

Dear Chavraya,

With so much swirling during these days, I share just a few words now and bring a teaching from the Slonimer Rebbe that reflects his signature theme, that each one of us has a unique task and purpose in this world. The proof is that we are here, and so we are needed. This week's Torah portion is *Ki Tavo*. And so the portion begins, *v'haya ki tavo el ha'aretz/it shall be when you come to the land*. As our ancestors approached the land toward which they had journeyed for forty years, so we now approach the edge of a new year. With all of the unknowns of arrival in a new place, so too in time. As we continue to make our way through this month of Elul, may we each make time for reflection and consider our own task and purpose in the world, that which we know in our depths to be the reason we are here. Simply to see the beauty of this world, simply to breathe and be grateful, these are holy purposes of our being in the world. And from there, so much is done by each one, often without even realizing it. Holding in our hearts and minds awareness of our own task and purpose, so may we then be inspired to go out into the world and fulfill our calling, the reason for which we came into the world, our part in bringing the great tikkun, the great repair. May we long be upon the land of this earth, bringing together the day that is all Shabbos.

Shabbat shalom,  
Rabbi Victor

*There is no person who is just like another person, from the creation of the first human onward. There is not a single person who is able to repair that which another is meant to repair. Thus, each person has a mission from above that is her or his own, to repair something specific. It is for this reason that a person has been brought down from the upper world to this world below and no other person since the creation of the world is able to repair that which devolves upon him or her to repair. The words "See! I am setting before you today blessing and curse" are not meant to emphasize fulfillment of the mitzvot or matters of reward and punishment, but rather the special mission and task of each person in her or his world. The greatest blessing is when a person fulfills his or her mission from above, and brings repair to that matter for which she or he was brought down to the world. It is the curse if one does not bring the intended repair through their appointed mission, though having worked and labored through all seventy of life's allotted years.*