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KosherTorah on Dialogue

by Ariel B. Tzadok

*Shall I wax poetic and speak flowery words,
or should I get to the point,
and give you a sharp kick in the butt?*

*Some people like flowers,
and they do have their place.
Still, some people need a good kick,
for it is the only way to awaken a slumbering soul.*

*Is this not the way it is with all things?
Some things can be done with gentleness.
Other things need to be done with harshness.
How is one to tell the difference
between one and the other?*

*Is this really a hard decision?
Think about it.
When actions and thoughts are emotionally based,
one is convinced of the correctness of their course.
Yet, how many stop to question their emotions?
How many are caught in the loop
of feeling one way,
and thus seeing the entire world,
and everything in it,
through one's colored vision?*

*Colored vision, and emotional thinking
are never lightly addressed.
Flowery words are trampled
under the boots of rhetoric,
fiery emotional speeches,
and often the radical behavior
of those convinced of how right they are.
For those who are so entrenched,
a swift and firm kick in the pants
may be the only way to get their attention.*

*Now, I should not have to say this,
but I will say it because
the emotional out there need me to say this.
When I speak of kicking one in the butt
I am speaking symbolically,
and referring to being strong, tough,
and if need be jarring in interactions.
I am not speaking, at all,
about physically assaulting,
or even touching another person,
so do not read into my words,
that which I do not say.*

*Those with colored vision
tend to see things that are not there.
Confronting another is an art, not a chore.
Confronting another requires wisdom,
not emotional outbursts.
Confronting others requires
that the other be respected,
but at the same time,
held accountable for the disrespect
that they show to those who disagree with them.*

*Sometimes dialogue can be calm,
open, and even enlightened.
Sometimes there can be no dialogue.
At times like these,
in order to avoid outright hostilities,
and the violence that comes along with it,
other methods of confrontation, with respect,
must be implemented in order to force a dialogue
with those who are so emotionally entrenched
that they think there is no room for dialogue.*

*But dialogue, there must be!
Communication, there must be!
Respect, for both sides, there must be!*

*Wisely did the ancient Kabbalah teach us,
clear your mind of questions,
silence your mouth from speech,
quiet your heart of passion.*

*Sit still, breath deep.
Allow the passions of the moment to flow
over you, around you, and away from you.
Leave them behind.
Move forward.*

*In the light of mind comes redemption.
This is not a religious message.
It is the answer to our present social/political divide.*

The KosherTorah School



The Written Works of Ariel Bar Tzadok

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