

Dear Chavraya,

In the intensity of these days, I write now but briefly to wish you all a good and sweet Shabbos, a place of pause to renew, and then to make our way together into the new year. The first verse of this week's double Torah portion, *Parashat Nitzavim-Vayelech*, offers a place from which to begin the journey, reminding us that we need to travel together: *atem nitzavim ha'yom kulchem/you are standing today, all of you....* In Chassidic teaching, *ha'yom/today* is understood to refer to Rosh Hashannah. The letters of *atem/you* dance around to form *emet/truth*. The word *kulchem/all of you*, reminds that we are truly all needed, each bringing the insights of our own part of a greater truth, each one, "from your woodcutter to your water drawer," the Torah emphasizes. So may we journey together into Shabbos and then into the new year, richer and wiser for each other's presence.

Shabbat shalom and Shannah tovah,
Rabbi Victor