

It is I who must begin

Vaclav Havel

It is I who must begin.
Once I begin, once I try—
here and now,
right where I am,
not excusing myself
by saying that things
would be easier elsewhere,
without grand speeches and
ostentatious gestures,
but all the more persistently
—to live in harmony
with the “voice of Being,” as I
understand it within myself
—as soon as I begin that,

I suddenly discover,
to my surprise, that
I am neither the only one,
nor the first,
nor the most important one
to have set out
upon that road.

Whether all is really lost
or not depends entirely on
whether or not I am lost.

Lishmoa (Selichot, I Kings 8:28. Music: Joey Weisenberg)

Lishmoa el harina, el harina, v'el ha't'fila.

[hear our cry and our prayer]

D'rosh na dorshecha b'darsham panecha
hidaresh lamo, mish'mei me'onecha
ul'shav'at chinunam, al taalem oznekha
lishmoa el harina v'el hat'filah.

*Turn to those who seek You when they seek Your Presence,
be accessible to them from Your Heavenly Abode,
and to the cry of their supplication close not Your ear.*