

TO YOUNG PARENTS

“Protect my children from my secret wish
to make them over in my image and illusions.
Let them move to the music that they love
Dissonant perhaps to me.” (*Nissim Ezekiel*)

We will raise him, sculpt him, school him,
Expose him to our ways and our world.
Who can blame our parental conceit,
Imposing our dreams on his head...?

But give us the courage and wisdom
To sever the incestuous ties
Free him from the bondage of mimicry.
Not in our image is he created,
Extensions of our ambitions
Duplications of our aspirations

Let him imitate God, not us.
Let him be freed of servitude to anyone.
Give us the wisdom to in time let go of him
The wisest way to hold him close to us

- Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis