

**49 Poetic Meditations for Counting the Omer or Turning toward a New Year**

**DAY 16**

***Gevurah b'Tiferet* / Strength and Discipline within Balance and Beauty**

February, 2004 - thousands of couples  
line up at San Francisco City Hall,  
join the call to love and justice  
put out by the Mayor  
to same-sex couples everywhere.  
Hosts of lovers, ranks of revelers!

The power is palpable.  
A blanket of blessing  
warms the entire city.

*Gevurah* is the discipline needed  
to win wars. Could we  
transform *Gevurah* so thoroughly  
that hundreds of people lined up  
in a long string of pairs and clusters  
would not foretell destruction,  
but would instead be assumed a harbinger  
of harmonious intimacy,  
compassionate discipline,  
steadfast communion?

How do you, how can we,  
create connections that line up  
in the name of both justice and love?

Pose this question to yourself  
or ask someone else.  
Link arms and march together  
through the 16th Gate.