

Dear G-d,

As I read today's Torah portion, I was interested in learning about the rules G-d created for Aaron and how they were presented.

Standing here, on my Bat Mitzvah day, in this beautiful sanctuary before G-d, gives me a special feeling - a feeling of pride and joy. I now realize <sup>even more</sup> that I have been greatly blessed, and I am proud of my rich and meaningful heritage.

Foremost in my mind are my Mother and Father. I know that they have done everything they can to help me in the past, and will do everything they possibly can to help me in the years to come. Mom and Dad, I hope you will always be as proud of me as I am today to stand before G-d's holy ark reaffirming my strong <sup>both</sup> Judaic beliefs. I love you very much and I am certainly blessed with wonderful parents.

Despite all of our disagreements, I ~~am~~ fortunate to have a brother who cares. Larry, we have shared so many happy times, and I hope that we can share many more in the future.

I am very grateful that my Grandpa is here to share this wonderful day with me. I always enjoy being with him, and I want him to know that his <sup>being here</sup> presence makes this day even more special.

Today I am sharing my Bat Mitzvah with Sophia Vigdorov, a Russian girl my age. Since she cannot have a Bat Mitzvah of her own, she is in my prayers today. I hope that someday we can meet and discuss our "big day".

I thank you, my other relatives and friends, for coming to share in this memorable day. As I conclude, I want you to

know that the traditions and values of my family, the knowledge I have acquired here at Temple, and the wisdom of my Rabbis and teachers will always make Judaism a significant aspect of my life.

Amen