

The Seventh Day

The Beginning was dark and empty. There was only Being, Oneness, Infinite Nothing-ness. The Mystery was self-contained, omnipresent, and a little bored. And in that momentary awareness of boredom, a light sparkled in the void and the Great Being thought, "I will create! I will separate my Self from my Self and allow the soul of life to take form."

The sparkle of light and the vast darkness looked at each other and laughed. And in their joyful delight, distinctions were born - light and dark, sky and water, earth and seed, outer and inner space, time and timelessness, and countless varieties of creatures. It all began with laughter and a breath, *Ru-ah Elohim*. The spirit/breath of the Oneness hovered over the waters and blessed them with the pulse of life - out and in, give and receive, letting go and beginning again.

The *Ru-ah Elohim* found Her place in the new world - blessing, protecting, inspiring, comforting, encouraging. She was in all places and in every heart, and each time she was discovered, there was great joy and connection to the original Oneness. She came to be known as the *Shekhina*, She Who Dwells Within, and Her work was to be present on the Earth, day and night.

Within Her, however, was a yearning - to return to the Oneness. But how could She do that without abandoning all of Her responsibilities? She thought and thought about how she could get a day off and return to the stillness and peace of Being. One day it occurred to Her that She could bring the world with Her. Six days a week She would dwell in the world, but on the seventh day, the world would dwell in Her.

The *Shekhina* knew that it would take powerful magic to make Earth's creatures believe they could take a rest from their work and feel gratitude for their blessings. She thought back to her origins and the sparkle of light danced before her eyes. "Ah...If we light a flame, we will be transported from this world to the next, travelling on the rays of light and laughter back to the Source of Life. We will kindle the light as the sixth day slips into darkness, making circles of love and blessing. As we close our eyes and breathe out a deep sigh of release, reality will shift and everyone will enter the peace of my Presence, united with the One. There we will stay, sharing in the One Light, allowing ourselves to simply be. And with the twinkle of the first stars of the next night we will once again kindle a flame and each one will carry a part of the Great Light back into the world. And so it was.