

June 5, 2008

Shabbat Shalom!

Thoughts on the Priestly Blessing (from this week's Torah reading, Naso)

May the Eternal One bless you... with affirmation for the paths you choose and the decisions you make based on the wisdom that comes from deep inside you.

...And keep you... protecting you from the hurt of rejection and polarizing disagreement, and preserving in you respect for all people at all times.

May the Eternal One cause the divine face to shine upon you... so that the light that emanates from you will mirror on the outside the honesty and hope that you hold inside.

And be gracious to you... enabling you to forgive others and yourself for the times when challenges are not met or the best words and deeds are not offered in the context of your relationships, because we are only human.

May the Eternal One lift the divine face toward you... reflecting the joy that can result from making a positive connection, on some level, with all the people we encounter in our lives.

And grant you peace... where peace is the ultimate goal for our own souls, creating a sense of completeness within our minds and hearts, and the culmination of humankind's strivings to achieve a harmony that is, at least, characterized by respect, acceptance and, as much as possible, love.

So may we bless ourselves and each other...

**-- L'shalom,
Rabbi Larry K.**