



## Heaven On Earth

*By Ariel Bar Tzadok*

I know my place. I am standing here with my feet firmly on earth. I live here on earth and am subject to the natural way of all life here on earth.

Heaven is above. I have been taught that the Ways of Heaven rule below even as they do above. Yet, I ask, why does Heaven above concern itself with life on earth below? Why does Heaven care? Heaven and Earth, what is the relationship?

I have pondered this question with my eyes both open and closed. I have discovered two different answers.

When my eyes are open, I see the earth around me, I see the ways of life and death, success and failure, ease and work. I recognize that although I am human I am no different from all other life around me. What befalls them also befalls me. I am but a part of nature. There is no uniqueness in being human.

Yet, when my eyes are closed, I see an entirely different earth around me. I see potential and possibility, hopes and dreams, arts, science and accomplishments. I see human civilization soaring to the heights of our highest aspirations. I recognize that although I am human I am indeed different from all other life around me. I can change and influence what befalls me. I can control nature within me. There is nothing but uniqueness in being human.

These two visions seem so irreconcilable. I pondered this and understood great wisdom. When my eyes are open, I stand here on earth and the ways of earth overwhelm me. Yet, when I close my eyes, I am no longer on earth alone, I am in Heaven and the ways of Heaven become clear and relevant.

Now I understand the relationship between Heaven and earth. I am the relationship. Heaven and earth are united within me. Now I understand the importance of the Ways of Heaven and their relevance here on earth, for as long as I am here on earth, I bring Heaven to this place.

The Way of Heaven is inside me, in that place where my mind meets my dreams. The way of earth is before me in that place where my feet touch the ground. My mind above and my feet below, these two unite Heaven and earth.

Inside me and outside me are both real. Both require of me my time, my service and my devotion.

I know my place. I am standing here with my feet firmly on earth and my mind firmly in Heaven. I live here on earth and I also live here in Heaven. I am subject to the natural ways of all life here on earth and here in Heaven.

As long as I am here, Heaven is here with me. I see this clearly every time I close my eyes and contemplate truth. It is only when I open my eyes that I am challenged to forget what I know so well.

Maybe I should keep my eyes closed? No, I cannot, for I must live in this world, I must live on earth. I must strive to manifest Heaven here on earth. For by doing this, I become fully human. By bringing Heaven down to earth I become what I have always been, but sometimes forget, a being created in the Image of G-d.