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Daily Thoughts

Words of Wisdom and Inspiration

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Throughout Judaism, I often hear said:
“if the Rebbe said it, then it must be true!”
Alas! The foolishness of this statement
should be apparent to all!
And yet, many will be offended
by the mere implied thought
of “an insult to their sacred Rebbe.”
Fundamentalists are, as fundamentalists be.
They are a dangerous lot,
often very violent in thought, and speech,
with few even being violent in their deeds.
All this, in their twisted minds,
to “avenge the slighted honor of their Rebbes.”
Only true Torah scholars know
just how wrong, and perverted
these thoughts and the people who embrace them
truly are!

Since the days of the first Sages, the Torah path
has been one of plurality, and acceptable differences.
There has never been, there is not now,
and must never be, a single path,
an exclusive Way of Torah practice,
and only a single set of Torah beliefs.
Torah is built upon the words of the many Sages.
This is why the Torah path, since Biblical times
has been called, “Rabbinic” Judaism.

The Rabbinic Sages are not God, and they are not prophets.
They do not speak for God, nor channel Divine messages.
The Rabbinic Sages are devout and sincere men of wisdom.
Their purpose, and their goal
is to inspire the public to lead moral, and ethical lives
based upon the principles, and practices of the Torah.

Needless to say to any student of the Sages,
but there are always variant opinions on almost every topic.
With regards to practices of Torah Law,
one can today find opinions that totally prohibit a practice,
and another opinion that totally permits a practice,
and many other opinions in-between,
each of which may offer its own unique form of compromise.
Which of all these many opinions is "The Truth"?
The Sages are the first to admit that
we do not embrace the concept of knowing
the absolute, one and only Truth.
Rather we say: "this opinion, and its opposite
are both acceptable!"

And how can this be?
How can an act be both permitted, and forbidden?
How can a concept be both acceptable, and unacceptable?
How can a certain food be both kosher, and unkosher?
How can this deed be acceptable on Shabat for this group,
and forbidden on Shabat for the other group?
How can these things be, you ask?
Only with a proper, well-rounded understanding
of the fluid nature of Torah
will any of this ever make sense
to the rigid mind.

The Sages of a generation often contradict one another.
Yet, said contradictions must always be understood
for what they are, and for what they are not!
The word of a Sage, or a Rebbe is his personal opinion.
There is absolutely no obligation whatsoever for anyone
to accept the opinion of a Sage, or Rebbe in any matter!

However, each Sage, and Rebbe has often gathered to themselves
a group of devoted students and followers.
For such followers who have willingly embraced a group,
and consider themselves a part of it
they are they ones who should accept the opinion, and views
of their spiritual leader.
Otherwise how, and why, is one a member of said group

if one rejects the direction that the group leader sets!

Yet, just because one group says this, or does that, does not mean that said group, or said Sage or Rebbe is any better than (or worse than) the other Sage or Rebbe, who says something different.

So, if and when you hear said that: "the Rebbe said it," do not conclude that such is the final word about anything. First seek verifiable confirmation that indeed the Sage or Rebbe did say this, or that thing. Then seek out the opposing opinions of other Sages and Rebbes. Then, as long as you are not married to one group or another, apply Torah basics, and think for yourself!

Review the different opinions, study the Torah foundations from which an opinion is expressed. Learn! See with your own eyes! Then decide what to do, or what to believe! This is the true Torah Way, and the foundation of kosher Torah.

Not every Rebbe who speaks, says words of wisdom. Not every opinion is based upon the facts. Sages and Rebbes are, in the end, human beings, and are thus subject to making the same mistakes as the rest of us. Know this! And you will remain safe, and thus true to Torah. This is the beauty of "Rabbinic" Judaism, the path of wisdom.

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Emotional passion is one thing.
Intellectual clarity is another.
When the two merge together into one,
there is unleashed a very powerful
Force of Self.

This is no secret.
In the language of Kabbalah,
this union is called
Zeir Anpin receiving the Mohin
from Abba and Imma.
Real fancy metaphors
for a very simple psychological reality.

All too often metaphors are misunderstood,
and are taken to be literal.

This is often true with the language
of the Kabbalah.
The words of Kabbalah
speak about worlds, sefirot,
sefirotic-faces, and many other things.

Those without proper understanding
come to these descriptions
and believe them to be describing
actual external realities
that are supposed to exist somewhere "out there."
Such misunderstandings are widespread.

But let the truth be told!
The only Kabbalistic worlds are those
that exist within the human mind.
Sefirot, sefirotic-faces, and worlds are all real,
but their reality exists within the constructs
of the human mind/soul.

The language of the Kabbalah
describes the inner realities of the human mind.
The sefirot are the vessels
through which the Divine Light
is perceived, and received within human consciousness.
True Kabbalists know this,
and only seek Supernal Truths
within the individual, internal mind.

