

"There will be Hope"

By: Lisa W. Davison

Inspired by Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Holy came upon me, and brought me out by the Divine *ru'ach* and set me down in the middle of a valley of pandemic; it was full of bones. The Divine led me all around them; there were too many to count, and they were without any signs of life. The Holy said to me, "Mortal, can these bones find life again?" I answered, "O Holy One, you know what is possible, what lies beneath the dryness of despair."

Then the Divine said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Holy. 5 Thus says the Holy One to these bones: I will cause my *ru'ach* to stir within you, and you shall know life, not as it was in the past but in new and surprising ways. I will reconnect you with sinews of community, and will cause the flesh of compassion to manifest within you, and wrap you with the skin of love, and put the breath of hope in you, and you shall find life; and you shall be assured that I am the Holy."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a sound, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews of community connecting the bones, and the flesh of compassion had been made manifest within them, and the skin of love had wrapped around them; but still they lacked the breath of hope.

Then the Divine said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Holy One: Come from the places of isolation and shelter, O Breath, and breathe upon these who are without hope, that they may inhale deeply again and find shalom."

I prophesied as commanded, and the breath of hope rushed into them, and they were able to inhale deeply again – enlivened by the *ru'ach* of the Creator -- and were able to walk and, yes, even dance again, the whole community together.

Then the Holy said to me, "Mortal, the bones are the whole of my children. They say, 'Our bones lack the nourishment of Divine waters, and our hope has evaporated; we are cut off completely in the isolation of social distancing.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: In due season, I will open the doors of your seclusion, and bring you out from your places of isolation, O my people; and I will restore you to the wholeness of community. 13 And you shall be assured that I am the Holy, when I throw open your doors, and bring you out from loneliness, O my people. 14 I will put my breath of hope within you, and you shall be renewed, and I will restore you to the wholeness of community; then you shall be assured that I, the Holy One, have spoken and will act within and through you, says the Lord."