

Rabbi Moshe Heyn:

I don't remember stories and anecdotes, in general, but here is one I felt worth saving and retrieving for this celebration. It's been in circulation but I can't find its origin. It is "senseless" by virtue of the fact that it doesn't focus on things that can be perceived by the senses. Instead, it focuses on the fact that we can sense anything and experience love -- which is a miracle!

Junior high school students in Chicago were studying the Seven Wonders of the World. At the end of the lesson, the students were asked to list what they considered to be the Seven Wonders of the World. Though there was some disagreement, the following received the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. The Taj Mahal in India
3. The Grand Canyon in Arizona
4. The Panama Canal
5. The Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student, a quiet girl, hadn't turned in her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The quiet girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help."

The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. to touch...
2. to taste...
3. to see...
4. to hear... (She hesitated a little, and then added...)

5. to feel...
 6. to laugh...
 7. and to love.
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Lastly, here is a prayer I came across recently that I felt worth sharing. It's called "the mother's prayer" by writer, historian and activist, [Rebecca Solnit](#):

our mother who art underfoot,
hallowed be thy names,
thy seasons come,
thy will be done,
within us as around us,
thank you for our daily bread, our water, our air,
and our lives and so much beauty;
lead us not into selfish craving and the destructions
that are the hungers of the gluttons,
but deliver us from wanton consumption
of thy vast but finite bounty,
for thine is the only sphere of life we know,
and the power and the glory, forever and ever,
amen.

R' Moshe