They know that the individual mind
is linked to the collective mind,
and that the collective mind
merges into the All-Knowing Mind
of the One Reality that underlies and moves all.

Even to Kabbalah,
there is a body, and there is a soul.
Most so-called Kabbalists today
look only to the body of what they learn,
and remain forever in the dark
about its true soul!

Merging human realities
heart with mind,
and mind with the unconscious
is what in Kabbalah is called Yihud (unity).

Some think about this, and understand it.

Most who think about this seldom understand it.
The rare few, once they're done thinking,
begin to put it into action.
This is done in those ways that they know.

Only the rare few "get it."
Only the rarer few "get it done."
Know then the secret:
unless "It" is done right, "It" remains undone.

Thought, Feelings, and Speech all lead to nothing
unless properly clothed in Form.
Right actions, in the right way, at the right time
is how the Light of the Ayn Sof
is revealed in Malkhut.

Still don't get it?
Unleash the Force of Self,
and may "the Force" be with you.

12/02/16

Shabat is coming.
Prepare properly.
Make sure that you have
a place for true rest,
one in which you will not be disturbed.

In Hebrew, the word for "rest,"
is the same word used for "soul."
Learn from this:
unless one truly has deep, internal,
psychological rest
from all the stress,
and anxiety from daily affairs
then one is not experiencing true sabbath rest.
With such rest,
there is no real "shabat shalom."

True shalom comes only to those
who know true rest!
Let go, and let shabat!
Do over intellectualize this,
just do it!

Comfortable clothes, enjoyable food,

lots of rest, no stress.
Don't even let the religion stress you out.
Yes, religion itself can be an impediment
to Torah observance, and true Shabat shalom.

Take control of your souls!
Let go, let God, and let shabat.
Shabat Shalom.
12/02/16

Another week of work dawns upon us.
But how many of us understand
that to work during the week
is equally sacred to resting on the sabbath?

Work is about creation,
making things, and building things.
Work is about us doing our best,
with the tools that we have at hand.

Work is sacred.
Work is what draws us close to God.
In the beginning, God worked.
We are created in the Image of God.
Therefore, we too must work.
Like God, what we create
with our own hands
must be good!

God made "His" world in "His" Image.
We each make our own worlds
each, in our own image.
Yes, each of us
really does have this much power!
So, make it a good one!

Take the time to focus.
Imagine in your mind
the kind of week
that you wish to create for yourself.
Then, work! May the effort.
Create in reality the best
positive, constructive, and blessed week
that you can possibly imagine.

Make the words, Shavuah Tov

(Good Week), more than a greeting.
Make it a promise, and fulfill it!

Make a Great Week.
Shavuah Tov!

12/04/16

What one believes
is less important than what one does.
Internal turmoil must never be an impediment
to the performance of proper action.
What one thinks is important,
but one must not ignore how one feels.
Feelings, and thoughts should never be in conflict.

To act, or not to act; this is the question.
Do the right thing, at the right time, in the right way.
This is the answer!
And how does one know what is right?
One must be united in heart, and mind.
In this way, one's actions will be performed
with conviction, and passion.
This is one of the secrets of success.

12/04/16

Someone recently called me wise.
If I truly publicly shared
that which wisdom has taught me,
I would destroy entire worlds!
I think it best that I remain silent.
A little light brings warmth.
Too much burns!
We've had enough fires
and their cruel destruction around here.
We do not need, nor want anymore!

12/04/16

So many today, (as in the past)
argue about which religion is right?
So many today, (as in the past)
argue about things
of which they know very little!

How many of us have studied
the religions of others?
How many of us can intelligently discuss
the sacred scriptures, and beliefs
that others hold dear?
How can one condemn something
that one does not understand?
How can one even express
an intelligent opinion
about that which one is not intelligent?

It is easy for one to open one's mouth,
and to vomit out words
that have no intelligence,
and no rational thought.
People seldom think carefully
before they speak carefully.
Careless, thoughtless words
often touch sensitive nerves
in the hearts of others,
setting off anger, offense,
and emotional rage.

Some even take pleasure in doing this.
Some enjoy having the power over another
to manipulate them emotionally.
Anyone who seeks to
emotionally manipulate others
to harm them, and cause them pain
is a horrible human being.
And, much to our dismay,
there is no shortage
of horrible individuals out there,
who gladly seek to harm others.

When one seeks
to harm another physically,
one can be punished under law.
One who harms another physically
is defined as a criminal.
Yet, one who seeks
to harm another emotionally

is not punishable under any law
(for the most part).
People emotionally harm one another
on a regular basis, and do it consistently,
without any fear,
or consequence under the law.
I do not know whether
this is right or wrong, or good or bad.

