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Daily Thoughts

Words of Wisdom and Inspiration

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November 2016

Standing at the Head

Once upon a time,
long ago in the garden...

A youngest daughter
was aroused to ascend on high
and to take her place
at the head of the table
instead of at its feet.

She ascended through
the Garden
into the domains
of her siblings,
and even her parents.
She confronted those
who she felt needed
to be confronted,
and otherwise dealt with
all others in accordance
to her will, and desire,
to become that which
she always dreamed
that she would become.

She struggled, she fought,
she persevered,
and she finally accomplished
all that she set out
to accomplish.

But now,
in her state of accomplishment,
the youngest daughter,
the youngest sister,
who had matured to become
both Queen, and Empress
realized that what was
accomplished in the end,
was shockingly different
from what was perceived
in the beginning.

In the beginning,
a youngest sister, and daughter
set out to become that
which she was not.

In the end, here in the crown
of the Garden,
she stands before
her Old Man,
the One who began the Garden,
the One whose Garden, it is,
the One whose image
permeates all in the Garden.
She stands before him,
not as a younger,
but now as an equal.

She gazes into his
old wise eyes,
she stares at his
comforting, loving wise smile.
Staring into his face,
beneath his long white beard,
and wild white hair,
she sees his true face,
and what a face it is!

His face is soft, and hard,
tough, and smooth,
young, and old.
She sees it!
She knows it!
But still, disbelief tugs
at the hems of her consciousness,
asking her for clarity,
and meaning.

His face is her face,
and her face is his face!
How is this?
How can this be?
And then the Old Man
began to speak,
but as he spoke,
she discovered
it was her own lips moving.
The words coming forth
from his mouth were
also coming forth from her own,
at the same time,
and in the same way.

Was she the Old Man?
Was the Old Man really her?

This state of confusion
would have crushed the mind
of any less a soul,
but the now Empress
stood before her own
alter-image
and she knew,
and she understood.
What was in the beginning,
and what is in the end
are always united.
They are always one.
For the path is never one-way.
The path is always a circle,
and a spiral.

One goes through
many different domains
throughout the Garden,
but they are all still part
of the One, True, Whole Garden.
Singularity, wholeness,
unity of apparent differences.
The Empress could see it now,
and she understood.

In the beginning,
there was a Garden
with a youngest of siblings
at its foot.
Yet, as its foot,
she too was its head,
but because she looked
only in one way,
all she saw was one direction.
She saw a straight line,
and did not realize
that it was all part
of the never-ending circle
of life.

November 2, 2016

God created both Light and Darkness, and therefore, God can be found in both of them. Indeed, God can be found anywhere, by anyone. All one has to do is to look! Yes, there are many things that block, and cloud one's vision. So, remove all the junk! Clear out your mind, your heart, and your body. God is not far away. With this being said, let us remember that no one is God's policeman. No one on Earth speaks for God. No one on Earth has the right (or authority) to act for God. Anyone who believes otherwise is terribly deluded (and possibly dangerous). God is all-powerful. God can act by "Himself." God does not need you or me to act for Him. If God does not like this or that person, or this or that group, then let the All-Mighty unleash one of His Thunderbolts from Heaven, to express His Divine displeasure. Short of this, we human beings have no right to throw thunderbolts in God's place. To do so is arrogance, and possibly even blasphemy. Live and let live. Respect. Honor. And come to see God where He is. And, where is this? Like we said, everywhere. Experience the Unity (sod ha'yihud).

Daily Thought for Nov. 4, 2016

Let the truth be told!
There is no proof that God exists!
There is also no way to prove whether or not God exists.
Proof is based on perception, and both are in the eye of the beholder.
As long as one person's proof is another person's nonsense,
there will never be total consensus,
and thus there will never be objective proof.
According to legend, when God "Himself" spoke at Mt Sinai,
some claimed all that they heard was thunder.
If God's own Voice is not convincing, then nothing is!
So be it! So let it be!
Proof of God is not the pursuit, or interest of science.
Whether God is, or is not, is a matter of faith.
Faith is a matter of the heart,
whereas science is a matter of the intellect.
Never confuse what is real internally,
with what is real externally.
Both are real, each in their own way.
Proof belongs to external things.
Faith belongs to internal things.
Both are real, each in their own way.
Truth itself is often a matter of opinion,
and so also is faith.

Do you believe in ancient aliens?
Do you believe in ancient humans?
Do you believe that we know all that there is to know?
Do you believe everything that you are told?

Do you have courage to be different?
Do you have courage to seek your own answers?
Do you want to know the truth?

Or maybe I should ask, do you care?
Do you care about any of these things?
Do you care about anything
not immediately connected to your personal life?

Are you curious?
Are you willing to invest time, effort, and energy
into discovering things that are presently hidden?
Are you willing to challenge?
Are you willing to think for yourself?
This, of course, may be the hardest question to answer,
and the hardest thing to do!

Before you ask questions about God and religion,
why not stay focused, and first ask questions
about yourself, and then about all of us,
the human race.

