



Infertility and Simchat Torah

Kol HaNearim – From Isolation to Inspiration

The holiday of Simchat Torah includes the whole family in celebration – dancing, singing and honors at the Torah for all. The tradition to call everyone up the Torah during Simchat Torah brings about the occasion to invite all the children especially (Kol Hanearim for boys in the traditional realm) so they know that they are included in the inheritance of Torah as well. The High Holidays in general and rituals like this one in particular can be difficult for people struggling to have children.

Being called for the last Aliyah on Simchat Torah is a special honor and is often when all the children (Kol HaNearim) are called to Torah. To reside under a tallit canopy with all of the children is to share in the honor of introducing them to Torah, which is considered the highest form of parenting. Sometimes the honor is given to someone as an honor to show them as a role model or as a wish that they may have many grandchildren.

This Aliyah is an opportunity to recognize that children, however, are not granted on merit. We know people among us are quite worthy and still hoping to be parents... and grandparents.

Below is a prayer on behalf of those in the community who find this ritual difficult because they are experiencing challenges building their family or someone they love is struggling. This prayer can turn the ritual of Kol HaNearim from being an experience of isolation to one of inclusion and ultimately inspiration.

May the one who blessed our mothers Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah,
bless the growing families in our community
and those who are struggling to build their families.

God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,
hear their prayers and grant them courage and strength.

At this season as we celebrate Your power of life, creation, and love,
remember them, bless them with children, and comfort them.

Author of the Book of Life whose lovingkindness never ends
have compassion and mercy on them and inscribe them for life.