All I do know is that
emotional harm and damages can be
as severe, and sometimes
even more severe
than physical harm.
Harm to the body
can most times be repaired.
Harm to one's heart,
and soul for the most part
heals much slower, if it even heals at all.

Intellectual arguments
should never be emotional.
Arguing religion (or politics)
should always be in the realm of civil,
and intelligent discussion.
But alas, such discussions
are almost never civil!

Who can we blame for this
sorry state of affairs?
Should we not blame "the other guy"?
After all, isn't he/she the one
who is wrong in the first place?
Isn't it his/her fault for
holding such "stupid views"
in the first place?

Can you not see the prejudice,
and emotional violence
inherent in this line of thinking?
Before one looks out
to point a finger of blame at the other,
one should first explore one's own heart,
one's own mind, and one's own deeds,
and recognize how much of the blame
one needs to place upon one's self!

Religion is a matter of faith.

Faith is a matter of heart.
Some religious concepts
make logical sense.
Others, do not!
At least, they do not make sense
to those who hold by another faith.
To the religious,
belief in God is common sense.
To the atheist, belief in God is nonsense.
Each argument is totally logical
in the mind
of the believer of said opinions,
and totally illogical
in the mind of the non-believer.
Yet, who is to say,
what is true about that
which cannot be proven?
No one can prove matters of the heart
to the head (mind) of another.
So, why bother trying?
Why bother attempting to insult,
and hurt a fellow human being
just because his/her logic
is not the same as yours?

Do not make judgment calls
about matters of religion
unless you are in a position
of knowledge, and wisdom
about which you speak!

Learn first! Tame your tongue!
Educate your minds,
and cultivate sensitivity of heart.
Be respectful of others.
In doing all this,
you transform your words
from the growl of the beast
into the comforting compassion
of what it means to be human,
created in the Image of God.

12/05/16

There are certain teachings
that only the enlightened can embrace.
And even then, the enlightened
can only receive these teachings
from the union of the teacher within,
alongside the teacher outside.

If I were to tell you certain things,
you could only embrace them
if you have already mastered understanding.
But who am I to judge?
I know that you want to know the secrets,
so, why not reveal them?
Here are some.
Let us see who can embrace them.

Above, there is no light, and there is no darkness.
Both are just illusions of the clouded mind.
Above, there is no good, and there is no evil.
Both are just illusions of the clouded mind.
Above, there is right, and there is wrong,
although both are just illusions of the clouded mind.
Above, God Is, and God Is Not.
Both are real and both are true.
Above, Truth and falsehoods are both
just illusions of the clouded mind.

What is Above and what is Below
are perceived to be
very different from one another,
and yet they form two-halves of the same whole.

Not for naught did Rabi Akiva
warn all who ascend saying,
"When you come to the place
of pure marble stones,
do not say 'Water! Water!'
lest you place yourselves in danger."
This is the danger of seeing Above
and confusing Above with Below.
Not understanding the Secret of Unity
is always a danger for the clouded mind.

If can you understand these things,
then maybe you can gaze upon the Crown (Keter)
that rests upon "the head of the Lower King."
Yet, you already believe that you know

“the Face of the King,”
and still, you do not know
what is meant by the “Lower Face,”
and the “Upper Face.”

After all, the King sits upon His Throne.
The Throne moves the Divine Chariot (Merkava).
Yet, just who is this “King”
who sits upon the Throne of the Merkava?
And what is His (Its) true nature?
Why does the King have different Faces?
Why do we see differences Below,
when there are no differences Above?

Many Faces are seen,
yet, only One Voice speaks.
Yet, within the One Voice that speaks
many voices are heard.
Forms divide. Essence unites!
Hear your inner teacher speak first,
before seeking the voice of the outer teacher
to make sense of what the inner teacher
has spoken first.

As long as you think that you understand
you will never understand.
The Secret of Unity
resides above understanding,
and even above wisdom.

The human mind has tasted
of the forbidden fruit
of the Tree of Knowledge, therefore,
all knowledge is either good, or evil.
All knowledge exists in a state of duality
that can never fully reflect the Supernal Unity.
Knowledge below, therefore,
can never be like Knowledge above.
In the same way
is the Lower Face different from
the Higher Face.
And yet, there is Only One.

This is the way of things.
The path of enlightenment
is a long road that goes to many places,
along the long journey of many discoveries.
12/06/16

You have been taught:
If you are good,
God will then bless you in everything.
But what happens
when this does not happen?
What happens when you pray, and pray,
and yet, your prayers go unanswered?
Do you continue praying,
maybe even harder, and longer,
only to continue to have
your prayers go unanswered?

When blessings do not materialize
we often seek to blame ourselves,
our sins, our karma, or our bad behaviors.
We do this even when we have not sinned,
we have done no wrong,
have no bad karma, or bad behavior.