Ancient aliens? Ancient humans?
Were they real? Are they real?
Does any of this matter to me?
And if it is supposed to matter to me,
why?

Now, I have asked the questions.
You can now answer them.
If you are curious, interested or compelled
to find the answers,
then welcome to KosherTorah.
We will walk together, hand in hand,
as we explore the unknown,
and cast light into darkness.

Just be forewarned,

once the lights are turned on,
you won't be able to forget what you see in the light.
Once awake, we do not go back to sleep.

(11/8/16)

The astrologers got it wrong!
The shamans got it wrong!
It was the Kabbalists that got it right!

They knew all along who would win.
They “worked” to make it happen.

Some gazed into the Torah
and could read the white spaces
between the black letters.
Some saw debate, and conflict
among “higher powers”
and intervened, as is their right.

In the end, the cry of the silent majority was heard.
The United States has elected its new President.

It is only right and proper to congratulate the winner,
President-Elect, Mr. Donald J. Trump,
and to pledge a citizen's loyal support.

As is proper according to Torah,
I send my congratulations, and blessings
to our President-Elect and assure him,
that “the Hand of Heaven” is upon him
to guide him, and protect him.

There is always a “Kabbalist”
directed by Heaven to serve
as psychic/spiritual guardian over our elected leaders.
Our new President, unbeknownst,
will surely benefit from this spiritual protection.

And now, unlike in the past, positive changes are coming.
Change may be hard, or it may be easy.
It all depends upon how a person is willing
“to bend like a reed in the wind.”

It is now time for us
to pray for, and to work for
healing, and unity.

Shalom,
Ariel Tzadok, KosherTorah School

Sage or Prophet, Part 1

It is said that a Sage is preferable to a Prophet.
But how can this be?
Does not a Prophet speak to God?
Does not a Sage only speak with his/her inner Self?
How can one's dialogue with one's inner Self
be preferable to a dialogue with God?

Do you see the subtleties in this question?
Do you see a difference, and distinction
which, in reality, does not exist?
What is the relationship between
one's inner/Higher Self,
and one's inner perception of God?
Before this question is answered,
we must first understand something
about the true nature of God.

God is not like you or me.
God is not like anything that we can imagine.
There is no way that we can accurately describe God.
There is no form in thought, heart, or action
that can represent the true essence of the Most Unknowable.
God is, and forever will remain, a mystery,
even to the highest beings in the universe.

With this being said, understand and know,
that all communications with God
cannot come directly into the finite,
and fragile conscious human mind.
No conscious human being can handle the influx.
This is why we have a higher Self
that resides in a realm unconscious to us.
It is in this place connected to us,
but yet, unknown to us,
that the Higher Forces of that domain
can communicate with its own like-kind,
our higher/unconscious Self.
In religion, we call this part of us,
our souls (neshamot).
The soul is not an isolated thing.
The soul is only a single branch
of a much larger, and wider Tree.

Sage or Prophet, Part 2

Now, let us understand the Sage.
The Sage is one who knows the presence
of his/her inner Higher, unconscious Self,
and communes with it on a regular basis.
As such, the Sage has access to the higher domains
through his/her higher Self.

Through his/her higher Self,
the mind of the Sage can become aware of,
and in tune with, the many other soul branches
of the Supernal Tree,
and know their thoughts, as his/her own.
This is how psychic abilities are possible.

This may not be true of the Prophet.
For the prophet meditates,
and waits for his/her higher Self
to make contact with the lower self.
This may, or may not occur.

The Sage, on the other hand,
waits for no one, or no thing.
He/She delves into the unconscious,
also through meditation,
and ascends through the paths known to him/her,
and stands before one's inner, Higher Self.
In this place the Sage can see with the eye of wisdom
that which the Prophet may also know,
but cannot see at will,
unless what is above first shows it to him.

The prophet is passive to Above.
The Sage is active.
And in this world of action, and movement,
Activity plays a great role,
and dominates passivity.
Although the two are one,
the one defines the movement
of the wheel of life, and flow of consciousness.
Thus the active path of the Sage
is preferable to the passive path of the Prophet.

Herein I have revealed with one hand,
and concealed with the other.
Pay attention! Contemplate these ideas!
Understand the secrets of our own inner workings
and you will understand the secrets of Heaven and Earth.

In times of uncertainty, and insecurity,
it is always a good thing
to turn to spiritual guidance for comfort.
It doesn't matter what religion one embraces,
it doesn't matter what one's spiritual tradition is.
What matters is that across the board,
the message is the same!
Trust in your Higher Power!
As bad as things look,
things never have to become as bad as we think.

What we think, and what we fear
can themselves often materialize our worst fears.
Our own thoughts can be our worst enemy,
or our best friend.
It all depends upon what thoughts we chose to entertain.
The secret to avoiding our worst fears
is simply not to dwell on them.
Even in the worst of times,
there can be a "silver lining,"
for those who look for it.
Trust in your Higher Power!
As bad as things look,
things never have to become as bad as we think.

Create in your minds
an envelope of light, and Divine protection.
Visualize yourself cocooned in this light.
Then visualize projecting this light out, and around you.
Visualize the light protecting you, and your loved ones.
Visualize the light protecting that which you care about.
Visualize the light as the manifestation of your Higher Power.

