

Psalm 32: Interpretive Translation by Rabbi Jamie Arnold
Fall 5770 / 2009

L'David Maskil -- Words of Good Sense for a Beloved

Ashrei Nesu'ei Peshah, kesui chata'ah

Happy, Happy, Happy

Mistakes forgiven

Transgressions overlooked by love

Happy human, Mind cleared

Of guilt and wrongdoing

Empty

Breathing easy

No whispers of deceit.

I tried sitting in silence

Exhausted to the bone

With woes and worries, before and after

Wielding heavy burdens

Shielding soul from Ever-Presence;

Replacing my trust-in-Plenty, assurance in abundance

With a scorching hunger in my *kishkuz*. Selah!

But then, I acknowledged my mistakes,

Stopped hiding them, not defending them

I made myself promise to tell You

"My mistake. It's on me. I am sorry."

And damn if it did not work. You forgave and lifted the weight,

Balance restored to heart-mind and soul. Selah!

Is this then the secret of prayer?

Meditations with lips and legs,

Mental culverts and levees

To redirect the flood waters
of our misdeeds.

The I-Thou link, that You-and-me is but one We,

This is the shelter from the narrowness of my fears,

The sieges of my *tzurrus*.

Is this not the release we seek today?

Free to receive and be surrounded by the joy.

Can you feel the joy?! Selah!

You were right. You told us with your wisdom

With you light, with the moral guidance system

that comes standard in all models, even mine.

So stop drivin' your beast into that same old ditch

Get out of the passenger seat, grab the wheel,

Turn the thing around and go.

The headlights are already on. Use them.

We don't need to suffer in fear

Trust, then love, and kindness, that's *hesed*.

Trusting heart, lasting joy, search it out.

Rejoice!