

The Unseen and Its Influence

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Life is harsh and difficult, and we all know it! And there doesn't seem to be much that we can do about it. But, maybe I can offer some advice about how to deal with all the garbage, especially when the garbage keeps piling up.

Just remember this great rule, what you allow to be important to you will define for you your world. If we are surrounded by garbage, it is usually because we ourselves are the ones who accumulated it in the first place. What we consider important may very well be nothing but garbage.

The things that we believe, even our most cherished world outlooks, are fundamentally flawed. And why? Because human knowledge and understanding is, by nature, limited and mortal. As long as we exist in mortality, we will forever be handicapped in what we can discover, and thus, what we can know.

Is the world around us really the way we perceive it to be? Even according to modern science, it defined is not! What the eye sees and what the ear hears has been scientifically shown to be as flawed, and limited, as is our human mortality. Essentially, sensory perceptions alone do not enable us to experience the world as it really is.

What we know, and what we think we know, is so sorely limited and skewed that it is an embarrassment to intelligence to claim that we really know and/or understanding anything beyond the its most superficial level.

The Sages of old have always known that what we see, and what really is, are two different things. No, they are not totally different and unrelated, for the deepest meanings of a thing are always reflected upon its surface (ayn mikra yotzei m'pshuto). Yet, as to the actual nature of the relationship between the hidden deep and the visible surface, who can know for sure?

We can speculate about reality all we wish. We can proclaim true whatever it is that we want to believe is true. Yet, in the end, all any of us ever have is just our beliefs of what is real, and not what is itself real. With limited human perceptions, once we have reached our finite depths of understanding, beyond which we cannot fathom, we cannot know, and we cannot see anything beyond.

As long as we remain human beings we will always be faced with an ever expanding brick wall of finite limitations. As to what lies on the other side of that wall, we may

never know. Thus, we acknowledge the relationship between the superficial and the deep, and we equally acknowledge that we will never understand how deep the depths can be.

There are patterns in nature, only the simplest of which are understood by science. We live in a multiverse of parallel dimensions and alternate realities. Science knows this, but knows so little about it. None of this would matter, or be of importance to us, unless it was directly relevant.

How relevant to us is the unknown? How much of what is unseen around us bears any influence or importance on our daily lives? The answer is most unsettling. The unknown controls the known like a puppet on a string. What is unseen exerts a powerful, if not inescapable influence, over even our smallest and most insignificant circumstances.

Control, we seek to find it and maintain it at the center of our lives. But control is an illusion! The truth be told, we are not in control of anything beyond the superficial, and we can never control what happens to us at any instant. No one can say what will happen five minutes from now. Ultimately, there is no guarantee of security, not in wealth, not in strength, and not even in piety. Whatever that is tangible, and that we rely upon, has the potential to fail us.

Reality is a subjective, self-made construct. What we believe is real is only real because we believe it to be real. Granted, we may not be able to control what happens to us, we may not be able to control our circumstances. Nevertheless, we are in total control of how we respond to things, and how we interpret them.

We can interpret anything to be either good or bad, to be either a blessing or a curse. It is all a matter of attitude. Sometimes the poverty of the poor is a blessing. Sometimes the wealth of the rich is a curse. Sometimes the strength of the healthy is a curse. Sometimes the weakness of the ill is a blessing. Sometimes it is a blessing to be single. Sometimes it is a curse to be married. We all know circumstances and times when all of these things are true, however contrary they may be to the accepted norm. This is my point, it does not matter **what is**, rather what matters is **how** one perceives and interprets what is.

Whatever it is that we see is limited by human sight and mortal insight. We do not see, nor do we do not know the big picture. We cannot and we do not understand anything fully and properly. Therefore, there is a lot of room for flexibility with regards to how we interpret even our most sacred and cherished beliefs. This is true of the circumstances in our personal lives, and this is equally true with our most dear and close religious convictions, and outlooks.

You open up a story in the middle, and start reading. Immediately, you seek to understand. Yet, what can you really understand about the story from this point forward, unless you already know what has already transpired in the past?

Every story in the middle is incomplete. We must know the full story in order to understand the full story. Otherwise, half knowledge leads to half truths, and half truths lead to full and complete mistakes.

Know and understand the limitations of what we believe to be true, but is not true, simply because we do not know the whole story.

What I offer here will not magically make anything better. However, if we can change an attitude about how we look at things, we may be able to transform obstacles into opportunities.

We embrace so much garbage, and then complain about the clutter. Who do we really have to blame, other than ourselves? Getting rid of garbage sounds easy, but in truth, is very hard. Try casting off old beliefs, and see how much resistance arises. Yet, the only way to get rid of the clutter is to throw away the garbage.

Once the trash has been removed, and the clutter taken away, we will again acquire the opportunity to gaze into the depths and ponder what is within. Keep the glass clear of garbage and clutter and it becomes a lot easier to gaze within.

It takes time to learn how to see, but we can do it. If life is harsh and difficult, it is so for very good reason. Your reasons are not the same as mine. I go through my life, and you go through yours. Clear the clutter, remove the garbage and see the difference that it makes.

The unseen controls all that is seen. Remove the garbage and begin to see clearly. In this way, the influence of the unseen can at least be recognized. Every journey begins with a first step. You're invited to take yours now.