



Second Nurture

Every Child Deserves a Family and a Community

BREAKING AND GROWING

How the Light Gets In

Second Nurture Adult Education for Shavuot



Bava Batra 14a

שברי לוחות שמונחים בארון...

...the broken pieces of the first set of tablets were placed side by side with the full set in the Ark

Ruth 1:14

ותשנה קולן ותבכינה עוד ותשק ערפה
לחמותה ורות דבקה בה

....They broke into weeping again, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law farewell. But Ruth clung to her.



Questions for Discussion

- Why did we keep the broken tablets in the Holy Ark alongside the whole tablets?
 - Is each set holy individually? What do they each mean?
 - How does each shed light on the other?
 - Is there something holy about the relationship between the broken and the whole?
- Ruth and Orpah wept—not once, but twice.
 - Beyond narrative drama, what's the significance of this emphasis?
 - Have you made a life change toward greater wholeness that demanded loss?
 - Was there a "big picture" that drove you forward?
 - How has that loss informed your journey forward?
- In both stories, we see that growth involves brokenness
 - How might these stories inspire us to foster/adopt or support others in our community to do so?
 - How might each shed light on being a child in the foster system?
 - How might each shed light on being a foster parent helping a child grow?



Leonard Cohen, Anthem

You can add up the parts / But you won't have the sum
You can strike up the march / There is no drum
Every heart, every heart / To love will come
But like a refugee