

# Shabat Thoughts, Shoftim 5769

## *Elul Contemplations of Teshuva*

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RaMBaM says, "The foundation of all is to know that there is a Primordial Existence."

Science is the examination of this existence.

Religion is the belief of this existence.

Science explores and discovers.

Religion proclaims and believes.

Science comes from the minds of man.

Religion comes from the heart.

Science reaches out.

Religion reaches within.

Science seeks to discover how all is united.

Religion seeks to show how all is united.

Science proclaims that we are just human beings.

Religion proclaims that we are indeed human beings.

Science says we are akin to the animal.

Religion says that we are akin to G-d.

Science looks to the flesh.

Religion looks to the spirit.

We all examine and believe; we all explore and proclaim; we all share mind and heart; we all reach both outside and within; we all know that we are somehow united, even though we may not agree how; we all know that we can ascend to great height in our humanity or to terrible lows in animal-like depravity; we all share the inheritance and nature of both physical desires and deeper emotional and intellectual needs.

We are all human beings, part of our world and part of our universe. We may know where we have been, but we do not yet know where we are going.

We all have such great potential to either use or waste.



Science and religion; we are told that they contradict one another. Maybe, instead, they only view the same reality from two different vantage points. Maybe they are two sides of the same coin. Both seek to see the greater picture. Both seek to know the greater truth. Both seek to know and understand who we are as human beings. Both seek to answer the question, where are we heading.

Conflict for the sake of growth is good. Construction can arise out of destruction.

Conflict for its own sake is never good. Construction cannot arise out of that which is destroyed for no other reasons than hate, prejudice and ignorance.

Two opposites can merge and become one. This is the science of fusion. It happens in nature all the time.

As it is in the world of nature, so too is it inside the hearts and minds of human beings.

We too, through the crucible of fire, can merge together opposites bringing two halves into a whole.

Animals howl at the moon. Human beings wonder about its mystery.

Animals live by their senses. Human beings live by their wits.

Animals seek only to survive for the moment. Human beings seek to survive for eternity.

Science tells us about the animal within. Religion tells us about the human within.

When animal meets human one must dominate.

Religion tells us that the human must dominate, yet in order for this to be, the human must indeed act like one and not like an animal. In this respect, religion has failed miserably.

Religion is supposed to unleash the human within, bringing to the world, peace, harmony, enlightenment and truth. It is not supposed to create strife, conflict, prejudice and hatred.

When religion does its job, then we are free to become truly human. Without this, there is no true religion.

Torah is science and Torah is religion. Torah is our belief, yet it needs to be explored.

Teshuva is our return to G-d and it is our return to being truly human.

Does more really need to be said? Read these words over; I have concealed many truths within them. Ponder them slowly and carefully. What I have written here was given me, specifically for you; at least, this is what I was told to write.

This is Living Torah. It is what makes us living human beings and not dead animals.