

Following Torah's “Yellow Brick Road” through the Mind/Soul's “GPS”

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Are our individual paths through life really haphazard, random occurrences, or is there really a plan to it all? How can one really answer a question like this? We can turn to all the religion and philosophy that we want. They might give us nice and comforting words, they might even tell us what to believe. But, in the end, ***what can mere words prove to us about things that can never be proved with words alone?***

We all know that there are good times and bad. There are highs and lows. It may seem strange, but at one time or another, each of us seems to have similar experiences of the same highs, and the same lows. We all seem to experience good times and bad times. It makes me wonder whether or not there is a real pattern, a generic pattern to it all. Are each of us really going through life randomly? Maybe, there really is a time and a purpose for all things under Heaven?

If there really is a pattern for all of us, imagine how great it could be if we could discover such a thing. Imagine having a road map, and “GPS” directions through life, wherein which we could see ahead what lies around every corner, where the traffic jams of life are up ahead on the road, and how we can practically avoid them. Such clairvoyance would enable us to foresee all coming bad times and navigate around them. That wouldn't be too bad, would it?

Well, there really is such a plan through life. We do have a GPS tracker of sorts that has already plotted the way. All we have to do is to pay attention when the “GPS” tells us to “turn right up ahead in one mile.” Our human problem is that we're all making so much noise that we are not paying attention to our inner “GPS.” ***We do not hear, or follow directions, and therefore, we end up getting lost, and often, in trouble.***

In psychology, Carl Jung spoke of there being a teleological direction to psychological individuation. This is fancy psych talk for saying the simple fact that there is something deep inside us that is guiding our lives towards a preordained destiny and fulfillment. This destiny is referred to as the fulfillment of the individual personality, in other words, the finalization of becoming the true and full individual each of us actually is.

So, ***the inner “GPS” is that still, soft, internal voice that tells each individual that this way, or that way, is the right way, for the specific individual, at a specific time, in a specific place, in a specific way.*** Yes, randomness aside, something inside us is definitely calling out to us life's directions. We can call that inner voice, one's higher (or unconscious) self, or one's soul.

Now, here is a challenge. What do we do when the inner silent voice has nothing to say? What do we do then?

How do we know which direction to take? We stand at a crossroads, without any clue whatsoever which way to go. Even logic does not prevail because there is no logical way to ascertain what is right for the circumstance, and the moment.

If I tell you what to do in times like these, I am afraid that you are not going to like it! Granted, most are not going to listen anyway.

The majority will move forward into the unknown, and tempt fate. Some may discover something wonderful, others on the other hand, might find that they have just made the biggest mistake in their lives. So, when logic and intuition both fail us, the leap of faith is what most people chose next. Yet, when most leap, most plummet and crash. The results are most often not very pretty.

Now, here is what I do, and from experience, I have learned this to be the right and proper course. Whenever I stand at a crossroads, with a decision being required of me, and there is no logical or intuitive choice available, ***I do not take a leap in faith. I consider such actions to be dangerous and foolish.*** Rather, I just just down right smack in the middle of the crossroads, and I wait. Regardless of how long my wait may be, or however clogged the crossroads may become.

Until my path is clear, or at least somewhat clear, I wait for Heaven's green light to direct me. I firmly and deeply believe that Heaven knows that I must proceed, and Heaven knows which way is right for me, and until Heaven wishes to direct me, then I conclude that it must be the way of Heaven for me to wait, until Heaven gives me a green light (or at least a yellow light), in order to proceed. Heaven knows how important it is (or is not) for me to walk the path. Heaven knows how much of a hurry I should be in, or not. Therefore, ***I sit back, and patiently wait at life's red light, and I wait for Heaven to point the way.***

I listen for the inner still voice, and until I “hear” it, I stay put, and I do not budge. Never once have I heard Heaven ask me what am I doing? Almost always, I am pressured into making a decision, one way or another. And, I say no! If God wants me to make a decision so badly, then He knows how to get me to make said decision. Yet, ***when both God is silent, and my inner voice is silent, then I too become silent, and I become still.***

Whether or not I move forward is absolutely of no consequence to me. I am here to serve the interests of Heaven, and I do not budge until such a time when I have a sense what it is that Heaven wants of me.

If my “GPS” inner guidance is off, rather than get lost, I decide instead to just stay still. In time, I know that I will move again, yet until that time comes, still, I will remain. Still and silent. I am always listening, always watching, and always ready to learn.

My lesson is echoed in the words of wise King Solomon, who taught us that there is a time, and a purpose, for all things under Heaven. There is a time for noise, and a time for silence, there is a time for movement, and a time for stillness.

Without direction, there can be no proper noise or movement, therefore ***the lack of guidance means, to me, that we are in the period of silence and stillness.*** It is usually in the silence and the stillness that I become more accustomed to hearing the still, soft voice within. Maybe this is why there is no guidance, not because I am not being guided, but rather because the ***guidance is subtler than is my present sensitivities***, and I need to cultivate greater sensitivity. When I accomplish this, my psychic vision expands immensely.

In the final chapters of the Book of Numbers, the Torah recounts the 42 locations that the children of Israel stopped along their way to the Promised Land. Aside from the historical context of this information, many of the Sages have noted that these same 42 stops along the way to the Promised Land symbolize the stages of human growth and development, symbolically called our own personal journey to our own individual Promised Land.

Carl Jung said that there is a teleological direction to psychological individuation. Centuries earlier, the Kabbalah of the Ar'zal, based on Zoharic teachings, taught that human souls revolve in cycles, until their required goals are accomplished. One way or another, the two sources are referring to the same thing.

We are here on Earth for a purpose. There really is a method to all the madness in life. While ***we may not understand much, if anything, nevertheless, it is our job to learn. Life is our school, and we are all just students.***

Many are the lessons for us to learn, many were the stops along the way to the Promised Land. We are all travelers along the way. Torah is our path. God is our goal.

We are all, as the old song says, “Knights in White Satin, never reaching the end.” Yet, worrying about “the end” is not our present concern. Think rather to the old film, “Wizard of Oz.” ***Consider our walk through life as following the Yellow Brick Road.***

While we are not off the see the Wizard, the wonderful Wizard of Oz, we are still on an exciting journey, and it is amazing who we meet along the way, and what lessons we have to learn.

School's in, students, the bell has rung, it's time to get back to class.