

The Image Within

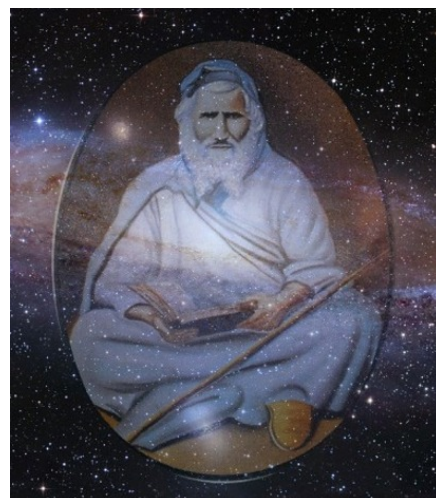
By Ariel Bar Tzadok

Seeking G-d

Seeking to know G-d is a noble endeavor. Yet, how can one find G-d if one does not know where to look? How can one find G-d if one does not know what to look for?

From childhood, we are told many a fable. G-d is portrayed to us in many forms that we human beings can easily recognize. Yet, as we mature and become adults we must learn to let go of childish ways and seek out G-d in truth and not just in fable.

We are taught that G-d is the Creator of all things. G-d is above the universe and at the same time within every part of it. We are taught that G-d is everywhere and in everything, at all times and even above time itself. G-d is the consciousness of existence; G-d is Mind Absolute.



I can understand this with childlike innocence and imagine G-d in my human mind. Yet, although we imagine G-d to be this way or that, our imaginations are nothing more than illusions. Whatever it is we think we know about G-d is by definition limited by the boundaries of human understanding. Our minds can only grasp a small portion of universal reality; therefore, whatever knowledge we have of G-d is by definition severely limited.

We must understand this; we have no pure knowledge, we have only pieces. We do not know ultimate truth; we have only an illusion of it. When we humbly accept our limitations, we begin to see the greater universe with adult eyes.

In order to seek out G-d we must first recognize what G-d is not before we can come to know what G-d is. G-d cannot be comprehended by human intellect; indeed, even the human heart cannot grasp something as vast as the Creator of the universe. In the end, we seek that which cannot be sought. We crave to know a truth that we cannot comprehend or even experience.

With all that we cannot know, we still seek out G-d and we still so often fail to recognize where G-d is to be found. G-d is to be found within His creation. Every movement in time and space reveals the Presence of the Creator. Indeed, one who ponders well the way of the world will come to perceive how the Creator directs the universe.

G-d is not found exclusively within the books of religion. Instead, G-d is found in that which He has created, the universe and life itself. Knowing G-d ultimately and intimately might be beyond our present human boundaries. Yet, there is still much for us to learn, to perceive the invisible Hand and learn the truths of the universe. We call this the Way of Heaven.

Only when a child grows up and begins to think and act like an adult can that one be expected to embrace and handle responsibility. Only a mature adult can come to discover G-d in the proper way as prescribed by Heaven.

Children will continue to bicker about what is written in their books. Adults, on the other hand, experience matters directly. They have no need to bicker over words in books, for they have first hand experience and knowledge. Adults know what the books mean, for the books were not written by children, but rather by like-minded adults. Only children read and do not understand. Only children need stories to help their young minds adjust in their long and arduous path towards adulthood.

Seeking G-d is truly a noble endeavor. This path leads one to become truly and fully human. Learn from creation to recognize the Creator, for His Hand is concealed within His handiwork. His ways are revealed through life itself.

Consciousness

Consciousness, the most precious of gifts is the one least understood. Awareness means to be acutely familiar with one's surroundings. Consciousness goes beyond this and enables one to be aware of that which is close and that which is far, in both space and time.

Consciousness is found in that place where mind meets heart, where what you know and what you feel merge into one. Consciousness transcends all limitations. Consciousness sees where the eye cannot, it travels where the body cannot, it knows what the mind alone cannot, and it feels what the heart alone cannot. Consciousness combines all these things and is a product greater than the sum of its parts.



