

## **ALONG THE WAY**

### **A spiritual trek inspired by Psalm 119:161-168**

“I keep an eye on Your rules and decrees,” the psalmist said,  
“for all my paths are laid out before of You.”

At first read I don't understand.

But now, You seem to be saying  
it comes down to love.

Love as connection,  
interconnection,  
compassion.

Love as friendship, intimacy,  
desire for goodness.

Love as wholeness and peace,  
as passion for Life.

Love as learning.

Love found in stone,  
in impenetrable but necessary boundaries,  
in deep un-knowable places.

Love disguised as hatred  
or masquerading as fear.

Love as blue-green water reflecting onto sandy beaches,  
as jagged mountains poking up on the horizon,  
as tall thick forests gleaming up toward the sky  
reaching for the sunlight, finding it, or not,  
reaching for water, finding it, or not,  
reaching, reaching, reaching.

What do I find at the far edges of my own fingertips,  
the far reaches of my mind's eye?

You. Your promise streaming towards me.  
Your love. Your peace.

I understand the psalmist now.

-Shifrah Tobacman, 2016