



What Can We Say?

by Ariel Bar Tzadok

What can we say? Are any of us ever ready to face the Judge?

As innocent as we are, as good as we have been, can we honestly say that we have done our best and that we could not do any more?

This is the question that tugs at my heart.

I do not ask for strength, for Heaven already bestows upon us all that we need. I do not ask for wealth, for this too Heaven already graciously bestows in proper proportion.

I ask instead for opportunity. I have sought to learn well and to know how to best use the gifts that Heaven has already bestowed upon me.

All I ask for is greater opportunity.

Yet, there is one more request that I make of Heaven, for there is one gift of which I can never have enough. I ask for wisdom.

For although I know how I can use the gifts of Heaven to the best of my understanding, to prosper and benefit the fortunes of others, yet, how can I be so arrogant to say, that there is no more to understand, that there is no more to learn?

If I was so smart, then maybe I would recognize the opportunities that are now unclear. If I was so smart, maybe I could see what now I cannot and thus then do what now I cannot.

I ask for wisdom. I ask to become smarter. Although I may have wisdom and I may be somewhat smart, one can never have enough wisdom, one can never be smart enough.

I look to improve and better myself in this way, for I know that when I am wise, we all benefit. Wisdom is not a gift just for the person. It is a gift for us all.

How can I stand before the Judge? I have no choice in the matter. Yet, if there is something to be said, then let me ask for the Light of Heaven to shine upon me and be gracious to me, so that in like kind I may in turn shine the Light and be gracious to others.

This is something I believe the Judge will accept and be happy with.

Shana Tova...