Consciousness is what separates humanity from the animal kingdom. Consciousness equals sentience. Yet, consciousness is not limited to humanity alone. Many others in



our universe share consciousness, some greater than others, all sharing an awareness of themselves, the universe and of the others.

The universe itself is conscious, as are the individual planets. Each of us can learn to communicate with any other sentient being through the vehicle of consciousness. This includes the planets and even the universe itself. The Ultimate Consciousness however exists outside the universe and is the source of every flow and stream that consciousness emanates. The Ultimate Consciousness we have come to call G-d.

The Ultimate Consciousness exists within everything, for everything emanates forth from it. Each individual sentient being can therefore travel through mind and through consciousness and commune with anything, anywhere and at any time. Traveling through consciousness is the true doorway that opens all space and time, laying it out before one, making the entire universe one's own personal domain.

Consciousness is connection. In consciousness, there is both knowledge and understanding. Consciousness is of the mind, it transcends feelings and emotions. Consciousness is recognized by what one knows and therefore becomes. One who has not been transformed through consciousness to recognize the unity of all, and to embrace this unity has not become conscious of the Ultimate.

Knowing the Ultimate Consciousness is our human destiny. We are taught that we are created in the Image of G-d, this means that we are conscious sentient creatures with the ability to unite Heaven and Earth, time and space, through the domain of consciousness. As it is above, so is it below.

Knowing the Ultimate is what expands consciousness. One with expanded consciousness knows the Ultimate. The relationship is personal and intimate. Knowing the Ultimate Consciousness shines the internal Light of Limitless Mind upon all things within and without.

The Ultimate Consciousness creates vibration and forms movement. Through movement and vibration, consciousness emits its Voice. This is the Voice of G-d, the spoken Word, the Supernal Living Torah.

Know the Voice and you will know the Speaker. Know the Speaker and you will achieve expanded consciousness. Expand consciousness and you will fulfill your destiny and purpose for being human. Awaken to truth within and you will discover the truth without.

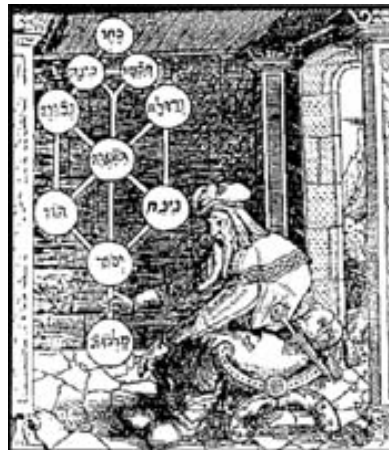
Awaken sleeping soul. Be silent, look within. Delve into the depths of being and discover that which is already there, lying dormant beneath the surface level of your nascent thinking mind.

In Order To Create...

In order to create there must first be a spark of Will. Only when there is a Will can a way become manifest.

Yet, Will alone is not enough; one must receive a glimpse of insight from very deep within; from the place where Will crashes into the Mind and becomes revelation.

Revelation must be understood well, a plan must be carefully thought out how to proceed. The plan must arouse passion and determination motivating one to bring about its fulfillment.



Then the plan must be implemented with passion and focus. All plans, all passion and focus add up to nothing unless the actions are carried out and the deeds are done, each properly in its time, each properly in its place, each properly in the right way.

Only the original Will can know the right way, only the final act can bring the original Will into fruition. Will is the beginning of thought. Action is the conclusion. The beginning is in the end and the end in the beginning. The first in thought is the last in deed.

This is the secret order of the Way of Heaven and the inner workings of all humanity.

Learn it well. Follow it wisely and meticulously and forever will you know only success and prosperity.

Will - Keter

Before all, there is Nothing. Nothing is a something unto itself. It is only Nothing to us. Being that to us Nothing is a no thing, there is not much to say about it. No words can be used to discuss No Thing.

Nothing becomes revealed through something. Yet, as with everything, something has a beginning, a middle and an end. The beginning of something, of everything is its Will.



