

Turning Toward Elul by Rabbi Yael Levy

We stand on the threshold of the month of Elul,
which begins this weekend, and as we enter the Torah calls: See
See: Everyday you face choices:
How will you live?
Who will you be?
What paths will you follow?

Everyday you make choices:
How will you respond to the beauty and pain of life?

The mind can be harsh and unyielding,
Berating us for not knowing,
Scolding us for missteps,
Rebuking us for lapses in judgment and care.

Elul arrives with love,
With understanding
That we are tender and vulnerable beings

Doing the best we can in each moment
And sometimes falling short.

Return, Elul calls,
Return to the luminous being that you are.
Return to the awareness that you are here
In relationship with all life.
You are loved.
You are necessary.
You are worthy.

The soul protests,
The heart cries,
The mind sputters and objects.

And the Infinite Presence
Reaches
And calls:

Take just a small step,
Make just a slight turn,
See, I am here waiting for you
And with love, I will show you the way.

May the month of Elul come upon us and all beings for life,
goodness, joy, blessing and peace.