

Shabbat Shira

Friday 1/18/08

Beth Chayim Chadashim

Drash by Miri HaRauch

I have a dream

I realize, I am not the first person to have a dream.

It's the journey, the journey of fulfilling the dream that invibes the dream and gives all of us life. It's the strength of my dream that stops me from saying "What's it all for?" People dying, global warming, war and more war. What's it all for?

I have a dream.

I have a dream, right? I do have a dream, don't I? Well, I have I goals and timelines for reaching those goals. But is there an overall dream that is driving me? In 10 years, 20 years or 40 years, will I have arrived at my dream?

I have a dream.

We all have dreams. Take a moment NOW. Stop. Breathe. And think about your dream. Are you saying to yourself

I am on the path of my dream.

or

I had a dream, where did it go? or

Dream? I knew I forgot something! or

Hey, I am living the dream!

STOP, BREATHE, THINK for just a second about your dream.

It is easy for us to look back historically and understand the path of other dreamers. We can see their road blocks, their stumbles, their doubt, their grief for the loss of the life before the dream. Sometimes life was simpler before the pursuit of a dream. Through the magic of history we can see the triumph of the attainment of their dream. We can see the fruits of their dream, especially if we are those fruits. Dreams can be personal. I have a dream. My dream, and possibly yours, is personal, but influenced by someone else's public dream. I hold Dr. King's dream close to me because I know that if Dr King had given up on his dream, I would not be standing here tonight. Chances are I would not have left my small southern town, where I knew which side of the street to walk on and what neighborhoods were safe. I would have not driven

across this great country alone in my car, nor would I have ever stepped into a synagogue and so perhaps I would never have remembered myself as a soul who had once stood at Mt. Sinai with Moses, Aaron and Miriam.

Martin had a dream, but that came later. He first had a calling, to marry and have children, to become a minister and tend to a congregation. By following his calling or life path the dream to lead a movement for civil rights came. as if by walking his walk and reaching those goals a dream – a vision - was given to him. And as with Moses, he had goals and timelines, but come to find out his calling as a Prince of Egypt was only a temporary calling not a true calling. He was to lead a civil rights movement of his own, for a people that he had rarely given a second thought about. But these people were his own people nonetheless. He gave his leadership to their cries for freedom.

How does one fulfill a dream – how does one make a dream come true? I present to you this evening my 4 step plan for making my dream come true. (I suggest this 4 step plan).

1) The dream must first be born. In order for the dream to live one must Speak the dream, tell the dream to friends, discuss it with neighbors and colleagues, breathe life into it by sharing it with the Divine, of course it probably came from the Divine, but it never hurts to get clarification. So before you pack your bags and drive across the country or fly around the world, make sure the dream you are following is your dream and not a parent's or sibling's or a friend's. Go to the Source. I am sure you recall Moses and his discussion with the Source.

2) Walk your dream. What are the steps, which way is the road, and in my case can I wear my heels or will it be rough terrain and I will have to temporarily turn in the heels for flats, just for those rough passages. Sometimes it is necessary to adjust. By taking those steps we don't just adjust we grow. It is suggested in this week's Torah portion that the Israelites would have ended their dream for freedom at the Sea, if someone did not have the courage or if someone was not foolish enough to take the first step. Movement towards the dream. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, who marched with Dr. King, said afterward: "I felt my feet were praying."

3) I sing the dream, because on those rough passages I will need to elevate my thoughts to remember the dream, or even to remember that I even have a dream, because sometimes it just too hard without a song. Chapter 15, v 1 of this week's Torah portion says: 1. Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and they spoke, saying, I will sing to the Lord (ashirah Adonai), for very exalted is He; a horse and its rider He cast into the sea.

One could think of the horse and rider as doubt and fear who have come to disturb your faith in your dream. This is only another opportunity to remember the strength and wisdom of the Divine Source.

4) Dance the dream when there is a glimmer of success, celebrate each success as fuel to inspire you on into the next part of your dream. Chapter 15, v 20 - Miriam, the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel/drum in her hand, and all the women came out after her with timbrels/drums and with dances.

Never stop dreaming, for what if the dreamers like Ghandhi, King, and Kennedy and the trio of Aaron, Moses and Miriam gave up. Would this synagogue be empty?

Stop, Think, Breathe...did you remember your dream?

I have a dream, I am going speak, walk, sing and dance my dream, with the knowledge that somewhere, along the path of my dream I may inspire others to dream.

I have a dream. You have a dream.

Speak it. Walk it. Sing it and Dance it.