Will is the intention and desire to be. Prior to becoming, there must first be the Will to become. Everything in creation has a beginning. The beginning of everything is its Will to be, to develop into that which it is.

Will is the kernel, the seed, the tiny small essence that contains within its smallness the entire plan and process for becoming. Will includes within it all that is to be, in its most fundamental primordial state.

In the Will, there is the desire for everything to be. Yet, Will does not manifest the different parts. Will does not think; Will does not feel; Will does not act. Yet, Will manifests the drive that gives birth to thought; Will expresses the desire that gives rise to feelings and Will creates the impetus and drive that motivates actions. All this is brought forth from Will, whereas at the same time Will is none of these.

Will is a power, the manifestation of being, even before the birth of consciousness. Will reveals something from the Nothing. That something goes through the process of creation, birth and evolution until such a time when it masters maturity and fullness. In this state only is there completion. In this state only has the full Will become manifest.

Will begins as a motivation and desire and ends with action culminating in completion and perfect expression. When there is a Will, there is a way. The opposite is also true; when there is no Will, there will be no way; no way to accomplish, no way to succeed. Will is therefore the source of all; it is the beginning of all things. It is the seed.

A seed needs to be planted in fertile soil in order to live, to grow and prosper. The soil that nourishes the seed of Will is the genesis of thought, the inner Mind, the unconscious, intuitive knowing, best known as Wisdom.

However, this is another lesson...

Wisdom – Hokhma

Out of the darkness comes a light. The light is small but bright. It seems to come out of nowhere, yet within the light there is a sense that it has come from a place that is the center and the source. The light is ever so small but it changes the entire realm of darkness.

In the dark nothing can be seen or know. Out of the dark now, in the light I can see. Yet, what is it that I am



seeing. I know it but at the same time, I do not know it. In the light, however small it is, I can look and grasp a glimpse of the purpose behind the darkness.

The light, however small it is brings to me awareness. In the light I can see, in the light there comes to me insight. I am; I exist; there is an I and I am me. The light shines and enables me to know that I am. I know that I am, yet I am not thinking this, I instead just know it. I am not feeling it, instead I the awareness is upon me, like the light itself. This is what is called enlightenment. The light within shines and enables one to know the I within.

Enlightenment is the revelation of truth from within. Enlightenment is the awareness of that which is before that which is can be differentiated from that which is not.

I exist; this is true even prior to my being aware that I exist. My becoming aware of my existence and that I am is the first of all enlightenments and the beginning of wisdom.

Within me all that is to be exists, even prior to my being aware of it. Within the small light, I am aware of myself yet I am also aware of the darkness. I know that I exist within the light, yet I do not know what exists within the darkness.

I do not move the light from place to place, yet the light does move me from place to place. As the light moves so I go, for I exist only within the realm of the light. If I step into the darkness then I will no longer be able to see myself. I will become invisible to myself and therefore I will become blind to the world.

I am in the light. I exist within the light. However small the light may be, it reveals to me that I am, that I am here, now. What all this means I must learn to comprehend.

I must learn to understand, but this takes us into our next lesson...

Understanding – Binah

I can see it but it is still far away. Yet, if I focus my vision I can see it more clearly, I can make its appearance more sharp.

When the light shines, its brilliance is often blinding. Sometimes the light makes it harder to see. Therefore, I block the glare and try to focus. When I block out the excess light I can see with clarity. I do not remove the light; I merely decrease its intensity.





The light of Mind is often profound, often too much to grasp all at once. A brilliant idea is like a shining light, sometimes, one must block out the excess light in order to focus and make use of that which is received. This is the process of absorbing intuition. This is the act of embracing enlightenment. This is called understanding.

Wisdom is the brilliant light of consciousness revealed from the Will. Yet, wisdom alone is so profound and abstract that without proper consideration, its message and meaning can become lost. Here is where the logical mind of the intellect steps in and acts as the filter to block all excess light and superfluous thought, enabling one to sift out of the light those ideas and concepts that are most beneficial and valuable for the immediate situation at hand.

