

## Kol Ha-Rav

There is a story told about a seven-year-old boy in Sunday School. The teacher asks the class, "How many of you would like to go to heaven?" All but one boy raises their hands. The teacher turned to that boy and said, "Does that mean that you want to go to hell?" And the child immediately replied, "No, it means that I like it right here!"

Thanksgiving approaches and with our world so chaotic we need an opportunity to express our thankfulness for our everyday blessings. We can echo the words of our daily prayer with a full heart, "Modim anachanu lach - we give thanksgiving to you, O Lord" ... "v'al nisecha sh'bchol yom imanu - for all the wonders that our daily with us." These blessings are expressed in this anonymous poem:

I am thankful for the spouse who complains that dinner is not ready on time,  
because that means that he/she is home with me, and not with someone else.

I am thankful for the teenager who complains about having to do the dishes,  
because that means she is at home and not on the streets.

I am thankful for the income tax I pay,  
because it means that I have income.

I am thankful for the mess I have to clean up after a party,  
because it means that I have been with friends.

I am thankful for the clothes that are a bit too snug,  
because that means that I have had more than enough to eat.

I am thankful for the shadow that follows me when I work,  
because it means that I am out in the sunshine.

I am thankful for the lawn that needs mowing, for the windows that need cleaning, and for  
the gutters that need fixing,  
because they mean that I have a home.

I am thankful for all the complaining I hear about the government,  
because it means that we have freedom of speech.

I am thankful for the parking spot that I find at the far end of the parking lot,  
because it means that I am capable of walking.

I am thankful for my huge heating bill,  
because it means that I am warm.

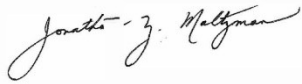
I am thankful for the lady behind me at services who sings off key,  
because it means that I can hear and can tell the difference.

I am thankful for the pile of laundry and ironing I have to do,  
because it means that we have lots of clothes to wear.

I am thankful for the weariness and the aching muscles that I feel at the end of the day,  
because they mean that I have been able to work hard.

I am thankful for the alarm clock that goes off so early in the morning,  
because it means that I am still alive and able to start a brand new day.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan J. Matyman". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.