

Kohelet Thoughts 1

By HaRav Ariel Bar Tzadok

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1 Elul 5769

“Be not rash with your mouth, and let your heart not be hasty to utter a word before G-d, for G-d is in Heaven, and you are on the earth; therefore, let your words be few.” (Kohelet 5:1)

Whether we know it or not we are terribly arrogant in the eyes of Heaven. We always seek to judge Heaven by our own human standards. We

think that G-d should think like we think, want what we want and behave as we think G-d should behave. How many of us see G-d in our own image? How many of us deep in our hearts feel (but G-d forbid never express) that we can indeed run the world better than does Heaven? We forget the wisdom of old.

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, says HaShem. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts [higher] than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)

How many of us still believe the fairy-tale myth that G-d is some kind of grandiose human king with whom we can interact with similar to how would interact with a human monarch? This foolishness is both infantile and insulting to intelligence. The Creator of the universe is no human being. We cannot relate to G-d as a human being. We call G-d a Father and King only to help our minds accept the fact that there really does exist a Higher Authority above us. But there is no literal truth to these symbolic images. Rightfully we should not even refer to G-d as a “He” but rather as “It,” but there never was a Biblical word for “It.”

We are mortal human beings living in a very large and complex universe. We do not understand the ways of the universe, we do not understand the ways of our own planet; we do not even understand the ways of our own bodies. We control nothing, not the universe, not our world, not even our own flesh.

We are part of a very large and complex universe and yet each of us has our place and purpose. This is what one must seek and this is what one must pursue and do. There is no room to bargain or argue with G-d anymore than one can bargain or argue with existence itself. It is time to wake up and see the greater world and perceive one's individual place in it. Only in this will one find one's true purpose, one's true happiness and fulfill one's true destiny. Speak little; do much.

