

Introduction to Tova's Bat Mitzvah Talk

As I greet all of you this wonderful day, I think of the words of King David in his תהילים:

שיר המעלות לדוד, שמחתי באומרים לי בית ה' נלך

I was so happy when I was told by my parents that my Bat Mitzvah would be celebrated here in ירושלים, the city of the בית ה'.

עומדות היו רגלינו בשעריך ירושלים

It is hard to believe that we are actually standing here in this holy city of ירושלים, for the first time in my life.

ירושלים הבנויה כעיר שחברה לה יחדו

We are in the rebuilt ירושלים, the city which makes all Jews friends to each other -- even my sisters and I...

למען אחי ורעי אדברה נא שלום בך

On behalf of my sisters I thank my Mommy and my Daddy, for giving us the privelege of coming here to Jerusalem to celebrate both my מצוה and פורים, and I thank my grandparents and aunts and uncles and all my cousins, for making the trip here with us -- and I am happy that so many of our relatives and friends who live here in Israel came to join us.

למען בית ה' אלקינו אבקשה טוב לך

For the sake of ירושלים and of the המקדש בית I will always be grateful to all of you and pray that only good things befall you now and forever.