

Be Like Ezekiel

By Ariel Bar Tzadok

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Why do you do what you do, if you don't really understand what it is that you are doing? Did you ever stop to think why you observe your religion the way you do? I know, you are following the lead of everyone else around you and/or you are faithfully following the direction of your chosen religious leader. Yet, do you really pay attention to what your peers and religious leaders are saying, or are you merely just accepting what they say, no matter how shallow or questionable? Do you ever stop to question?

Do you ever challenge the rationality of a questionable teaching or argument? Most likely not! Such challenges could make you suspect in the eyes of your peers and religious leaders. And being suspect of challenging cherished beliefs, makes you subject to all kinds of social ostracization. And who can tolerate not being accepted by one's peers and one's community? Therefore, in order to avoid the painful experience of being viewed as weird or different, most just blend in, follow the crowd, give up thinking, and just do what they are told.

This is how mindless robots are born. This is how such extremists like Nazis and terrorists can rationalize and get away with all sorts of crimes against humanity. Crime starts in the mind. It expands out from there into action. One who does not think sees no wrong with one's actions. This is spiritual blindness. It is a danger to oneself and it is a danger for all of humanity.

When the individual stops questioning, challenging and thinking, we must ask, just how much of one's humanity has one surrendered. The answer is obvious. Too much has been surrendered. And the results of such a surrender are disastrous for all involved.

Wait a second! Am I really asking for people to get serious and to change their lives for the better? Yeah, I guess I am. But, maybe I am asking for too much. Maybe I'm just a dreamer? Every now and then I receive an email from a reader who feels that I am being too negative. So, maybe I should just stop talking about the truth, exposing lies and encouraging people to be all that they can be? Yeah, maybe I should just say nice things and make people feel happy and good about themselves. After all, isn't that what most people want? And shouldn't we all just give to everyone what they want, instead of what they need? So here goes! Let me give what so many seems to want!

Here goes: Don't worry! Be happy! Everything is beautiful! Don't worry about your problems, you don't have to do anything! God is going to magically make all your problems go away! You'll go to bed at night worried and laden with concern. And, you'll awaken to find that as you slept all your problems have just melted away. Let's all get together and

sing and dance. Tra-la-la, la-la-la-la. Yes, let's smile and know that everything is beautiful and everything is going to be all right! Tra-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la!

Now, doesn't this make you feel better? Aren't you now better equipped to face life's adversities and difficulties? Oh, excuse me, I meant to refer to the illusionary adversities and difficulties! Because their not real! Nothing is real except our happiness and joy. Tra-la-la! How quickly I can forget!

Yes, believe it or not, I really have some KosherTorah readers who want me to write in just his manner, singing tra-la-la-la and to tell them (and to lie to you saying) just how beautiful and positive everything is. I am accused of offering my readers heavy doses of reality, instead of heavy doses of "happiness Torah," to help them cope with the terrible situations that seem to encompass us all.

Well, my dear readers, you must forgive me, I am not into selling drugs or using them. I do not believe in "uppers" to make pain go away. Instead, I look at the source of pain and I remember and put into practice the old "body-building" adage, "no pain, no gain."

I do not believe in fairy-tale magic! I do not believe that all life's problems will magically disappear simply because I trust in God and read Psalms every day. Now, while I really do like reading Psalms, I realize that it is not the reading of them that is going to change my life, but rather, what will change my life is me, putting into practice and action, the lessons that the Psalms relate!

My KosherTorah.com readers come to me for mysticism and in turn I give them heavy doses of harsh reality. Many cannot understand that real mysticism is not about making you feel good or becoming tranquilized. Mysticism is not a drug! Real mysticism is supposed to expose you to the realities of this world. And once you see the ugly and harsh realities of this world, you rise up, take action and do something about it! You suffer the pain, so as to gain the gain!

