

לילה תמיד הרגישה שהיא פספסה בת מצווה ולכן בגיל 83 (70 שנות חיי האדם פלוס 13 למצוות) ערכנו לה טקס. לציון המועד כתבתי לה את הברכה הזו.

שמחה ארנולד

Dear Leilah,

I looked up your birth-day parshat hashavua and happily but not surprisingly it was Berashit, The Beginning. In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth and there was chaos and darkness on the first day, God created light. He said "Let there be light" And there was light. The sages questioned that light in view of the fact that the sun and the moon were only created on the fourth day. What was the nature of that primeval light? What was its purpose? Did it banish the dark and make order and creativity possible?

In deepest darkness there is occasionally a luminosity that radiates a special glow that warms and gives out energy and life. There are people who have this gift, a way of healing the soul and giving hope and comfort, an art that spurs on creativity in others allowing them the joy and comfort of making something beautiful and meaningful out of the darkness of their lives.

You have that gift Leilah and with true generosity of soul and in the spirit of the Kabbalah, which you love, you give it away all the time. You enable people and you generate hope and satisfaction in people's hearts where there was chaos and darkness before.

I'm very grateful to have had you as a friend for many years. You have encouraged me, wept and smiled with me and fed my cat while I was away. With noble forbearance, you didn't even make a lot of fuss when my cat ate your cat's food, though you did bore me to tears about your bloody feline's delicate stomach.

The best advice you ever gave me was to "live life to the full, storing up a little jewel box of memories, so that when we are old we can take them out, one at a time and smile." When you get old Leilah, you'll be lugging around a huge trunk and if we can open it together, it will hold a load of laughs.

Thank you my friend for being you and

מזל טוב

