

Rebellion Against Tyrants
Is Obedience To G-d

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Puzzles

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The other day I began to put together one of these large 1500 piece puzzles. The task seemed overwhelming at first. The pieces were so small and numerous. So many seemed to fit together, but really didn't. If it wasn't for the picture on the box giving me the idea of what it is I was supposed to be putting together, I would have had no idea how to proceed and what the puzzle was supposed to look like once completed.

Then it dawned on me, life is just like this puzzle, and I am missing many of its pieces. What's more, I don't have the picture of how it's supposed to look once completed. I thought, life cannot be this haphazard and random. Yet, there are many who believe that there is no direction and purpose to life and go through life like builders of puzzles with no clear picture or goal. They force together pieces that are not meant to fit together and as their picture grows we see nothing other than a meaningless monstrosity, which, needless to say, is only a reflection of their own inner bankruptcy and lack of moral compass.

Yes, the puzzles we assemble are reflections of our own minds, thoughts and ideas as to how the puzzle should look when complete. As for me, I recognize a few basic, yet essential, details.

Number one, I did not manufacture the puzzle, I did not create its picture.

Number two, there really is a prefabricated picture which is our guide and purpose, stick with this and everything will flow the way it is meant to. Stray and you create problems.

Number three, although I do not see the big picture, although I do not have or see all the pieces of the puzzle, the puzzle-maker has them all, and is using them all.

And the greatest revelation of them all is, it is not I who is putting the puzzle together, rather it is the puzzle-maker. I am just a piece of His grand puzzle.

Therefore, instead of me intervening to try to put pieces in place that do not belong, instead I merely offer my services to move into place those pieces of the puzzle under my influence into position, as the puzzle-maker directs me.

Now, life makes much more sense. I can see my purpose and my place in it. Although I cannot see the whole puzzle and I certainly do not have all the pieces to complete the grand picture, I can recognize my place in the grand scheme and fit into the puzzle in that place and in that way that I was prefabricated to be.

Recently one of the greatest scientists of our times, Prof. Stephen Hawking of Cambridge University in England boldly proclaimed that there is no afterlife. He said that when we die, it is similar to turning off a computer. Now, the good professor is of course entitled to his opinions. However, due to his stature in the scientific community, his opinion is elevated far beyond being his personal belief and is embraced as if it were some kind of truthful revelation discovered in accordance to scientific principles. Needless to say, this is certainly not true.

Here we are, all of us, living on this small little planet, orbiting a rather insignificant little star in the peripheral of what appears to be one of numerous galaxies that make up the known universe. Scientists now believe that our universe is not the only universe and that there are numerous other universes similar to ours that together they now call the multiverse. The size and scope of existence therefore is beyond what the human mind can imagine, all the more so measure.

In light of this grandiosity, Professor Hawking's views on the reality of the absolute whole, a whole that not even he can imagine or measure, has no significance, no being, and certainly no substance of reality. As brilliant a human being as he may be, he cannot see the big picture of existence. While he may try to put the pieces of the puzzle that he has together and from them try to guess what the big picture looks like, he is still missing far too many pieces to even try to guess what the whole may possibly look like. While the good professor is entitled to his opinion and to express it, still, honesty individuals must take his words as what they are, personal ideas and views, and not as words of science.

We all must learn one great lesson in life and that is no one knows everything!

Each individual knows something that another does not.

Just because someone has read a lot of books does not make such a one smart.

Book smarts and day-to-day wisdom are totally different things and often contradict one another.

One learns about theory from books.

One learns about life from living.

The other day I purchased a chain saw. I have never owned one before, although I have used one from time to time. Now, I could have gone online and read all the advice there is for learning how to properly and safely operate this machine. However, I had a better idea. I simply asked my buddy, who has owned and operated his own chain saw for decades to come over and give me some pointers. After "learning the ropes" from him, I could handle the saw like a pro. But, what he showed me was not written in the books. What he showed me was real-life experience and hands-on training. Although my buddy looks up to me as being his teacher, in this respect, he was mine. Like I said, we each have something to learn from another.

No one knows it all, not the super-smart scientists, and not the holy and pious religious leaders. We all have what to offer and we all have what to learn. Long ago, a wise Sage summed it up nicely. He said, "who is truly wise? The one who willingly learns from everyone."

In our society, knowledge is considered a valuable commodity. People pay high prices for information and the pieces of paper that certify that you have received such information. How much does a college degree cost these days? Yet, a college education may or may not prepare you for a job, but it certainly does not prepare you to live a real life in the harsh real world. While I am not against going to college, nevertheless, I do not believe that it is a path meant for everyone. Some information and knowledge can only be learned in other ways than those taught in college.

Life is a long road, it is a big and complicated puzzle. No one has all the pieces. No one has the complete road-map to guide us from birth through death. However, we do have something that can advise us and help us in making decisions. These are the words of wisdom and life experiences of those who came before us. This is why books like the Bible are so attractive. They contain so much wealth about real life and real living and how we, as mortal and frail human beings, can make the best of who we are and of what we have.

When studying the Bible, do not make great acquisitions of knowledge your goal. No one cares how much of the Bible you read or for that matter how deeply you understand its lessons. For even at its surface level, the Bible offers simple and plain wisdom that can transform one's very being. While the Bible does not dictate to us every answer for every question in life, it still can inspire us, guide us and shine light along our path.

The only commentary one needs when it comes to the study of the Bible is an open heart and an open mind. When the heart and mind are both open to Heaven, one can only then begin to glimpse a gaze at a picture bigger than what we presently imagine. While we may never see the whole, we can expand our vision to embrace a greater scope of reality. By doing so, we make our lives better, more enriched and more fulfilled. This alone, in my opinion, is good motivation to get people to **open their Bibles and to read it until the words jump out off the page and into your hearts**. From my experience, this should not take too long.

Forget about what the big picture looks like. Focus on your little picture, the things of importance before you now, your own personal life and what you can do to make it better for yourself and your loved ones. Fulfillment in life comes about through action, not through study. Now, don't go out and throw all your books away, just remember that they too have their place. Just remember that such a place is in the back-seat, with you in front in the drivers seat.