

It is an ancient custom that a groom be called up to the Torah on the Shabbat before the wedding, or in most Sephardi communities the Shabbat after. In Yiddish this is called “Aufruf” which literally means “calling up” to the Torah. The origin of this custom is given in the Midrash Pirkei d’Rebbe Eliezer (ch.17):

*“[King] Shlomo how great is the quality of loving kindness before the Holy One blessed be He, and when he built the Temple he built two gates, one for bridegrooms and one for mourners and the excommunicated. And on Shabbat the people of Israel would go and sit between these two gates. If someone went in the gate of the bridegrooms they would know that he is a bride- groom, and they would say, “May the One Who dwells in this house gladden you with sons and daughters... From the day the Temple was destroyed, the Sages instituted that bridegrooms and mourners go to Beit Knesset and to the Beit Midrash, and the people of that place see the bridegroom and rejoice with him, and they see the mourner and sit with him on the ground, in order that all Israel should fulfill their obligation to do acts of kindness”*

(This passage is cited by the **Tur in Yoreh Deah: 393**)

The custom of calling the chatan up to the Torah sends a powerful message of belonging and context. First of all, there is the belonging to the community and to the Jewish people as a whole. The synagogue is the House of Gathering for the entire congregation, while the above midrash reminds us that it is a reminder of the Temple which was the focus for entire nation. This theme of communal belonging is reinforced by the mitzvah of “sheva Berakhot” with its requirement for a quorum of ten and for a new face each time.

There is also emphasis on the connection to the chain of generations. We may note the special blessing to the chatan that he may merit sons and daughters.

Finally, there is the connection to the Torah. The chatan is not only present in synagogue, he is also called up to the Torah. Indeed, a midrash suggests a connection between the idea that “**a bridegroom is like a king**” and the commandment that a king needs to have a Torah scroll accompany him at all times. (**Midrash Talpiot.**)

Many have noted the stark contrast between the message of belonging sent by the custom of sheva Berakhot with the message of independence sent by the common secular custom of a honeymoon; we may add to this the contrast between the sanctified public rejoicing of the Shabbat Chatan with the private, sometimes even furtive, nature of a secular bachelor gathering on the eve of the wedding. Yet the metaphor of bridegroom as “king” with all the minhagim associated with it does not do justice to our chatan tonight.

What came to mind was what first endeared me to Lonny, after his military service to his country, with the wounds of battle fresh, and his exemplary heroic service. He returned with wounds both in the body and the soul. He had become a warrior a gibor.

---

## **LONNY IS A WARRIOR- A GIBOR**

*“Life has no meaning. Each of us has meaning and we bring it to life. It is a waste to be asking the question when you are the answer.”*

— Joseph Campbell

**Now as you embark on the next phase of your life.... you have demonstrated a mastery of the warrior archetype on battle and in the courtroom, a bigger more mythic inner battle will need all your skills. The warrior archetype you so well incarnate must be now put to use in**

**the inner realm of the demons and the dark shadowy forces within.**

The warrior says.... Stop fighting and start healing.... the warrior says... let's go climb some mountains and let's go cut some trees and let's go raft some rivers and swim some oceans.... the inner warrior says...we must confront the inner enemy, the old wounds of childhood before we can find the Holy Grail.

In other ancient cultures young men were sent off to the wild to prove themselves as warriors, in our society we send to the baseball field or to battle, but the rites of passage herald the transition for youth to adulthood then to family from ageing to sage-ing as we have all represented here from newborns to Sabba Willy and Savta Esther.

So too in your life we are now accompanying you on this auspicious weekend from singlehood to married life. We cannot walk the walk for you, we can show you the roadmap but only you can travel it. And you Lonny, as Yisroel rightly said, take the road less travelled.

Tonight we are all one family, we can allow ourselves the intimacy of the moment and share things that cannot be said tomorrow, when the "opposition" arrives! Tomorrow we will "wow" them with our Torah erudition. But tonight in the intimacy of our family we can share with you our collective wisdom and our battle weary stories, as pointers in your own road to self discovery.

Archetypes are defined as models of people, behaviors or personalities. The idea of archetypes was popularized by Plato, Jung, Carolyn Myss and Joseph Campbell. Inspired by the work of pioneering psychologist Carl Jung,

**"The cave you fear to enter holds the treasure you seek." said Joseph Campbell of the hero's journey.**

It is your "heroic" journey into your thoughts and beliefs that will bring you to the elixir.... or blessing that you will acquire while doing this vital inner work to give you peace of mind. If you for instance take a look at the "victim" within, with compassion...

Yisroel spoke of "confidence"! We were never given such tools in the Ungar

household, my mother ploughed ahead with no sense of “confidence” but her faith that Hashem would get her through even this new challenge kept her going. My father felt he had a protective angel that guarded him through the darkest chapter of our communal history, after which he always felt special.

The tools you have are paradoxically the ones you acquired from the very exposure as a powerless child to the seismic forces of mother and father. These very wounds are the weapons you will use to find inner peace, but only after the next, more poignant battle.

The **mother archetype** has the light attributes of nurturing, compassion...giving birth to ideas. Using the questions such as "what part of me is in need of compassion at this moment?" The mother's shadow aspects are connected to smothering children...instilling guilt if a child becomes too independent as well as capable of abandonment.

The questions such as "**what part of me is unwilling to give unconditional love to myself? or what part of me is choosing to abandon my difficult feelings?**"

Embracing the mother attributes both light and shadow allow us to approach this energy in our bodies without judgment but with curiosity. The mother energy is connected to steps one through four of Inner Bonding. It is the mother/nurturing energy that helps us feel safe and open to learning. It is also the shadow aspect of the mother energy we use in our "stuck" places. Making peace with these aspects rather than judging them opens us up to learning.

The **father archetype** has the light attributes of creating and supporting life, a guiding force and the aspect of loving action. This is the part that takes the loving action in step five of Inner Bonding. The father's shadow aspect is abuse of authority or the need for dictatorial control. It is in our beliefs about creating safety that the shadow attributes of our inner father energy will act to control rather than to learn. Recognizing that there is balance in these energies, and that these energies have "very good reasons" for their choices.

I believe that connecting to each of the archetypes IS IMPORTANT FOR THE PROCESS OF INDIVIDUATION. AS YOU, ALON NOW ENTER THE NEXT PHASE OF LIFE, MARRIED, LIFE, A NEW SPIRITUAL ENERGY ARISES AND OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK INWARD. In sharing the most

physical and spiritual life with another human being, opening yourself to her ability to wound you as much as anyone in the past, or even more, you are taking the warrior myth to the next level. To be open to even more wounding in the hope of successfully meeting the inner challenge of healing the wounds of childhood is the very task ahead. It is ONLY when “naked” to the other, we are forced to confront that which is so painful from the past.

The inner child with its purity, innocence and deep connection to the Divine, (I define divine as reality, love, that which is beyond my understanding): The Wounded Self that awakens in us compassion and helps us along in the path of forgiveness....it is the pain of the Wounded Self that brings us to a path of Inner Bonding...and we can thank that part for it awakening the desire to heal....and our Guidance....whether an angel, religious figure, relative, a source of light or our higher selves connects us to our best selves and to others.

I believe guidance flows through us in our energy whether through our connection to our bodies, our feeling selves, our imagination and our external guidance as we understand it.

**Lonny tonight we bless you to be the warrior you were destined to be, not only in the outer world but also the inner world so that your process of “individuation” of becoming the very unique persona you are, unfolds for you, in your discovery of your inner divine map.**