

Reflection on Light

My name is Eitan Bloostein, I am a senior.

My own tradition, Judaism, teaches a monotheistic belief. I believe in a single and unifying power exuding through each individual person and thing that all together make up a universe among other universes—a single, unified multiverse.

My grandfather, Rabbi Daniel Jezer, wrote that “The Torah is insistent upon monotheism, an understanding of the world that preaches the radical view of a relationship of all. Every action affects everything else. No action, no insight, can stand independently only upon itself.”

The unity found in this world, in our everyday interactions, creates meaning starting from the smallest molecule to the largest universe. The interpersonal interactions you each had this week build bonds between a few people. These bonds between a few people build a community of friends, these communities of friends build the community of Tufts; Tufts is a community of higher education among many other in Boston, and Boston exists as one of many communities of the world. We see more and more these days how the world-wide community effects the status of our planet, which, in turn effects the status of all other planets and soon the universe—one universe among many in the multiverse.

On the smaller end, a single cell in our bodies can turn us sick, sometimes threatening our ability to engage in those one-on-one interactions that have such a great impact. As you pass your flame from one person to the next, you will be able literally to see the impact that one person’s actions have upon the entire community in real time.

When all of the candles are lit, we will look like a single, unified, mass of light.

One of my favorite poets, Robert Hunter, wrote: “Dark star crashes, pouring its light into ashes./Reason tatters, the forces tear loose from the axis./Searchlight casting for faults in the clouds of delusion./Shall we go, you and I while we can?”

During your time at Tufts, you will encounter novel criticisms of worlds, institutions, and systems about which you might not have been aware. You might feel like a dark star with no light to give to our community. Use the light that we kindle tonight to engage deeply and with an open mind to all of the world’s questions. When it seems as if all presupposed reason fails, use the light of this community as a searchlight. Through strong communities, through connections between individuals, you can cut through the opaque clouds of delusion that float between lived experience and reality. The light of this community tonight will allow you to seek the truth living inside each individual, and will ensure that you will always be a star full of light.