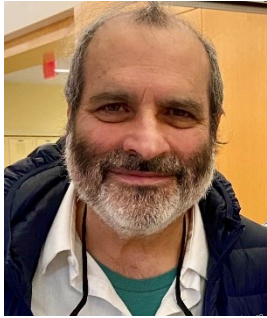


Elul Steve Kowarsky



I can say it quite simply in one sentence: I want to leave my descendants a world in which more people are practicing peace.

Explaining what that sentence means to me and what I am doing about it will take a few more sentences. To me, the words *peace*, *joy*, *fulfillment*, *love*, and many similar words are pointing to one thing. In Hebrew, we also have many words that point in the same direction, but perhaps the greatest of these is *shalom*. Many people use these words, but they may not be

referring to the same thing that I have in mind. I am talking about an indescribably great experience, so great that it feels magical and transformative. It's the kind of experience that makes words like *heaven* and *promised land* seem relevant to our here-and-now existence. It's an experience that is indescribable. No words are even remotely adequate. Our sages have written:

*If all the heavens were parchment,  
if all the trees were pens,  
if all the seas were ink,  
and if every creature were a scribe,  
they would not suffice to expound the greatness of God.*

Sages of other wisdom traditions have offered remarkably similar expressions. I am talking about that kind of experience. I am not saying that I live in that experience. I have tasted it. And perhaps the most important thing I have learned in my life is that it's possible to **practice** that experience. I am sure that if more people were practicing that experience, the world would be a much better place. I have no idea how long it will take for the promised messianic age to come about, but I know that it will happen drop by drop, one person at a time, recognizing the possibility, learning to practice it, and actually practicing it. Personally practicing peace, and doing whatever little bit I can do to contribute to that drop by drop transformation - these are my passions in life, and from these springs the hope I have expressed, that my descendants, and not only mine, but all future generations, will know what it is to live in a world where more people are practicing peace.

I will leave the subject of *how* for more personal conversations with anyone who's interested. You know how to find me. I will share this example of the [Peace Education Program](#) sponsored by a foundation I support both financially and as a volunteer. About the drop by drop principle, I'll share [this beautiful 25-second video](#).

Steve and Jiya have become familiar faces around TBT in their 11 years of membership. They are deeply grateful for the communal worship, the Jewish learning, and the personal relationships TBT has made possible. Steve was TBT's Emunah speaker in 2015. <mailto:skowarsky@gmail.com>