



TEMPLE SINAI
B'nei Mitzvah

Samples of Parents' Blessings

Parents Presenting Blessing Together

This event is huge. Not the planning or the thought of you turning 13 (though wasn't it yesterday that we bathed you in the kitchen sink?). No. What's overwhelming is the enormity of you becoming a bat mitzvah...of you actively stepping into Jewish peoplehood.

The Torah passing from grandparent to parent to bat mitzvah is such a poetic ritual and picture. On the one hand, this is about you and how your relatives -- those here today and those that have passed on -- have brought you to this moment. But it's not a photo album we're passing. It's the Torah...this sacred scroll that was painstakingly written, protected and used that lovingly tethers us--you--to our people and our story. With this day and this Torah, you hold the fullness of time.

And now what? What do you do with your new Jewish status and with this Torah? Torah and Judaism will always be here for you and within you. It's hard not to take that for granted, and for a long time you will. Truthfully, watching you prepare so diligently and seeing you stand here with such poise, sheds more light on the meaning of all this for us adults. So, it's fine if it's the party that you most appreciate today. The rest will come.

Like both your grandfathers, you have a thirst for knowledge and a voracious appetite for books. Sabba had an ongoing courtship--more like a love affair--with Torah and all Judaic text. Peeling back the tasty leaves to get to the heart was delicious for him because it's an endless riddle. You've always possessed two burning fires, one for answers and one for fun. Use these to keep the text fresh and relevant. And more importantly, use this balanced lens to see the good in the world and your unique role in it.

Eliza, may you continue to cultivate an active devotion to yourself, your community and your global environment. Keep adding to the texture of Torah and your people. Be strengthened by the knowledge that this Torah, and all those that held it before you, will always support you as you navigate and enrich the world.

Blessings to you, our beautiful daughter, for a nourishing, fulfilling and love-overflowing life. We love you and are so proud to be your parents on this day and every day.

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Parents Presenting Blessings One After the Other

Sam, I am so thankful for the privilege of seeing you grow. You have brought more pride and joy to your father and me than you will ever know, just in being yourself. You are intelligent, compassionate, funny, and creative. Your warmth and charismatic personality bring joy to the people around you. These are your gifts. I know that you will use your gifts to make the world a better place.

You can count on us to guide, support, and coach you as you search for meaning and purpose in your life. Look around. You are surrounded by people that love you. May you always have the companionship of great family and friends. May you exhaust life and live life to the fullest. May you use your talents and passion to do something remarkable that will make a difference.

May you always feel a part of the Jewish community that stretches wide around the world as well as backward and forward in time. May you see the beauty and value of lifelong Jewish learning. May you integrate Judaism into the rhythm of your life.

And may God watch over you, look on you with favor and grant you peace.



Sam, your mother and I love you very much. And working with you to prepare for this day has been a treat. As you know you and I struggled to find meaning in this Torah passage. Reflecting on our many conversations about it I am struck with a profound simple truth. This is the Jewish experience, son. The struggle to find meaning within the deepest context. No one would argue that God has set out a simple path for the Jews.

For millennia Jews have questioned, interpreted and searched to find meaning. And it is this perseverance that brought your people through the historic struggles of the past. If you challenge commonly accepted practices, you will sharpen your mind. If you challenge the status-quo, you will prosper. And most importantly, if you challenge yourself to exceed self-imposed limits, you will flourish. It my hope that you live a passionate a life, one full of friends and family, framed by constant personal growth, anchored by service to your community in which you are profoundly happy and fulfilled. Mazel tov.