

THE RENEWAL OF CREATION

ROSH HA-SHANAH DAY 2 SOURCESHEET

1) From the *Yotzeir* (“Fashioner”) blessing in the morning liturgy:

הַמְחִידֵשׁ בְּטוֹבוֹ בְּכֹל יוֹם תָּמִיד מַעֲשֵׂה בְרֵאשִׁית.

Ha-m'chadeish b'tuvo b-chol yom tamid ma'asei v'reishit.

“The One who, in God’s goodness, every day - continually - renews the work of Creation.”

2) “Every Day” by Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg

Every day, Creation is renewed.

Wake up and see unfolding

In the spreading light of dawn,

The world and all it contains

Coming into being, new, fresh,

Filled with divine goodness

And love.

Every day, Creation is renewed.

Reflected in the great lights

We see a new day,

One precious day,

Eternity.

3) “i thank You God for most this amazing” by e.e. cummings

i thank You God for most this amazing

day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees

and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything

which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,

and this is the sun’s birthday; this is the birth

day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay

great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing

breathing any—lifted from the no

of all nothing—human merely being

doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and

now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

4) *Zohar* 2:148b-149a (Daniel Matt translation)

Rabbi Yehudah said, “If [God’s Light] were completely hidden, the world would not exist for even one moment! Rather, it was hidden and sown like a seed that generates offspring and fruit, and by which the world is sustained. There is not a day without something emerging from it into the world and sustaining all, and by this the blessed Holy One feeds the world. And everywhere that Torah is studied at night, one ray issues from that hidden light and is drawn upon those absorbed in her, as is written: *By day YHVH ordains His love, and in the night His song is with me* (Psalms 42:9), as we have established.

“On the day when the Mishkan (the Tabernacle) was made, what is written? *Moses could not come into the Tent of Meeting, for the cloud had settled upon it* (Exodus 40:35). What is the cloud? It was one from the side of primordial light, issuing in the joy of the Bride as She entered the Dwelling below. Since the first day, it has not been revealed; but it certainly does perform in the world, renewing every day the act of Creation!”

רבי יהודה אומר, אלמלי אתגניז מכל וכל, לא קאים עלמא אפילו רגעא חדא, אלא אתגניז ואזדרע כהאי זרעא דעביד תולדין וזרעין ואיבין, ומניה אתקיים עלמא. ולית לך יומא, דלא נפיק מניה בעלמא, ומקיים כלא דביה זן קודשא בריך הוא עלמא. ובכל אתר דלעאן באורייתא בליליא, חד חוטא נפיק מההוא אור גניז, ואתמשך על אינון דלעאן בה, הדא הוא דכתיב, (תהילים מ"ב:ט) יומם יצוה יי' חסדו ובלילה שירה עמי. והא אוקימנא.

יומא דאתקם משכנא לתתא, מה כתיב (שמות מ"ל"ה) ולא יכול משנה לבא אל אהל מועד כי שכן עליו הענן. מאי הענן. חד חוטא הוה (נ"א עמודא דעננא) מההוא סטרא דאור קדמאה, דנפק בחדוה בכלא (דכלה), עאלת למשכנא דלתתא. ומההוא יומא (קדמאה). לא אתגלי, אבל שמושא קא משמש בעלמא, ואיהו מחדש בכל יומא עובדא דבראשית.

Questions to consider:

How might you perceive Creation’s daily renewal in your own life and personal experience?

As an essential part of Creation, how might I see myself as being similarly renewed in every moment?

What steps might you take to remind yourself, in this new year, to engage in this process of renewal?