

## **Wildfire Season in a Time of Unsafe Breathing**

by Rabbi Katie Mizrahi

Dangerous breathing  
chases me  
Inside  
Outside  
to the pavement  
knee on my neck  
mask on my face  
mute on my song  
to keep my breathing,  
my dangerous breathing,  
safely to myself.

We isolate  
so that our song,  
our dangerous song,  
doesn't get  
inside each other  
as it would  
in the normalest aspect of  
Normal Times

(not the rat racing  
race baiting  
carbon wasting  
part  
of Normal Times)

Breath  
cycling constant till death  
defines the living soul  
*neshimah neshamah.*

Inhaling  
exhaling  
recycled molecules.  
Interdependent interchange -  
no human without vegetation  
no air without water  
no life without breath.

There is no  
Your air  
My air.

And we cannot escape the air itself  
or our need of it.

The sky,  
shape of our connectivity,  
enlivens and sickens us  
with our own karmic legacy  
the choices of our ancestors  
the choices we make for our descendants.

Inhale.

Exhale.

Inhale.

Exhale.

We are One.