

I stood tall. I was already elegant and proud of all that I am composed of. The Jewish people's assembled/*Vayake!* in community to create me. I am metals, stones, all things natural.

The women, men and gender-queers all came to me. They collected their finest things and they made me who I am today-gold, silver and copper; blue-, purple- and red-dyed wool; goat hair, spun linen, animal skins, wood, olive oil, and herbs.

ABUNDANCE!

I am holy. I am beautiful.

I am the portable vessel through which people will come and lay down their burdens, pray to the G-d, the Shekinah, the great mystery, the whomever it is that is doing all the good and all the wacky in this world. In fact, people were so eager to build me and decorate me that they had to be stopped by their leader for their overflowing generosity was beyond. (Jews do tend to go over the top sometimes!)

And, now, somehow, though I am usually in the wilderness and am not sure how I ended up here to be perfectly honest, I am here with all of you. The Mishkan, the Tabernacle, the "dwelling" place. You may find me anytime you need me. For this dwelling place is also within you. And, perhaps it is helpful if you have a stone in your pocket, if you use fire and incenses to bring forth the holy, or turn to the mountains where the goats and sheep roam the land. What does your Mishkan look like for you? Is it in your home in a particular spot or is it a tree in the neighborhood? Maybe it is right here amongst your peers and loved ones. Maybe it is all those things. Baruch Hashem!!

I invite you to take a moment to close your eyes and find your spot that brings you deep rejuvenation and recharge.....

And then if you feel so moved, what if you find a position in your body where you feel a connection to your own inner Mishkan- radiating and calm, regal and beautiful, clear and assured.

Breathe into the deep belly of your own knowing.....

For I know you all are doing amazing work in the world to fight the injustices that you bear witness to daily. In whatever way you do this, you are doing it exactly right. And, you deserve this day given so long away by Moses to the people, this Shabbat, this day of rest. And, this is your “oneg”- delight in this moment of peaceful rest as you find it in your own body, wherever it may lie. Maybe it’s just in a toe or perhaps it’s your heart or your entire being.

Blessings on this Kabbalat Shabbat and to each and everyone of you. May you continue to access these dwelling places whenever you need access to a little moment of beauty, for the beauty of this universe may provide a source for hope; dwelling within the cracks and crevices of our imagination that sprouts new life and new possibility for the world we all want to see! Thank you .
Todah. Amen. Amen.