## Ashrei Secrets, Pasuk 6

by HaRav Ariel Bar Tzadok

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In loving memory of Moshe Ben Chaim Alter (z"l), dedicated by his son Mr. Michael Alter.

Weh'eh'zuz Noro'tey'kha Yo'mey'ru Ug'du'lat'kha Asap'rey'na "And the strength of your awesomeness they shall speak, and your greatness I will relate." Psalm 145:6

Vav, Nun, Yod, Vav, Alef = 73, gematria Hokhma, wisdom.

The Hebrew word for awesome "Nora" also denotes something to be afraid of. G-d is praised for being awesome for ultimately He (It) is a power to be feared.

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The Creator acts as the random element in the universe and acts as He so pleases, whenever He so chooses. Yet, the randomness of such intervention are rare. Randomness is not the rule. Nature is the rule. Nature defines natural law and G-d defines both nature and natural law.

Essentially natural law is synonymous with G-d's Word, His Torah. G-d ordained for creation to operate in a certain way in accordance to certain



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principles. We human beings are also part of the grand design of creation. As such, we have our individual parts, our roles and our places. We are obligated by natural law to follow certain guidelines and to live within certain parameters. Desire as we may to break these natural laws, we are incapable of doing so, without severe natural consequences (punishments?).

Gravity is a law. We may or may not like it, but we are subject to it nevertheless. We can chose to challenge this law. We can climb to a roof and jump off. Yet, the rigid law will demand of us to fall, and depending how and where we fall, we could face serious painful repercussions for our wanton deeds. We may instead chose to play with fire. Yet, natural law demands that one who plays with fire will be burned.

Yes, natural law is strictly limiting and severe towards any violations. Granted, through technologies we can find ways around these laws, but our technologies never break the laws of nature, rather they always work within them, within the greater context of their parameters unseen by the unaided eye.

ליקב"ו - שיל"ת

Science is not the study of the breakage of natural law but rather understanding natural law and learning how to live within it. This truly must be an awesome pursuit discovering the latent powers within nature, placed there from the beginning by the Creator. Equally awesome is the fact that we as a race have been endowed with intelligence and more importantly the curiosity to discover how our universe works and how we can better ourselves with the knowledge we acquire. What can be more awesome than this!

Every day and with every new discovery one should raise one's eyes to Heaven in humble thanks and awe for the wonders of being human and for the wonders of the universe and for the wonders of discovery. So many wonders, so many awesome, powerful things to share. For it is human nature that when one is impressed and when one makes a profound discovery to want to shout it from the mountaintops and share it with the world. It is a natural human trait to want to share discovery.

The universe is vast and at present mysterious. Science now speaks beyond a UNIverse and speaks of the reality of a MULTIverse. In other worlds, multiple, maybe innumerable parallel universes, all inhabited by creations of the Creator. At present our knowledge is limited and thus the unknown is a mystery to us, this is why we call the unknown mysterious and mysticism. Yet, as we expand our human consciousness, not into nebulous philosophies, but rather into tangible knowledge of the mechanics of the universe (multiverse) around us, the greatness of it all dawns upon us. We are compelled by our human nature to scream out, wow!

We feel compelled to share the wonder of our discoveries to show those who cannot yet see that which we see. Together the awe of wonder of the masses speak a collective wow! This collection of awe, amazement and proclamation is the song of collective humanity as we together, as a race, expand and integrate our experience and knowledge of the greater insights of how our universe (multiverse) operates.

This experience is not limited to scientific discovery in a laboratory. On the contrary most scientific discovery occurs in the mind, in the contemplative imagination of the thinker. In this respect all human beings are alike. Some discovery the wonder of the universe and explain it in scientific terms, others experience the wonders of the universe in their thoughts and express it differently through poetry, art or music. All together these are the collective forms of human wonder and amazement.

All these artistic and creative forms together are the collective voice of humanity that sings out to the Creator praising Him for the wonders of His creation. Contemplation in thought is the key. It is thus most appropriate that this be mentioned here in a poem (psalm) that itself is an expression of contemplation and a song of praise over the awe, mystery and wonder of creation.

Revelation from within thought, the source of all art, music, poetry and science, this is wisdom, the concealed knowledge. Discovery is not creation. Discovery is not making anything new. Discovery is the revelation of that which has always been there, but up until that moment was unknown.

That which is discovered has a life and law of its own. We do not create it, form it or make it, we only discovery it and then learn about it, enabling us to embrace the new, allowing the

new to transform our limited way of looking at the old. This is wisdom, the knowledge that rises up from within leading us to discovery.

Thus the initial letters of this verse add up to the numerical value of the Hebrew word for wisdom, Hokhma to suggest this inner secret (unconscious) source which motivates and drives all senses towards discovery. The higher inner mind (the unconscious) already knows all and sees all through the spirit. It (the unconscious) guides and leads the lower (conscious) mind along a teleological path towards the right discoveries at the right time in the right way. This too is only part of the natural laws that were created and ordained by the Creator. We are after all, created in the Supernal Image.

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