With understanding, I can perceive and grasp what it is the light is revealing. My Will is, it simply is. My Wisdom reveals to me that I am. Yet, it takes understanding for me to finally grasp what I am. I am what I am; this is understanding; the mother of motivation and action.

Order and definition, comprehension and clarity; these are the expressions of understanding. These define intelligence. Intelligence is the focused light, the laser beam of consciousness that enables the thinking mind to grasp, comprehend and focus the nebulous light of wisdom and crystallize it into a usable form.

Understanding is intelligence. It is rational and logical. It takes the sublime light of wisdom and carves the natural gem into a polished diamond. Wisdom and understanding together are the two halves of the one mind, one-half known, one-half unknown, one-half revealed, one-half concealed, one-half conscious, one-half unconscious. Together they work in unison; together they create one whole mind.

The Mind is the faculty through which the Will becomes manifest. First, there is revelation, and then there is comprehension. Yet, in order to fully comprehend, one must contemplate that which is revealed by wisdom.

One begins with rational analysis and then drifts off into contemplative imagination. It is here that the unconscious mind, source of intuitive inner knowing, again injects a spark of the light of wisdom into the intellect. This is enlightenment.

Then the conscious mind again uses the talents of intellect and analysis to understand, that which was revealed. This again leads one to contemplative imagination and the process of thought continues.

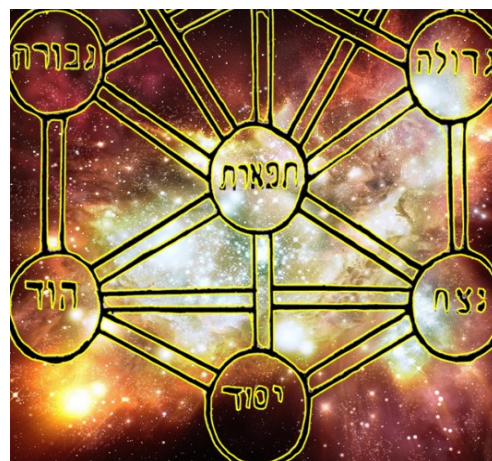
Thus in our minds we move back and forth, from wisdom to understanding, from understanding to wisdom. In this is the process of thought made complete.

When thought is complete and the picture of action has been formed, then the thought needs to become manifest in action. Thought is translated into action through motivation. Motivation is of the heart. However, this is the topic of another essay...

Motivation – The Heart of Six

I know now what must be done. Clarity encompasses me. Everything makes sense, everything fits into place. I must now act.

I feel compelled. I must act. I must express that which is inside me. I feel so much energy swelling up inside me needing to pour out. Passion, explosive power, spreading out; these words best describe how I feel. They flow into my heart. Hesed – Expansion – the first of days that form the week of my spirit.



I want to explode outward; I want to express every bit and essence inside me. Yet, there has to be a limit. I know that enough has to be enough. I feel that I must withdraw and be reserved; for it is in my reserve that I can best restrict what is inside me and therefore best express it, through limitation. This flows into my heart. *Gevurah – Limitation – the second of days that form the week of my spirit.*

There has to be a balance between my passion for expression and my feelings to be reserved and even secretive. Balance is the key. I must know how much is enough and how much is not enough. Only when I can balance what I feel with what I want will there be peace and harmony inside me. Knowing this is my heart, my center. *Tiferet – Balance – the third of days that form the week of my spirit.*

I must express my newfound state of balance. The benefit of it is most profound and stabilizing. By imposing it and bringing order, by conquering chaos I bring alignment and justice to the world outside myself. Imposing it can be good. Conquering can be good. Victory can be good. These are the benefits of balance. These flow forth from my heart. *Netzah – Imposition – the forth of the days that form the week of my spirit.*

The benefits of balance bring their own rewards. The glory of proper living, proper behavior and proper attitude are clear and evident when balance is imposed and chaos is dissipated. Life is thus beautiful and even glorious. This flows forth from my heart. *Hod – Benefit – the fifth of the days that form the week of my spirit.*



I feel so enriched when everything falls into place. I feel so alive, so creative; everything is in balance, everything is in alignment, everything is working the way it should. My creative energy flows; it is the foundation of so many things. This truly expresses all that is in my heart. *Yesod – Creativity – the sixth of the days that form and finalize the week of my spirit.*

Thus, my feelings of compulsion arouse within me the awareness of my limitations. This causes me to pause until I balance the two in my heart thus creating order, justice and what I know to be proper. I am again compelled to impose this sense of order onto chaos, for the benefits thereof are self-evident. In doing this I become alive and I feel enriched with the spirit of creativity to make so many things.

