



Days of Awe – Fertility and the High Holidays

The days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are called the Days of Awe. They are traditionally filled with reflection as we prepare to stand before God On Yom Kippur in judgement of our actions. The “awe” in Hebrew is meant to capture both the amazement and the fear of standing before God.

These days are reminiscent of the waiting period endured between fertility treatments and the following pregnancy test. The time is filled with a mix of awe about what might be happening, a heavy dose of fear that the intervention did not work, and sometimes a gnawing sense of impending judgement about ourselves and our situation.



So at this time of year particularly, with the Days of Awe passing slowly and the themes of fertility filling the liturgy, the Jewish community can especially send thoughts and prayers to those among us who are struggling with infertility and fertility challenges.

The High Holiday prayers are recited in the plural (we) to make sure everyone knows they are not alone in their mistakes and in their ability to change. So too we are together to support everyone in the community as they build their families. You are not alone. Let our collective prayers ascend higher in hopes of wholeness and peace wherever the fertility journey takes you.

May your comings and goings during this season and all of the Days of Awe be in peace and may you be inscribed for a good and sweet New Year.