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Authentic Torah Spirituality Cultivating Strength . . . Responding to Falsehood The Torah Teachings of HaRav Ariel Bar Tzadok YESHIVAT BENEI NVI'IM P.O. Box 59-700 Chicago, IL. USA Tel. (773) 761-3777 Fax (773) 761-9670 email:rabbi@koshertorah.com



A Message for Misguided Madonna

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(November 10, 2004) Recently self proclaimed "Kabbalist" Madonna has made a public statement calling for the United States government to withdraw its troops from service in Iraq. I cannot read her mind to properly ascertain why she would make such an asinine statement. Yet, from the surface of it, it appears that she is making a statement against the overt use of violence in the war on terrorism, and maybe against war in general. If my insight is correct, then this only proves that Madonna has absolutely no connection to, or understanding whatsoever of, the true and holy Kabbalah enshrined within the Bible and Judaism since their inceptions.

Madonna claims to be a student of the Holy Zohar, one of the foundational written works of authentic Kabbalah. However, judging from her statements and behavior she must not be studying the Zohar all too well. Apparently Madonna has missed all the Zohar's numerous statements that support the concepts, ideas, values and practices of warfare against the forces of evil.

While Madonna is ever so concerned about the suffering of innocent civilians in Iraq, the Zohar states in numerous places that a war against evil must be comprehensive and overall. Many of the so-called innocent civilians "suffering" in Iraq are the sympathizers and supporters of the likes of al-Zarqawi, Bin Ladin and a host of other wanton warlords.

If Madonna wants to be accepted as having any knowledge of Kabbalah whatsoever, then she had better start sitting down and learn a whole lot more about what she claims to embrace. For you see, the Holy Zohar is by no means a book about peace. On the contrary the Zohar is a book about war. It was written in wartime by Rabbi Shimon Bar Yohai who was himself a victim of war. The holy Zohar was actually written as Rabbi Shimon's way of fighting the holy war against the forces of evil.

Everyone knows that religious literature inspires its readers to ideas, and actions far beyond the scope of their individual interests and limitations. By revealing the secrets of the Heavenly realms Rabbi Shimon endeavored for the Zohar to serve as a guide for its students to recognize that the war against evil in which we are embroiled is not one of human design, nor is it limited to fighting here on Earth. The Zohar is emphatic that all wars fought here on Earth are only a human reflection of wars fought in an entirely different dimensional plane that we today call Heaven.

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Indeed, even the analytical psychology of the likes of Carl Jung recognized the relationship between the conflict going on in the minds of men and the external forms of conflict going on between nations and other groups of people. Jung understood the underlying realities of spiritual warfare and endeavored to explain this to modern man using the terminologies of the science of psychology. Interestingly, those who hear the voice of Jung also hear the "inner-voice" of religion, whereas those who are blind to religion also appear not to be able to comprehend Jung. I guess that the closing of one's heart and eyes to certain truths block out those truths no matter what the form those truths are presented in.

Any knowledgeable student of the Zohar recognizes the present day battles in Iraq have much more than mere political significance. Indeed, our war against terrorism and terrorists today is a battle between the spiritual forces of good and evil. While this might come as a surprise to the secular West, it is by no means a surprise to the likes of Bin Ladin, al-Qaeda and the Taliban of Afghanistan. They call themselves Mujahedin, holy warriors fighting what they believe is their good cause for the sake of G-d / Allah.

Indeed, they condemn the secular West as the modern day force of evil. When one looks at the like of Madonna and her immoral behavior and dress, one sees how clearly how she does not follow the edicts of behavior, morality and modesty as outlined in the Zohar and Kabbalah. Bin Ladin and his kind also see this ever so loud and clear. The likes of Madonna only convince the terrorists of the correctness of their way in condemning western culture for producing and tolerating such sacrilegious icons. And, indeed, every time Madonna puts on a show which flaunts Kabbalah / Biblical / Religious definitions of morality and modesty, she proves Bin Ladin and his kind correct over and over again.

Let me say this clearly, Madonna's immoral behavior on stage and in her videos contributes to the causes of terrorism against our society and country. When otherwise moral non-western culture Muslims see the intolerable decadent immoral western world of the "Material Girl" they react in that way that their culture has for centuries taught them to act, with violence. When Muslim boys and girls are growing up seeing Madonna in her immoral presentations, their religious leaders observe the corruption of their youth, and are rightly incensed by it. This is what has inspired fanatic religious Muslims to take up arms against the decadent secular world of the Material Girl.

The Kabbalah and Zohar teach emphatically that we must never tolerate the presence of evil. Evil must be rooted out, exposed and destroyed completely and comprehensively. This is a message our enemies understand all to well. We in turn must root out terrorism wherever it is and in whatever form it manifests. At the same time, however, we must force ourselves to look in the mirror and root out all the psychological causes of terrorism

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within ourselves, those things that so outrage our eastern neighbors to the point of violence.

The major reason why there is violence in the Middle East is not because of the presence of a Jewish State of Israel, but rather because that Jewish State is secular and is responsible for the propagation of secular culture in an otherwise very conservative Arab Middle East. On a day-to-day basis religious Jews never faced any problems from their Arab neighbors because at a spiritual religious level, they always understood one another. How unfortunate that all this has changed now. But just like it changed once, maybe it can change again. This is my hope.

It is also my hope that Madonna, instead of pontificating stupid ideas that contradict morality and common sense, may instead look at herself in the mirror of truth, or better yet, in the teachings of authentic Kabbalah and learn to change her ways and behavior, to repudiate the Material Girl and embrace the morality and modesty of the Zohar and Kabbalah she proclaims to believe. If she were to do this, she would do more for the war against terrorism than many of the battles our brave troops will have to face.

May G-d bless our brave men and women in uniforms who are in harms way. May G-d bless them and protect them and enable them to protect us from those who want to kill us because we allow the likes of Madonna to corrupt their children and ours.

What an upside down world we live in. The Muslims who are endeavoring to uphold religion, and who should be the good guys have become the bad guys, whereas Madonna who has for so long disgraced everything that religion (and the Kabbalah) hold so dear and should be condemned as the bad guy has become the good guy. We really need to straighten out this mess.

Maybe if we all learned the message of correct, authentic, and proper Kabbalah / Religion / Spirituality and learned the true definitions of right and wrong, shared by all sincere Muslims, Jews and Christians, we would be free of both, the political violence inflicted by the likes of Bin Ladin and the moral damage and violence perpetuated by the likes of Madonna.

While I do not believe my words here will be read by Bin Ladin and his kind, maybe they will be read by Madonna or those who can reach her. The war against terrorism is real and we all have to do our individual shares. This means you Madonna!! Stop behaving in such a disgusting way that disgraces yourself, our blessed country, our decent men and women in uniform and most importantly the Holy Kabbalah of which indeed you know nothing about.