

A Meditation on Creation

Today we hear the shofar and call out "**Hayom Harat Olam**". Today is the Birthday of the world. Today the world is born! Those words, *Harat Olam* come from the prophet Jeremiah 20:17 when in his heartbreak, he was cursing the day he was born. He wishes that the day had never come "so that my mother would be my grave and her womb a place of eternal gestation." In this context Jeremiah is mourning the fate of his people and trying to awaken them. The rabbis took his words of prophesy and turned them inside out.

Yes, our mother, this earth, will be our grave and yet "**Hayom Harat Olam**" Today is pregnant with Eternity. We can turn this day around. We can open to infinite possibility, re-experience the moment of Creation. And then realign ourselves with our highest values of justice and love.

Today we transform Jeremiah's lament into a celebration of possibility. **Hayom Harat Olam**. Today is pregnant with eternity. Overflowing with possibility. As we read the story of creation, we can enter into the mystery of our own creative impulse and imagination. We can know ourselves created in the image and likeness of the Divine, and from that knowledge step into the world and know each other and all of Creation as if for the first time.

Even though the world is always in the process of birthing itself anew, it can't really know itself without Shabbat. Shabbat holds the opportunity of self-awareness, and the kind of celebration of life that can become our awakening.

After all that work, all that birthing labor, God stops to celebrate the miracle of Creation, and blesses that seventh day with the gift of awareness.