

## **Reflections of an Imam After Rosh Hashanah Service**

I had the honor of attending the Rosh Hashanah service at Temple Judah this last Sunday (9/13/15). My dear friend, Dr. Bob, explained to me briefly the significance of this Holiday and times. He said, and I quote, “The books are sealed, but God has not yet made up His mind.”

This reminded me of a beautiful Hadith (prophetic teaching of Prophet Muhammad). According to this hadith, the Prophet, God bless and grant him peace, said that on the Last Day, when the last two souls are brought forth before God, they are both condemned to hell. As the angels escort them to their final fiery abode, one of them wistfully looks back. Thereupon, God commands the angels to bring him back and asks the man why he turned back. The man replies, “I was expecting something else from you.” God responds, commanding the angels, “Take him to My Garden.”

It is our expectation of God that determines where we are. This points to the need for thinking well not only of God but also of God’s creation, despite the fact that we are all messy, imperfect works in progress, struggling along in this journey. – Hassan M. Mahmoud