

## *The Broken Glass – Shards of Potential Holiness*

How remarkable that at the height of the wedding  
After song and prayer  
And the reading of the wedding covenant  
After the recitation of seven blessings  
It concludes with the audible sound of broken glass

The groom, with the consent of your bride,  
Will raise your foot and shatter the wine glass  
Whose slivers will scatter and disappear  
Into the husks of the world

Centuries ago, there rose a profound Jewish myth  
Which portrayed a world after creation  
A world that could not hold together  
It fell apart,  
And the fragmented sparks of divinity  
The shards of potential holiness,  
Lay strewn over the face of the universe.

The myth declares a terrible wisdom.  
The world is wounded  
The universe is broken  
Freighted with causeless hatred and mindless jealousy  
That wounded world, that split universe, is ours  
But especially yours.  
Yours to heal, to comfort, to make whole  
Through your love

Love is stronger than death  
Love can raise the fallen  
Love can heal the wounded  
Love can soften the sharp edges of life

Love is a blessed contagion  
It begins with two, but it does not end with two  
It begins at home, but it does not end at home  
Love that touches no other  
Will be touched by no other

You know that knowledge is not for the sake of knowing alone  
Knowledge is for the sake of doing  
Yours then to bend down and raise up the shattered shards  
And piece them together  
Yours to make whole the xenophobic division  
That tears humanity apart

Soothe with compassion the burns men afflict upon each other  
Bind the hemorrhaging of the raped and robbed  
Offer the prosthesis to the amputated  
Drain the toxicity from the polluted air,  
The poisons that turn sweet water into bitter brine  
So, at your aufruf, we pray for your strength  
And the increase of your love and faith.  
The glass broken can be glued  
The fragments can be made whole  
There is healing in you and in your love

The last lines of the Seventh Blessing that you will hear

Expresses our dreams:

Soon may we hear in the cities of Judah

And in the streets of Jerusalem

And throughout the world that God has created

The voices of joy and gladness,

The voices of friendship and peace

The voices of bride and groom

May the fallen sparks you gather together

Illumine the Sabbath and family candles

At your table and ours