None of us are ever in control
of what happens in the world.
Life is always a combination of ups and downs,
good times, and bad times.
Yet, while we cannot control what happens to us,
we can always control how we chose
to respond to what happens to us.
Create a positive mental image,
and let it fill your consciousness, and your life.
Project what's positive,

and let the positive guide you through these dark times.
Trust in your Higher Power!

11/12/16

Are you so sure that you can tell the difference
between what you imagine to be real,
and what is actually real?

I think that almost everyone is convinced
that what they think is real, is actually real.
Yet, as time goes by, we often find that
what we thought was real, actually was not!
But who is willing to admit that he/she was wrong?

In all meditative traditions there is a practice
which, for right now, we can all, Observation.

It works like this:

One should imagine in one's mind
the idea, or the scenario about which
one wishes to better understand.
Visualize it, and then visualize yourself
standing outside of it, like an Observer,
watching it from the outside.

Make believe that the person in the situation is not you,
but someone else, detached, and maybe even unknown to you.
How then do you see a stranger
doing what you yourself may be doing?

Take a step back from your emotional involvement
and try to watch as an Observer, a make-believe Outsider.
Try to see things in a different, more detached light.
Try to have the courage to admit what your mind can see,
but maybe your heart does not want to accept.

Another interesting visualization,
if you wish to attempt it,
is to try to engage your make-believe Observer
in a conversation.

Have a dialogue going on inside your mind,
between the real you, and the imaged Observer.
You may be very surprised to see
how such inner dialogues progress.
They can be very revealing!

Have courage about your present, and your future.
Things do not have to be that bad!
Think positively, and attract to yourself positivity!
Getting real begins with

getting rid of our personal negativity.
Your outlook can very much control what you see.
Look for the positive, and you will see it!
This is the best way to turn a good imagination
into a good reality.

11/13/16

Oral Torah: You can't understand the Written Torah without it!

So many commandments are given in the Torah without any definition of their parameters, or any explanation of how they were to be carried out. How were the Biblical Israelites supposed to know what to do, and how to do it?

The answer to his is rather simple. As we believe, Moses instituted the Laws. When Moses instructed the Biblical Israelites they had many questions with regards to the actual details of how things were meant to be done. How was one supposed to observe the Sabbath. How was one supposed to bind the word of God to one's hand?

The people asked Moses to elaborate the details. Those details were explained, but there was no mandate from Heaven for these details to be committed to writing. The details were handed down as oral tradition from one generation to another. This is how Oral Torah was born.

Centuries after Sinai the Babylonian exile shook the foundations of the Israelite nation, and the traditions of Torah. Many original details were lost in time, but not all of them! Many of the ancient oral teachings about what the Written Torah actually means have never been lost. Indeed, over the centuries, these too were committed to writing. We find them throughout the numerous texts of the Teacher Sages of Israel, the Hakhamim (Rabbis).

It has always been known that Torah speaks in the language of human beings. The Torah, therefore, spoke in subjective, cultural terms. Without understanding what these foundational concepts are, all the written Torah is subject to gross misunderstanding.

Today, many read the Torah and Bible in translation.

But by not having a relationship with the Sages of Israel to explain to them the handed-down oral teachings so many who read the words of the Bible misunderstand its original intent, and meanings. This is how incorrect conclusions arise.

This is why so many today argue about what they think the Bible teaches, when in fact, it may not be teaching anything similar to how people interpret it in translation. Without the Oral Torah, the Written Torah is almost meaningless.

11/14/16

How does one live by Torah?
This question has many answers.
There are many ways to live by Torah,
just as there are many peoples
of many different walks of life.
How to live by Torah depends upon
who one is, and where one is at.

There is no one right way.
The Way of Torah is a road
that is both wide, and narrow at the same time.
We call this Way, the Halakha.
Halakha is the Way to go,
it is the path we follow,
the road upon which we walk.

What is the Halakha?
Again, this is a question with many answers.
Answers depend upon who is asking the question.
The Halakha for one individual, or community,
may very well be different
than the Halakha for another.
Then again, all Halakha is built upon
the same foundation of common denominators.

At its root, all Halakha emanates from Torah,
be it the Written, be it the Oral.
From this trunk of the Tree,
branches spread out in all directions,
right, left, up, and down.
Some branches are long and thin,
others are thick and short.
But all branches are rooted in the Mighty Tree.
This connection to the source is called Mesorah.

When there is Mesorah, there is Halakha.
Then again, when there is no Mesorah,
there is no Halakha.
One cannot simply decide a path for oneself
and declare it to be Halakha.
One's Halakha must be firmly rooted in the Tree,
and the path of the branch must be visible
and clear from the tree-trunk.

How can one know
what Halakha is the right one?
Being that the paths are many,
it is easy to become confused.
To know what Halakha is right for the individual
that individual must learn from the Sage.