Real mysticism is coming to see truth, with your own eyes. No tra-la-la singing here! We're not living in happy, singing times. We're living in very serious and dangerous time. While we can work to make things better and, pray God, come one day to singing times, still, we're not there yet and we have a way to go. So, like another old adage says, "when the going gets tough, the tough get going." It's time to toughen up, not to buckle under the pressure, run away and hide!

Some of my KosherTorah readers do not appreciate my frankness and candor. I understand that. What I do not understand is why they continue reading KosherTorah.com? Does this small minority really expect me to march to a different drummer and to play follow the leader just because that is what they are doing? I really think that they do!

Well, unfortunately for them and fortunate for the majority of my readers, I have absolutely no intent to change my style or my tone in any way. Even the pseudo-profanity that I use from time to time will remain. If my words offend you, you always have the freedom and choice not to read them.

I have long told my readers, I am not here to entertain you, I am here to educate you. If you cannot embrace my candor and my occasional expressions of passion, then maybe you should go elsewhere for your tra-la-la's, because you aint' gonna get dem here!

I write what I do, like I do, for a specific reason. I really do care. I want to make a difference. I want my readers to experience the message of the sacred Merkava, revealed long ago to Ezekiel. This alone is real mysticism, and not all that mumbo-jumbo, gobbily-gook philosophical stuff out there designed to amaze you and entertain you. The real message of the Merkava is a call to action and receiving the burden of being a "watchman."

Here now is the secret of the Merkava. These are God's words spoken to Ezekiel, immediately after his experience of the Divine chariot. God spoke to Ezekiel and said, "Stand upon your feet and I will speak with you" (Ezek. 1:2). Ezekiel had to stand up and take responsibility for himself and his actions. He had to bare the burden of Divine revelation. Only when he was willing to be strong and able, did God then entrust him with his mission and message. As it was with Ezekiel so too is it today with us. God strengthened Ezekiel and God will strengthen us. Indeed, Ezekiel's name actually means, "God will strengthen me."

I write KosherTorah to inspire all my readers to become like Ezekiel, to take on the mantle of responsibility and to pick up the burden of Divine revelation and to share its true experience and message with all those willing to hear, however few or far they may be.

I write KosherTorah for those who recognize its value and appreciate it. I am not here to entertain but to educate. If this does not suit you, then maybe KosherTorah is not right for you.

I write KosherTorah full time, all year long. I have dedicated my life to my readers. And yes, I expect honest and sincere reciprocation. If you read KosherTorah and do not reciprocate the support that I give you, then obviously you are not getting the message of KosherTorah. I give to you. I expect that you in turn give back to me. This is the natural order of things, the circle and how all things revolve and go around. I give, you give. I receive, you receive. This is the way of things.

So, my dear readers, if you are not giving, "tisk tisk." You are not doing your jobs! And if you're not doing your jobs, then obviously my message of KosherTorah is not getting through to you. Maybe this is my fault, then again maybe it's yours! If you are not doing your share, or if you are not willing to do your share, please, do us all a favor, go somewhere else where you will feel inspired to do your share!

You should always be inspired and have passion and if your passion is not here in KosherTorah, then, please, do yourselves the favor, find the place of your passion, go there and support it. At least by doing this you will be getting and implementing the message of KosherTorah.

Stand up on your feet. Do the right thing. Be like Ezekiel. He did not live in a time of tra-la-la's and neither do we. Serve God! Let Him move through you. This is what it means to be a Merkava, chariot. Go where God guides you! Do His work! Right now, God is not singing His tra-la-la's, neither should we.

When we see life through Divine eyes, we do not see a very pretty sight. Yet, we do see hope and we clearly see that our hope is every much tied up in our efforts. So, when we make the efforts, God will be with us to bless those efforts.

We accept the pain and we receive the gain! That is how it works! I expect the support of my readers and I am always thankful for all they do. I pray that God may continue to be my strength so that I may continue to strengthen you. Shalom!

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