



**Ha'azinu: So Near And Yet So Far
Rabbi David Levin-Kruss**

**Martin Luther King, Jr: "I've Been to the Mountaintop" - 3 April 1968,
Memphis, Tennessee**

Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do G-d's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land!

Devarim 32:52

You will therefore see the land from afar, but you will not come there to the land I am giving the Israelites.	כִּי מִנְגִיד, תִּרְאֶה אֶת-הָאָרֶץ; וְשָׁמָּה, לֹא תָבֹא--אֶל-הָאָרֶץ, אֲשֶׁר-אֲנִי נֹתֵן לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.
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Background

The mountain that Moshe climbed to see Eretz Yisrael was called Mount Nebo.

Rachel, From Afar – Mineged

<p>The heart listens. The ear is attentive: There-no one comes. Has he come? Will he come? In every expectation Is the sadness of Nebo.</p> <p>Facing each other-the two shores Of a single river. Rock of proscription: Distant forever.</p> <p>Spread palms. See from afar. Man and his Nebo Far and wide.</p>	<p>קשוב הלב. האזן קשבת: שמה - אין בא. הבא? היבוא? בכל צפיה יש עצב נבו</p> <p>זה מול זה - החופים השנים של נחל אחד. צור הגזרה: רחוקים לעד.</p> <p>פֶּרֶשׁ כַּפַּיִם. רֵאֵה מִנְגִיד. איש ונבו לו על ארץ רבה</p>
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Yalkut Shim'oni, Haazinu 247:949

Said Moses to The Holy One, Blessed Be He: If I cannot enter as a king, let me enter as a commoner; if I cannot enter alive, let me enter dead. Replied The Holy One, Blessed Be He:... "Neither as king nor as commoner; neither alive nor dead."	אמר משה לפני הקב"ה: אם איני נכנס בה מלך אכנס בה הדיוט, אם אין אני נכנס בה חי אכנס בה מת, אמר לו הקב"ה...לא מלך ולא הדיוט, לא חי ולא מת.
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Da'at Zekenim Miba'alei Hatosefot Devarim 52:32

<p>You asked for two things “I would like to pass over” and “I would like to see.” Passing over will not be granted to you; seeing will be granted to you because I do not want to leave you totally empty handed.</p>	<p>שני דברים שאלת אעברה נא ואראה אעברה לא ינתן לך אראה ינתן לך שלא אשיב פניך ריקם מן הכל:</p>
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Rashi Devarim 32:52

<p>For if you do not see the Land now, you will no longer see it in your lifetime...But I know that the Land is dear to you. That is why I say to you “Go up the mountain and see it!”</p>	<p>כי אם לא תראנה עכשיו לא תראנה עוד בחיך...וידעתי כי חביבה היא לך על כן אני אומר לך עלה וראה:</p>
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Judith Viorst, Necessary Losses, chapter 11, 1986

Growing up means letting go of the dearest megalomaniacal dreams of our childhood. Growing up means knowing they can't be fulfilled. Growing up means gaining the wisdom and skills to get what we want within the limitations imposed by reality—a reality which consists of diminished powers, restricted freedoms and, with the people we love, imperfect connections.

Layle Silbert, Belonging

my father belonged
first to his native place
in America he belonged
where he lived
his true being belonged
in Israel even before
it was born
he made speeches
filled with passion & belief

on the streets of Jerusalem
is that my father
sniffing the holy air
in a Tel Aviv café
confronting the Knesset
on a stroll in the old city?

until he died
he was afraid to go
where he belonged
the most