The Sage is called the Hakham,
the person of wisdom.
The Sage must know Halakha,
both as it is written, and how what is written
is to be properly applied
to one's specific and unique circumstances.
Knowing Halakha written in a book
does not make one a Hakham.
One must know the Living Force
that flows through Halakha,
and how the words on the book's page
come alive through one's masterful understanding
of the Mesorah, and the unique circumstances
to which the Mesorah and Halakha are to be applied.

Walking the Way is not hard.
Yet, one must first find
one's right, and proper Way.
Walking the Way of another will always be hard.
One does not belong on the another's path.
Finding the right Halakha begins with the book,
and ends in the heart.
One must know both, the beginning and the end,
in order for the circle to be complete.

11/15/16

PROGRESS. It's only natural. But nature always proceed one little step at a time. Be patient. Watch your step. Build one brick at a time. You are already making progress, keep up the good work! Remember God (Elohim) is found in nature (HaTeva), therefore natural progress is what we call Berakha (a blessing). Yes, you are blessed!

11/15/16

The Many Faces, 1
Genesis

All religious people believe in common
that there is the Word of God,
and that there is the word of man.
One is sacred, and revered.
The other may also be held in esteem,
but, according to the believers,
it does not hold the same authority as the first.

The Word of God,
be it found in my religion, or any other,
can often be subject to multiple interpretations.
But what happens when we confuse
the word of man for the Word of God?
What happens when we confuse
the interpretations of the Word of God
for the Word of God itself?
What happens when we elevate human thought
to the level of Divine ordinance?

When the word of man is mistaken to be the Word of God,
we create a tremendous amount of problems for ourselves.
When one individual proclaims one interpretation as God's Word,
and another individual proclaims a different interpretation as God's Word,
we have inevitable conflict.
It is not God's Word that creates conflict, but rather
it is man-made interpretations of God's Word,
and the intolerance of other equally valid interpretations
that lead to strife, hatred, and even violence.

There are interpretations, and then there are interpretations.
How is one to know the difference between
the interpretation that should be embraced,
and the many interpretations that can be ignored,
if one chooses to do so?
This decision is decided upon by groups of people.
Each group embraces its own interpretation.
Each group then develops its embraced interpretation,
embellishes it, and adds to it.
In the end, the group which embraces an interpretation
has become a sect, a denomination,
and in some cases, a brand new religion.

All of this comes forth from human attempts
to interpret what is accepted as God's Word.

Backwards or forwards . . . which way do you look?
Clockwise or counter-clockwise . . . which way do you turn?
Create or destroy . . . build up or break down . . . which do you do?
Life is all about choices.
Choices are all about perceptions.
What you think defines for you what you perceive.
What you perceive defines for you what you see.
What you see influences what you feel.
What you feel influences what you do.
Life is all about perception.
What you chose to see will define for you everything else.
Gaze upon the negative, and your world-outlook will be negative.
It really is simply a matter of choice.
You can change the world simply by changing the way you look at it.

It's very hard to teach real prophetic (psychic-oriented) meditation. How can I teach someone to cling to the new, all the while that one refuses to let go of the old? Carrying around old baggage is very heavy, time consuming, and wasted effort. Why don't people let go of that which they know does not help them, and reach out and grab that which they know will help them? As much as I understand psychology, and human nature, resistance to positive change is still something of a mystery to me. Oh well...

11/16/16

The Many Faces, 2
Torah

The Torah is multi-faceted.
The Torah can, and is, interpreted in many ways.
Throughout the centuries
numerous Sages have interpreted the Torah in numerous ways.
Yet, all these Sages, and all these interpretations
have one thing in common:
none of them claim to be the only one, and true interpretation.
None of them declare themselves to be the Word of God.
Thus, in the Torah path,
there are many interpretations,
some even contradict one another.
Yet, not one of them can ever say:
“this one is right, and that one is wrong.”
Rather, we say this: “This and that are from the Living God.”
(elu v'elu divrei Elohim Hayim).

Because the Torah path clearly distinguishes
between the Word of God, and the human words of Sages,
there has developed the spirit of respect, tolerance, and comradery
among the Sages of Torah.
For each Sage knows that his/her opinion may (or may not be)
equally as good as his/her fellow Sage.
This is why the Sages cultivate discussion, dialogue and debate.
Let each opinion be expressed, let each opinion be discussed,
let each opinion be debated.
Search out its merits, and demerits.
Decide with deliberation, wisdom and understanding,
which interpretations make sense, and sound good,
and which do not.
Embrace that which the majority sees as good.
As for the rest, record for the future,
why those interpretations, and opinions were not embraced,
so that future generations do not need to repeat old arguments.
This is the Way of Torah, the Way of the Sages.

There is the Word of God,
and there there is the interpretations of the Word of God
in human hands.
Knowing the difference between the two
and embracing the difference
leads to the avoidance of strife, conflict, and hatred.

When your interpretation is equally as good as mine,
then we both respect one another,
regardless of our differences.
This is the Way of Torah, the Way of God,
and must always be the Way of Humanity.

