

Hannu חנוּ they rested Kah כַּה 'like so'	<h1>HANNUKAH</h1> 	
They rested when they felt that things were like the way that they wanted them to be.		

At the time of the autumnal equinox, we have an exact balancing of the hours of light per day against the hours of darkness. The exquisite balance of the earth's orbit is symbolised by the balanced scales of the astrological period of Libra which occurs around our High Holyday season and is reflected in the themes of self-rebalancing (*Kheshban Hanefesh*) and fine self-measurement (*Yom Hadin*) that take the center stage in our High Holydays.

From there on the darkness begins to increase, until the nadir of the winter solstice when the dark overbalances the light, which occurs around Hannukah time. The word Hannukah means a re-dedication which is needed at this time of increasing external darkness.

Every word in the Torah has its *seventy faces*, its multi-levels of interpretation which permit us to look again and again at the themes which have empowered our peoples down to the present day. One of the meanings of Hannukah is Hannu Kah- "they rested" when things were "like so". What was the "like so" which signalled those people to rest?

We are not short on images of rest this year. Greatest of all perhaps is the acknowledgement that this is a *Shmitah* year, a seventh, a year of rest for the earth, a sabbatical. Our new year, Rosh Hashanah, occurs on a Shabbat, the day of rest, as well as the first and last day of Sukkot, the first and last day of Hannukah, Rosh Chodesh Shevat, Tu b'Shevat, and after Passover, Rosh Chodesh Tammuz. On Shabbat we sing to the completion of creation, " ... *an end to the great eruption of creativity on the seventh cycle of creation. A period of rest ensued, consolidating the work that had come into being. Thus, the seventh day has come to be considered an end and a blessing, considered holy, reflecting the whole. It is on the seventh day and the seventh cycle that God brought completion to all the work that generated the universe.*"

There's clues in those ancient words. As co-creators of the world, we cannot stop until we have reached our creative goals; when the world will look like our idealized image of what the world should be like, then we can truly rest. That world is the ultimate Shabbat world, the Mashiakh space, the end of creation: it is the world that Moses spoke about when- "Moses prophesized using the words "Exactly So", (Zeh). *Exactly so does God want.* The later prophets prophesized using the words "like so", (Kah). *Like so does God want.*"

"Exactly So" symbolises the world that we intuit and are drawn towards; the world that we will recognize as being "exactly so". When we feel the world to be "exactly so", then we can really rest.

On Hannukah we are told about a another level of rest. We can rest because the world is "like so" -*something like* - the way it could be. The conflicts (in the self), which became aroused by the incredible re-alignment that began with the self-searching of Rosh Hashanah, have been handled; the battles have been fought and won, at least temporarily. It is time for a breather in the process work. We are encouraged to rest and celebrate even in the middle of the work, even with the darkness all around and seemingly increasing.

What is the sign that allows us to recognize that the world may already be something like the way it should be? The Hannukah story provides a clue. After the historical battles with the Greco-Syrians were fought and temporarily won by the Maccabees, our historical ancestors found a cruse of oil, pure oil, enough to burn for one day; it ended up burning for seven more days, as if by miracle- like a divine nod saying, OK, you've done enough for now. Rest and celebrate. Light some lights. Relax.

We learn from here that what gives us the psychic space to rest in the middle of the struggle is the feeling of responsiveness from the divine. We need to hear, to see the divine nod which acknowledges and communicates its awareness of us, its "yes"; *yes, you prayed and I heard you and am aware of you and will hear you and can respond to you. I am co-creating with you a world that is exactly so, but "like so" is enough for now.* When we get that divine nod, that great *yes* of synchronicity that sometimes occurs in our lives- when we are aligned right, even in the middle of the darkness- when the oil miraculously burns for eight days, or we see a deer up close, then we really feel that we can rest, that the divine part of us is awake, and that that is *like* the way that things should be.

Perhaps when we come to the fruition of the birth of Passover, the full birth through the red waters and come to the new territory that emerges from the work of re-aligning with our own true self that began our new year cycle, then we may be able to rest at the next level- with the feeling, *Zeh Eli V'Anwayhu, "Exactly so" is my vision of the divine in the world and it is magnificent.* In the meantime, rest is possible with the world being "something like" it could be, which is just as it is.

d.b.