

A Message from the Rabbi, October 2016

‘Simchat Torah’ by Ruth F. Brin

‘We have finished the Torah now,
Reading of the days of our teacher, Moses,
And we have begun at the beginning once more.

We have moved from the story of Israel
To the creation of light,
Resolved to make a new and better beginning
In our study of Torah.

Before God created man,
God created time, evening and morning.

God created the stars and the planets whirling in their
courses,
And the patterns of motion for earth and sun and moon.

He created plants and birds, animals and the creatures of
the sea,
Each with its beginning, its flowering, and its ending,
Its rhythm of death and of birth.

Though we move in cycles, like every work of Thy hand,
We are not bound to a wheel revolving on a fixed axis;
We can move forward in the path Moses taught us.

Inspire us, O Adonai, to continue the cycle of Torah,
Strengthen us to renew the life of Israel,
Help us to bring Thy life to the lives of men;
Speed us toward the bright morning of peace.’
During the course of the hustle and bustle of everyday life
we tend to get bogged down and focus too much of our
time and energy on trivial matters. We are quick to
compile and multiply challenges for ourselves and are
prompt to overlook what matters most, what deserves our
undivided attention. As we complete this cycle of Torah
and begin afresh, let us come to appreciate and embrace
the value of the blessings God ennobled us with.

Let us go back to these precious basics, allowing
God’s pristine Creation guide our uncertain steps. Let
us pause and consider God’s infinite wisdom, and let us
ascend to a higher plateau and nurture our deepest
aspirations, moving on in the right direction, and
influencing each other for good.

May we keep God by our side, loving and supporting each
other as we experience our Torah with a renewed gusto
that will contribute to our betterment and to the
advancement of our congregation. Only then shall we feel
refreshed and transformed. Only then shall we find peace.
Kein y’hi ratzon, may it be God’s will. Gam kein y’hi
retzoneinu, may it be our will too.

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Séverine Sokol