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**Torah Portion: Vayigash, Genesis 44:18–47:27**  
**Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28**

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## At the Dawn of the New Year

*From: Mishkan HaNefesh for Rosh Hashanah, page 109*

I have awakened again  
and I give thanks.  
Before me: the blessing of this day—  
a feast of choices and possibilities.  
And the breath within me says:  
Great is Your faithfulness.  
You offer me another chance.  
You offer me life.  
This day I am created  
to create this day.

*Note: The Talmud (Rosh Hashanah 27a) declares that the world was created on Rosh Hashanah; a midrash (Leviticus Rabbah 29:1) teaches that Rosh Hashanah marks the creation of human beings. Tradition views this as the season of creative energy and new beginnings—a time for growth and self-transformation.*

Note to the Note: And so too the start of this secular year invites us to embrace that creative energy and the opportunity for new beginnings, to do the sacred work of growing and transforming our world, each and every day of the year.

## For A New Beginning

*John O'Donohue in To Bless the Space Between Us*

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,  
Where your thoughts never think to wander,  
This beginning has been quietly forming,  
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,  
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,  
Noticing how you willed yourself on,  
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety  
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,  
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,  
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,  
And out you stepped onto new ground,  
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,  
A path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear  
You can trust the promise of this opening;  
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning  
That is at one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;  
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;  
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,  
For your soul senses the world that awaits you

## Celebrating the New Month of Tevet

*Adapted from Or Hadash by Reuven Hammer, page 150*

May it be Your will, Adonai our God and God of our ancestors,  
to reawaken in us joy and blessing in the month ahead.  
Grant us a long life, a peaceful life with goodness and blessing,  
sustenance and physical vitality; a life of reverence and piety,  
a life free from shame and reproach,  
a life of abundance and honor,  
a reverent life guided by the love of Torah;  
a life in which our worthy aspirations  
will be fulfilled.

May You, who wrought miracles for our ancestors,  
redeeming them from slavery to freedom,  
redeem us soon and gather our dispersed from the four corners of the earth  
in the fellowship of the entire people Israel.

May the new month of Tevet hold blessing for us and for all the people Israel.  
Holy One bless this new month for us, for the House of Israel, for all people,  
with life and peace, joy and gladness, deliverance and consolation.  
And let us say: Amen.