11/17/16

How many of us understand that
perception of a thing defines for us that thing.
There are so many out there suffering from chaos,
without realizing that they themselves are
the creators of chaos.
Yes, things may be bad, but then again
maybe they're not so bad!
Perspective defines reality in our "quantum" world!
Don't believe everything you read, and see.
Choose cautiously when deciding what to believe.
You do have a choice,
and the world needs everyone of us
to shift our outlook, and perspective,
from a negative one, to a positive one.
If you do not like the chaos,
then do not contribute to it.
You do have the power! Use it.
Share this message.

11/17/16

The Sabbath is a day of rest.
Work is forbidden on the Sabbath,
but not all work.
Only creative activity (Melakha) is forbidden.
The laws of ritual Sabbath observance
are technical, and involved.
The laws from the Bible are numerous enough,
but the Sages sought to protect
both the Torah, and the people,
and created all kinds of safeguards around the laws
to make sure that Sabbath observance
would be complete, and without doubt.

In recent times,
the clear line between the laws of Torah (d'oraita),
and the laws of Sages (d'rabanana)
has become blurred, and confused.
This has led some to take advantage of the situation
and to impose restrictions, and rituals for the Sabbath
that not even the Rabbinic Sages ever thought of.
This is wrong!
The Sages of old were wise,
the Sages of today are not!

The Sabbath is foremost a day of rest.
Rest! Relax! Unwind! Chill out!
This is the essence of the Sabbath.
Remember that you are part of the natural world,
like everything else in nature,
you need your rest.
On Sabbath take it! (in remembrance of creation).

Remember, you are a free, independent,
and responsible human being.
Stop playing "follow the leader"
and seeking to fit in to a definition of Sabbath observance
that has nothing to do with rest, (in remembrance of exodus).

On Sabbath, we do not conduct business.
Business is forbidden on the Sabbath.
Why then do so many wear business suits on the Sabbath day?
If business is forbidden on the Sabbath,
then so too must be the clothes associated with business.
Wearing business suits on the day of rest

contradicts rest itself.
Who rests in a business suit?
Do not be persuaded by contrary arguments!
Ignore such arguments and the ones who present them.
They are part of the problem, not part of the cure.

On the Sabbath, rest!
Wear restful clothing. Wear relaxed clothing.
Wear sneakers, not shoes! Relax!
On the Sabbath, rest!
Stop being so rigid,
stop creating for yourself added stress.
Use disposal plates to eat on,
forget about doing the dishes once Sabbath ends.
Why create for yourself unnecessary work!

It's OK to sleep in, enjoy your well-deserved rest.
If you go to synagogue,
it will still be there once you arrive.
Don't worry about the full load of all the voluminous prayers.
It is better to pray a little with true devotion
that to pray a lot, and not mean it at all.

On the Sabbath day,
celebrate yourself, and your independence.
God is in the Sabbath, and Sabbath is in you.
Unleash your inner Sabbath,
and you will discover the light of God
shining out of your heart.

Free yourself from the shackles
that others impose upon you.
Observe the Sabbath,
with all its lawful details,
and throw away, and ignore
all the unnecessary nonsense
that some use to ensnare your minds!

Proclaim your personal freedom.
Enjoy your Sabbath day!

11/18/16

In the Torah Way,
the new day begins at nightfall.
Night is the time to rest.
To begin the day with rest
is a really good idea.
Once properly rested,
we rise and go to work.
We first prepare to do productive work,
and only then do we do it.

Rest is not just for the body,
it must also be for the mind.
Sorry, but drugs and alcohol
do not bring true rest.
All these do is repress our unrest,
and push it down out of awareness.
Not good!

Drugs and alcohol hurt you.
You only tolerate them because
you feel like you have no choice.
After all if one cannot find true rest,
then repressing unrest is the next best thing.
But repression cannot go on forever.
To everything there are consequences.

As we begin a new week.
Seek to begin with true rest.
Unwind! Relax! Chill out!
Relax your mind, and your body.
Take care of yourself,
after all, if you don't take care of yourself,
who will?
And if not now, then when?

11/19/16

According to legend,
a long long time ago
before the Bible began,
there were other human beings
who walked the Earth
long before we came along.

They were different from us.
They looked like us, in most ways,
but they did not think like us.
Their brains had developed
differently from ours.
They saw the world
very differently than do we.

In Bible speak,
these pre-Adamic humans
did not eat of the fruit
from the Forbidden Tree.
For them, there was no need
to forbid the fruit.
For them, their eyes would not have opened,
for them, they would not have become like God.
They were who they were.
They lived when they lived.

According to ancient legend,
their civilization was very advanced,
nevertheless, when the Flood came,
they did not survive.
Although some legends say
that a remnant of their number
did escape, to the stars.
And since those days,
many thousands of years ago,
they have been looking in
on the new race that has become dominant,
us, and guide us, in their own way.

Some say, that they are known to us
as the Ishim, the lowest level of those
whom we call angels.
Maybe the ancient aliens,
are really the ancient us.

At least, so do many legends teach.

So much truth
gets lost with time.
So much truth
gets buried under mountains
of conjecture, and fantasy.
How is the truth to be found?
This is a good question,
at present, without a good answer.

