Consider copying this text into a letter or email.

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***“From afar I call for peace,***

***From the hyssop in the Wall, To the cedar of Lebanon”***

Opening sentence in Rabbi Nason of Breslav’s ‘Letter of Peace’, 1834,

sent to a fellow Hassidic master with whom he was engaged

in an unfortunate and bitter disagreement

Today is the 9th of Adar, the day on which two thousand years ago, the once respectful and constructive disagreements between the two dominant Jewish schools of thought, Beit Hillel and Beit Shammai, turned destructive and violent.

Let us commemorate this tragic day together by attempting to really understand each other’s perspective in a deeper way, finding creative ways to balance our potentially conflicting needs, and thereby ensuring that our own disagreements truly be managed in as respectful and constructive a manner as possible, in the spirit of *machloket l’shem shamayim* (disputes for the sake of Heaven).