



CLOSING BLESSING

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I am humbled to be sharing this space with you right now.

We come together now to conclude the experiences we have shared with each other these past two days -- to honor the words that have been shared in this space -- both those difficult to say, and those difficult to hear.

As we conclude with the blessings that will accompany us as we move forward, I invite you to enter this space, with the knowledge that we do this work -- the work of restoring and pursuing justice and equality -- we do this work in an imperfect world and we do this work as imperfect beings. It is not our quest for perfection in ourselves or the other that keeps us moving us forward. We move forward so we may quest for the divine, find The Ruach Elohim in the human spirit, and appreciate the distinct wonder of the human heart, which, in the words of Rupi Kaur, is unmatched in its strength,

“the human heart
which shatters over and over
and still lives.”

It is *this* heart that lives in each one of us, its strength unmatched, a strength that I too often forget, is one that we all behold.

And as we have seen and learned, it is each and every one of us who holds the pieces of each other's hearts, carrying the tremendous responsibility -- the tremendous honor -- of mending its broken pieces.

From what I have seen over these past few days, the work that we have all gathered to do -- is in some way, shape or form, the mending of the human heart.

I have realized that this work, the individual and collective work of pursuing justice, equality -- safety, respect and equity -- is divine, and its pursuit is one that not only has the power to heal oneself, but heal many, many others.

And so, as we find ourselves in *this* moment, for me, in itself a blessing -- I also acknowledge that any blessing in this community and in this setting would be incomplete if it were not a product of us all.

As we do this work together, as co-creators of a future we endeavor to realize, I ask for your contributions in this chat for what you need as you continue this work, and what you give to others to continue it with you -- a recognition that this work cannot be done alone. You may add one word, a sentence -- whatever you feel called to do -- to the chat, and as we bring our learning to a close, I will share the blessing we need, and the blessings we offer, aloud, so we can continue supporting each other, by saying the words that are difficult to speak, and listening to those difficult to hear.

I will begin those blessings I ask for, as we move forward hand in hand.



SHELTER FROM THE STORM: SRE 2020 CONVENING

As we do this work, we ask for endurance to keep us moving forward,
Confidence that we *can* create the future that we wished was now the present,
Understanding and resolve, as we confront all of the imperfect in ourselves and the world,
We show gratitude for those who leave us the legacy of their creations,
And we ask that as we move forward, we never forget the responsibility we have
to one another,
to the voices unheard, to those that have been silenced for too long,
and those that have fallen upon deaf ears.
We ask for Divine blessing to hear those voices when no one else can,
to be that voice when no one else will, and to continue learning,
ACTING, and to do so in support of one another,
from a place of love, a place of understanding, and a place of appreciation
For we know the courage that it takes
to congregate and share honestly, and openly,
the imperfections that we hope to see gone from a future we create together.

I open this space for the blessings that we ask for, and those that we offer each other.

And we ask for...
(ADDITIONS FROM CHAT)

It is for all of these things that we ask for Divine blessing, from you Adonai, and all of these things with which
we bless each other.

Amen.