In the mean time,
we learn, we explore,
we discover, we ask new questions,
and then we wait.

There is a plan.
There is a time line.
There is a schedule.
And everything is proceeding as it must.
Future revelations will be very exciting.

Perception is everything!
If I say one thing,
yet, what I say is interpreted
to mean something that I did not say,
then there is reaction to an interpretation.
Such a reaction, such a response
addresses things that I did not address,
and comments upon things that I did not say.
And yet, perception is everything.

I am told, that by saying "this,"
it is clearly understood that I mean "that."
But to whom is this so clearly understood?
Misunderstanding what I say
is not clear understanding.
On the contrary, it is the opposite!
What I say is what I say!
Do not read into it!
Do not interpret it!
Do not tell me that I said what I did not say.

If you see meanings in my words
that I did not say outright,
then those meanings come from your own mind,
not mine!
What you interpret is what you perceive.
What you perceive is not what I perceive.
We see things differently!
But at least I strive to understand you!
I try to see things as you do.
I may agree or disagree with you,
but at least I will understand you.
You must do the same
if you wish to understand me!
See me for who, and what I am,
and not through your clouded vision,
and prejudicial eye!

How many of us gaze out upon the world,
and actually see what is really out there to see?
How many gaze out upon the world,
and see only what they want to see?
How many gaze out, and yet wear strongly tinted lenses
over their inner eyes that distort everything that they see?

How many wear tinted lenses over their hearts and minds,
and are totally oblivious to doing so?
How many expect the world to conform
to their own images of it?
And we ask why we all have so many troubles.

Our Sages of old gave us wise advice.
Do not judge another until you stand in that one's shoes!
First make every effort to understand where the other
is coming from, and why they say what they say.
Understand the other from the others own point of view,
and then decide if you agree, or disagree,
and to what extent.
Perception is everything. Knowledge is power!
Ignorance and prejudice, along with tinted lenses
over the heart and mind have no value,
and hurt the ones who embrace them.

Seek to see clearly, and to understand with wisdom.
In Kabbalah this is called removing the shells (klipot),
and the sweetening of judgments (mituk ha'dinim).

Chaos and order are only perceptions.
What you chose to see is what you get.
No surprises!
Change how you think,
and what you see will change with it.
Remember, "this too is for good,"
is not wishful thinking,
rather it is a choice
that reveals the good in all.
Think, then do!

11/21/16

Even if I reveal to you
a profound secret,
how will you know
if it is the truth, or not?
Different peoples
all believe different things.
Just because you
believe something is true,
does not make it true.
Then again,
just because you
think something is not true,
does not make it false.
When you can tell the difference
between truth and falsehood,
only then will you be ready
to receive the hidden secrets.
Remember this,
we all ate from the forbidden fruit
of the Tree of Knowledge.
Your thoughts alone are, therefore,
always a combination of good, and evil.
Thus, you cannot trust them alone.

Follow the trail of these breadcrumbs,
and see where they lead you.
When you're ready, you will know it,
just like Adam knew his wife, Eve.

11/22/16

As long as you embrace fear
you will never progress!
We are taught to be bold like a lion,
so why do you succumb to the voices
that teach you to be meek like kittens?

If you wish to make sincere spiritual progress
then you will need to strongly separate
from those so-called religious leaders
that are holding you back!
How do you expect to fly
when you are like a puppet
with so-called rabbis pulling your every string?

Since Talmudic times
we have had bad people
masquerading as leaders,
the more religious they present themselves,
usually the less religious they really are.
Cut loose from them!

Set yourself free, like Torah mandates us to be!
Search out honest and true Halakha!
Experience for yourself true, and authentic
Torah meditation, and spiritual/psychological practices.
Cast aside mysticism, superstitions, and fear.

Open your minds and open your hearts.
Fear not, be lions!
And stop lying around dying!
Live!

There is only One God,
but, it is also true
that there are many other gods.
To all things, there is The First Cause.
From The First Cause comes forth everything else.
There is First Cause, then first effect.
First effect leads to second cause,
which then leads to second effect,
and so onward does existence unfold.

What is the Cause of The First Cause?

How can one know the unknowable?
All that can be said is this:
If there is a Cause to The First Cause,
then the Cause of The First Cause
is itself The First Cause,
or so will we think,
until we can learn otherwise.

Existence is built upon a singularity.
But who cares about all this
metaphysical mumbo-jumbo?
After all, if it doesn't affect me
in my personal life,
why should I bother to care?

But the Singularity of existence does matter,
and very much affects your personal life.
Knowing the Singularity of The First Cause,
and knowing that The First Cause is still Present
in all things that come forth from it
is necessary for us to understand
the chaos of the world in which we live in.

If we believe in chaos, we are mistaken!
If we believe in order, then we can learn wisdom.
Yet, believing in order, does not mean that
one can always see the order through the chaos.
Although my eyes see chaos,
and my mind is always confused,
nevertheless, inside me, within my heart
resides the echo of The First Cause.

