*..... That my children (and G-d willing my children's children) will cling to you and your Torah...and know your Mystery
..... That they might play with the letters and words
.....That they might learn when to say "Yes" and when to say "No"
.... That they too will know joy, meaning and wisdom
... Connection, balance and love*

May it be your will....

*.... That my family and friends (and their children and their children's children) will sense your mystery and cling to You and walk with your Torah
.... That they will walk with the letters and words
.....That they too will find joy, meaning, wisdom and
... Connection. balance, laughter and love*

May it be your will...

*.... That Klal Yisrael, my fellow Jews, will rediscover your mystery over and over again and cling to You and walk with your Torah
.... That they will sing with the letters and the words
....That they will be able to listen...to hear...to "Sh'ma"
.... That they will know joy, meaning and wisdom
...Connection, balance and love*

May it be your Will....

*...That all the people of the world will know your Mystery and walk with you
... Each in their own way
... Singing their own song.... in their own melody, their own language
... Each telling their own story
...Honoring, accepting and valuing one another
...Walking with you*

And May it be your Will.....

*...That you will forgive me for too often being led by my desires
...That you will forgive for too often putting myself first
...That you will forgive me for missing the mark
...That you will forgive me for not remembering
...That you will forgive me for not trying hard enough*

May it be your Will that I will a be

*....a Good Father
....a Good Son
....a Good Brother
....a Good Uncle
....a Good Husband/Partner if it's meant to be
....a Good Friend
....a Good Owner of a business
....a Good Member of the Community
....a Good Member of Klal Yisrael
....a Good American
....a Good Citizen of the World*

Yet...for all that said

*....Words somehow still fail me
... And I stand here Alone
...Alone perhaps with only those ancient letters
...Which I've received from you and generations past*

*Believing that they somehow hold the mystery of the universe
Believing that they somehow hold your Mystery*

Given that...I'll again send You these ancient letters

*Not only for me, but perhaps for all of us who are here
And also for all of Us who are not here*

May it be your Will

*....That you will receive the letters
....And rearrange them
....So you might know the yearnings of my heart and soul
... So you might know the yearnings of our hearts and souls*

*...So, in our brief journeys across time and space
...We may walk with you*

*That we may..
...Walk individually with you
That we will
....Walk together with you*

*So that we may walk with You in Your Light
And be a Blessing to you, for you
And be a blessing to one another....
Turning to you and one another over and over and over again*

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G'mar Tov...A sweet New Year of Blessings