

Parents' Blessing for Isaac Harrison's Bar Mitzvah

Jennifer: Isaac, as you stand here today, we are overwhelmed not just by this ceremony, but by the profound journey it represents. This milestone matters deeply to us because it marks your conscious step into Jewish adulthood a moment when you begin to define your own relationship with the Jewish traditions and community.

From your earliest days, you've approached the world with both curiosity and determination, asking thoughtful questions while remaining true to your convictions. You possess a deep strength and thoughtfulness that continually amazes us. Your mind seeks understanding, while your heart seeks connection. This is not by accident...

Rashad: ...Isaac, the story of your namesake has taught us lessons of loyalty, of sacrifice, and of faith, but it has also served as a bridge: a connection between many communities with seemingly very little in common. Being both Black and Jewish has given you a unique perspective; a perspective that allows you to see beyond reductive narratives, and to appreciate the rich diversity within Judaism and the larger world. With grace, you've shown us how these intersecting identities are not a burden but a blessing.

You are a remarkable person, wonderful and complex. Treasure that complexity, understand that it is not a call for erasure or simplification, but for harmony and celebration. To truly love yourself, every aspect, takes courage. May you continue to honor your ancestors and your God by honoring yourself—And as you journey through life's mystery, do so with the certainty that God is good, and that God's love is unwavering and eternal.

Jennifer: Our blessing for you is that you never shy away from struggle. Be strengthened by our traditions, keep them alive and meaningful in your life. Most importantly, may you use this knowledge to cultivate a balanced perspective, recognizing the good in the world as you discover your unique place within it. We love you and are so proud to be your parents on this special day and every day.