Like a silent, yet comforting Voice,
The First Cause vibrates within me.
It's constant hum, however still,
resides within my heart, forever.
Inside the Voice I hear an echo
that speaks to my heart saying:
All good, and all bad,
all light, and all darkness,
all right, and all wrong,
All serves a purpose,
All is part of The Plan.
There is only One Mind,

One Thought, One Plan,
One Purpose, and only One God.
All that is, was, and forever more will be
is part of the One, The Eternal Mind,
The Active Being of existence.

Chaos is a perception
that comes from the mind of the one
who does not hear the Voice of the Singularity.
In chaos there are opposing forces
each fighting with one another for dominance.
These forces are perceived as the ancient gods.
The many gods, and their battles
is the perception of the chaotic mind.
Yes, chaos does exist, as do the other gods.
But when the mind matures,
and begins to see the Singularity of Active Being,
then the other gods fall by the wayside,
along with the chaos that they represent.

So, you see that knowing the Active Being
is the key to resolving personal chaos.
This is why we proclaim, "One God."
Yet, words are not enough.
Religion is a sham.
Knowing The First Cause,
and hearing its echo within one's heart
is the only true religion.

Silence the outside noise of chaos,
and listen for the hum of Active Being within.
Experience the Singularity
and you will begin to see the order in chaos,
and understand the Way of The First Cause
as it emanates into
all of its individual manifestations.

11/23/16

Can you imagine
that which cannot be imagined?
No, you cannot!

Can you see
that which can never be seen?
No, you cannot!

Can you understand
that which can never be understood,
not by you, and not even by
the "angels" in Heaven?
No, you cannot!

All things happen for a reason.
Even randomness happens for a reason.
To all things there is a pattern.
Even randomness has a pattern,
although its pattern may be beyond
our imagination, our sight,
and our understanding.

There is a time and a purpose
for all things under Heaven.
Try as we do to see it, and to understand it,
human consciousness falls short
due to the limitations of our being human beings.
There is no fault in being who we are.

Yet, with all our limitations,
we still have an infinite universe before us.
True, we may never reach its end,
but this thought should never hinder,
or slow down our journeys.

Just because we cannot accomplish everything
does not mean that
what we can accomplish has no meaning.

We may never understand the reality
of that which we call God.
So, be it!
There is no value in arguing about
something beyond any of us

to prove, one way or another.
This is why religion is called faith.
Even atheism, belief in no God,
is as much an unproven faith,
as is any about God.

Leave the unproven alone!
Let us deal with that which can be proven!
And this is what we can prove:

- * We can each prove that
living together in peace
is better than living apart in conflict!
- * We can prove that
we can all agree to disagree,
and move along building a better world,
each of us contributing that
which is unique, and special.
- * We can prove that
although we don't have it all,
what we do have can be pretty great,
if we allow it to be.
- * We can prove that
it only takes one person, YOU,
to make a difference.

So, I say, let's deal with these things.
We can continue to discuss and debate
all religious, spiritual, and metaphysical topics.
But let us all remember,
no one has final answers,
and no one ever will.
Faith is how we live.
And good life and righteous living,
is what faith must always be about!

11/27/16

It is a terrible shame
how the Bible is so shamefully misunderstood.
It is equally a terrible shame
how so much of Judaism
is misunderstood, and even perverted.
Bible study and Judaism study
is not a platonic exercise,
limited to superficial understanding.

The Bible has never been properly understood
in any translation, be it Greek, Aramaic, or English.
Without proper, authoritative commentary
from the experts in Written and Oral Torah,
the Bible will forever be subject to
all kinds of levels of misunderstanding.
The same is to be said about all Judaic literature.

First things first!
For the most part, the stories in the Bible
were never meant to be taken literally.
The creation story, and most of early Genesis
has since Biblical times
been understood symbolically,
and not at all literally.
Most of Torah Law is written in symbolic terms.
How else do you think
that the Sages understood the saying,
“do not cook a kid in its mother's milk,”
to be a comprehensive prohibition
against cooking together meat and dairy,
and the eating thereof, or benefit from its mixture.

Today there are two extremes that are destroying religion.
There is the foolishly superficial,
and then there is dangerous extremist rigidity.
Both of these extremes are perversions of understanding,
that give religion, and the religious, a bad name.

Just because some one says something
in the name of the Bible or in the name of Judaism
does not mean that what the person is saying
is a proper, or correct understanding
of the Bible, of Torah Law, of Kabbalah,
or of anything else.

When common sense is lost,
true religion also "goes out the window."
Torah is about real people,
living in a real world,
filled with real problems.
That is the beauty of the Torah
and the true value of its wisdom.

Torah teaches us
to walk the center path,
without extremes of rigidity, or leniency.
Torah teaches us to walk the simple path.

Any Torah study, including Talmud study
that is not natural, simple, and clear
is not proper study.
Study is meant to edify the heart,
and only then to educate the mind.
When it comes to Torah
one who puts head before heart
has lost the Torah Way.
Then again, Torah of the heart,
must always manifest as morality in one's life.
Real Torah demands of one
real life changes, and real personality transformations.
Without these, there is no real Torah.