What was once only in my mind flows into my heart. My heart becomes enriched and empowered. What I once only knew in theory, I am now motivated to put into practice. Only through practice can I come to truly know that which my mind sees and my heart feels. This is where my spirit unites with my soul.

Expression and limitation, imposition and benefit, balance and creativity, these six define the inner workings of my heart; they describe the world within me and the world above me. For as this process goes on inside me, this self-same process occurs in Heaven. As I am motivated to create here on Earth, Heaven is likewise motivated to create above.

G-d in Heaven is invisible and unknowable. Yet, we receive a glimpse of the Divine through that which G-d does. Yet, that which we see is just a small part of the whole. Being human, we can never see the full image of creation; we can only experience our small portion of it. We can only see G-d's "small face." G-d's activity in the universe is a portrayal of only a small part of the full Divine essence. G-d in creation therefore is masked with a small face, and a level of concealment.

Action - Malkhut

In the beginning, there is desire, desire gives way to thought; thought gives way to passion; passion gives rise to action. In the beginning, there is desire, in the end there is action.

In order for action to be, to be strong, to be established, to last, it must be based upon desire. Action without desire is a body without a soul. All actions without proper motivations will eventually be overturned and become nothing. Only those actions acted out with desire, forethought and passion will maintain themselves and add to the building of the world.

Action is doing. Doing is creating. Creating is building. Building is the form of action that enables us to imitate our Creator. We are here on earth to be builders. Action is what makes or breaks our world.

Building requires focus of action. Building must be constructive, for how does one truly know to build by destroying? True, we often take one step back in order to take two steps forward. However, we must first have inner knowledge, intuition and insight to distinguish between those actions, which break down in order to build up, and those actions that break down merely to break down and destroy.

Will is great, thought is excellent, passion is necessary, but without action to unite and bring these all together, each alone cannot stand. The ultimate goal must be what is done, not what is wanted, what is thought about or what one feels. Actions alone are the final step. That which is created is nothing if it does not have concrete and stable form.



Heaven is above and we are here on earth below. What happens in Heaven is done in Heaven by heavenly beings. What happens here on earth, although directed by Heaven is still done here on earth, by earthly beings. It is we, here on earth, that do the earthly things. We are all Heaven's messengers to accomplish, perform and manifest the Will of Heaven here on earth.

G-d is in all things, in all places, at all times. We were created in order to make manifest here on earth the Light of G-d concealed within all things. We are G-d's agents; we are the messengers. We have been charged with revealing the Divine Light here on earth. If we wish for G-d to intervene and act in our lives and in human history in general, then it will be through us that such a manifestation will take place.

We are G-d's Hands. We are the instruments in the higher hands. We choose what to do and what not to do. We choose to reveal light or to extend darkness. We choose whether to build a beautiful world or to create chaos, suffering and pain.

Actions are what count the most. Good actions that build the world, assisting and building one another are the best of the lot. We manifest the Hand of G-d and fulfill the



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universal cycle every time we do something that is right, however great or however small. Action completes the circuit connecting Heaven to Earth.

It is therefore important for us to choose wisely what it is we do and what it is that we do not do. For we and we alone will either bring Heaven down to Earth or cast off the Heavenly guidance and create Hell on Earth.

We are the creators, what we do is what we get; no surprises, no salvations, no miracles. Learn well the Ways of Heaven and do the right things. Reveal the Divine Light or manifest the Fires of Hell; they both reside within us. What we do will be what we get.

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