



14 Shevat 5777 /February 10, 2017

A Blessing for Tu B'Shevat:

We who have become cynical,  
Hard shelled,  
Whom life has raised its tough fist  
Of despair and  
Disappointment and heartache  
And grief,  
We who have learned to protect our souls  
And toughen our hearts  
To avoid more anguish  
To stop the flow of tears  
To compose ourselves in the face of relentless public expectation;  
We who move through the world  
With cautious numbness  
Determined to succeed and  
Keep moving  
Because others depend upon us-  
Our steely fortitude,  
Our wise intellect,  
Our skills to build or create or simply "get stuff done...."

It is precisely for each of us  
This holy day of Tu B'Shevat;  
This is our day of creative awe  
Where out of the frozen  
Snow hardened planet  
Emerges tender and succulent  
Green shoots of hope  
And budding, swollen bulbs of promise-  
That despite our best efforts to craft protective armor  
We are awed by new life  
And the ability to root on the most unlikely of plants and flowers and tendrils  
That they-  
And we-  
Might open ourselves to the coming spring  
And grow.

Shabbat Shalom,  
Michael