Learn Torah in its proper, and true "kosher" forms.
Don't believe everything that everyone tells you.
Check sources!
Be skeptical! Think for yourself!
This is the Torah Way,
and the way to becoming a full human being.

Beware the extremists! - The Dark Side, are they.
You recognize my metaphor,
now learn from it, and go forth into the Light.

11/28/16

Stand upon your feet,
and will I speak to you.
These are the important,
prophetic Words
that came forth from
the Chariot of God (Merkava)
to the prophet (Ezekiel).

The great revelation
that comes from God
is not a revelation about Him,
or about Heaven.
Rather, the great revelation
that comes from God
is a revelation about one's self.

There is Heaven above,
and Earth beneath.
And then there is
the Heaven and Earth
inside the mind, and heart
of every human being.
There are always
two different truths,
the external truth of nature,
and the internal truth
of human nature.

Both are natural.
Both are equal.
Both emanate from
the same Source,
and both reflect
different, and opposing realities.
Yet, the reality of existence
will never be complete
with only one, and not the other.

Inner and outer reality,
the external, and internal,
the Heavens, and Earth
are what each is.
Never mistake the one

for the other.
Know the two-halves
of the one whole.

To stand upon one's feet
means for one to internally
stand tall, be strong,
and to take a stand, with responsibility.

The first message to the prophet
after gazing upon the Chariot
was for him to integrate
his outer vision, with his inner vision.

Look not for the Chariot
as a form in the external universe.
Rather, understand the Chariot
for what it really is
inside your internal universe.
This was the message from the Chariot.
This was, and still is, the message
to all today who still seek
to gaze upon the Chariot of God.

The inside world is as real
as one chooses to make it.
Many withdraw from focusing
upon matters in the outside world,
but for the few, this mental withdrawal
can make the outside world,
seem like it fades away into The Nothing.

From The Nothing,
the few can delve into the inner recesses
of the internal world.
In this place, the few learn to stand tall,
taking responsibility for themselves,
and for the needs of others,
in both the internal, and external worlds.
This is their chosen task,
and the work of a lifetime.
This is the secret of "the work of the chariot,"
known in Hebrew as Ma'aseh Merkava.

These then are the secrets
of those who master the Merkava:
The Voice of God is never heard in the ear.
The Chariot of God is never seen with the eye.
The Voice, and Chariot both speak, and are seen within,
but only by the one ready, willing, and able
to stand upon one's feet.

Then the Man of the Chariot,
the inner man, who speaks to the inner God,
will get the message,
and by right, and by nature,
pass it on to all those willing to know.
For this does the Chariot come.
This is the secret of "the work of the chariot,"
known in Hebrew as Ma'aseh Merkava.

11/29/16

Who tells a better story,
J.K. Rowling, or Moshe DeLeon?
Which world is more realistic,
that of the Lord of the Rings, or that of the Zohar?
What? Didn't you know?
Am I really the first to tell you?
There are many stories entrenched in Kabbalah,
that are just that: stories!
Stories in Hebrew are called Midrash.
They are fictional tales woven to express
moral, and ethical teachings.
Midrash is not history!
Midrash is not literal fact.
Yet, Midrash gives us a beautiful form
through which the inner truths of our human existence
are cloaked in forms
that the average mind can more easily handle.
Whether we speak of the Midrash Rabbah,
or the Midrash of Rebbe Shimon Bar Yohai (Zohar),
both works of literature express
the awe and wonder, the beauty and the wisdom
of their respective authors.
We give honor to the Torah,
and blessings to the memory of these creative authors,
when we understand their profound works
in the spirit in which they were written.
Talmud Torah K'neged Kulam.
The study of Torah is paramount.
So, learn, and study, but also understand correctly.
Never mistake the symbolic for the literal.
Never mistake spiritual fiction for history.
Recognize the truth of Torah as it really is,
and you will save your soul,
and give the greatest comfort to our blessed Creator.

11/29/16

God speaks to the inner recesses of your mind.
If you can't access your own inner thoughts,
how then do you expect to access God?

God speaks to your soul.
If you can't access your own soul,
how then do you expect to access God?

God is already with you!
God is with all of us.
God is with everything, everywhere.
Nothing exists, or can exist
unless the Presence, and Mind of God
permeates it.
If you cannot see God in a thing,
then it is not because God is not in it,
but rather because you lack clarity of vision!

Don't blame God
for a fault of your own.
Stop thinking about how things are supposed to be,
and see them for how they really are!
Stop telling God
what "He" is supposed to be,
and what "He" is supposed to do!

The Creator does as "He" wishes with "His" creation.
You may not like the way
that God controls existence.
But it is "His" to do with, as "He" wishes.
And since when is any one of us
wise enough to challenge, or to question God?

Be still!
Accept the Will of God!
You do your share in this world,
and trust that God will do His!

It is not up to you to complete all the work.
But you are obligated to fulfill your share.

Listen inside yourself.
Silence your mind, and your own thoughts,
and allow yourself to feel the Presence of God

within each and every molecule, and atom
within your existence.

Shush! Be silent! Listen!

11/30/16

The KosherTorah School



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