



REFLECTIONS ON HAVDALLAH

As you may know, I like to comment about Kiddush during our Friday night Shabbat service. The history of this ritual employed to sanctify the arrival of Shabbat is fascinating, insightful, and full of symbolism. Wine is ripe for many metaphors. Of course the color of the "fruit of the vine" has implications too.

There's the cup itself, and the mysteries it holds are manifold. And, over time, we will review and try to unlock our understanding of the various explanations. But for now, in honor of Saturday night, let's connect making the blessing over wine welcoming the Sabbath to its counterpart, namely blessing the wine as the opening of the Havdallah service.

It's not a random coincidence that an act utilized to say hello to Shabbat is identical to one performed to say goodbye. The message is subtle and strong. You really never say a final farewell to the spirituality, the special goodness, and holiness inherent in Shabbat. Just because it's no longer the seventh day, you do not shed the feeling of connectedness or stop trying to elevate yourself. This simple cup of wine that initiates a new work week is a beautiful reminder to keep the spark of Shabbat with us until we hold the Kiddush cup next Friday night at sunset.

L'shalom,
Rabbi Jack