

Thoughts for Rosh Hashanah - Andrea Brass

What are our dreams on this Rosh Hashanah? Peace in the world and in our own country, good health for ourselves, our family, our friends, a place to call home where we feel safe and secure. Perhaps we dream of new adventures, exploring the world, challenging ourselves to be, see, and do what we've never been, seen, or done before. Did we hold ourselves back for fear of leaving our comfort zone?

What does this have to do with Rosh Hashanah? Everything, I think. Now is the time when we can consciously and honestly remind ourselves of who we truly are. The prayers in the Machzor ask for G-d's forgiveness, for G-d's compassion and graciousness unto us. But before we ask G-d, we must look deep into our souls and our hearts and forgive ourselves for falling short, for not always being the best version of ourselves. We do this with both humility and gentleness and acceptance of who we are and how we can be worthy of this gift of life, of the blessings that we, as Jews, are graced with.

And so when we pray, let our prayers come from deep within. And when we dream, let our dreams reflect the best of who we are and who we are striving to be; let them be a reflection of our prayers.