We all see that bad things
still happen to good people,
all the time.
There seems to be no rhyme, nor reason to it.
It makes life appear as if
everything happens merely by chance.

When life appears to be a matter of chance
then people conclude that God is not in charge,
and indeed, maybe that there is no God at all.

When people begin to believe
that there is no God,
then they equally begin to believe
that there is no Heaven or Hell,
no afterlife, no reward, no punishment,
and indeed, no soul, at all.

Without a soul,
many conclude that
there is no spiritual need
for there to be morality.
Without morality,
society can collapse into chaos.

If there is no rhyme, nor reason
to life, and existence,
then why not do

whatever it is that one wants to do?
After all, in the end,
why does it, (or anything else), matter?

Even the simplest of minds can see
how devastating this type of thinking is!
A life without hope
is no life, at all!

One's beliefs always influence
one's behavior.
What one believes
is not nearly as important
as what one does.
Yet, one's beliefs will never be
totally divorced from one's actions.
Therefore, even though
beliefs are of secondary importance,
they are still, nevertheless, important.

Beliefs about God, the soul, and the afterlife
are one thing.
Belief in one's self, and in one's fellow human beings
is quite another!
When it comes to doing what is right.
Doing what's right – simply because it's right
should be reason enough to motivate anyone!

We should not need God to tell us what to do.
We should not live in fear of some imagined afterlife.
We should, instead, focus on the here and now,
and do what is right,
regardless of any spiritual motivations.

Not all prayers are answered.
Sometimes terrible things happen to good people.
Sometimes, the reasons why (for anything)
are simply beyond us to understand.
I say, so be it!
No one can control what happens to us
on a day-to-day basis.
But we are always in control
of how we chose to respond!
We can be blessed, or we can be bastards.
God will not chose this – we will.

I don't know what God does, or why.
All I know is what is in my own hands.

And what is in my hands,
I will handle with
the greatest of care, and dignity
that I, as a human being, can do.
Enough said!

12/07/16

How do we know
that the decisions that we make
are, in fact, the right ones?

Do we decide things
based upon what we think,
or do we decide things
based upon how we feel?

We might believe that
we decide things
on a combination of both
thoughts, and feelings.
But, in reality, it is one or the other
that really dominates
our decision-making process.

This revelation is neither good, nor bad.
It simply is the way things are.
What makes it either good, or bad,
is what we chose to do with the insight
of knowing what really motivates
each of us, as the individual each one is.

To think yourself rational,
when you are really emotional
is self-deluding, and self-defeating.
One should acknowledge
the way one truly is.
To think oneself emotionally sensitive
when one, in fact, is rational, and detached
is equally self-deluding, and self-defeating.

Knowing oneself properly, and accurately
is the first step in properly and accurately
knowing the world around us.
If one looks into the mirror of self-reflection
and only sees therein

what others tell one to see,
then one is not seeing
one's true reflection.
Then again, if one gazes
into one's magic mirror,
and only sees therein
what one wants to see,
paying no attention
to that which is seen by others,
one misses out on seeing
those angles, and aspects about oneself
to which one may very well be blind.

Seeing truth is never easy.
Making proper decisions,
based on perceived truths, is never easy.
Every decision is based
on what is thought to be true at the time.
Many later find out that
what they once thought to be true
was indeed not true at all.
Thus the decision made,
based upon a perceived truth,
turns out to be the wrong decision.
A mistake has been made.
Some mistakes are easy to fix.
That which can be fixed,
is often fixed, and forgotten.

Some mistakes can never be fixed.
That which cannot be fixed
can haunt us for a lifetime,
forever changing everything!
Many times the spirits
that haunt us throughout life
are those that we ourselves have created.
Many times the spirits
that haunt our minds
are our own sub-conscious demons
of remorse, guilt, and shame.
These internal demons
can never be exorcised
by denying them, or ignoring them.
Some demons can haunt us forever,
if and when, we let them.

So, what can we do
to quiet our minds, and souls?

What can we do
to exorcise ourselves from
our self-created demons?

What?
Are you waiting for me to answer?
No!
This, you must answer for yourself.

12/08/16

A long time ago
when I was a child,
my Mother was very strict with me.
She would tell me
what to do,
and what not to do,
and I listened!
I learned when I was quite young
that if I did not heed
my Mother's word,
my punishment would be most severe.

As I grew older,
it began to dawn on me
how very understanding
my Mother had always been.
As I matured I began to
understand the wisdom
within her words,
and within her heart.
For the most part
I continued to heed her voice.

But every now and then
temptation arose.
And when it did
I turned to my Mother for guidance.
Strange, but instead of being
severe and harsh with me,
she said that now that I was growing up
there were just some lessons
that I had to learn on my own.
She told me to think back
to everything that she had already taught me,
and to learn from what I already knew

that which I needed to know.

This proved to be a very valuable lesson.
True, I made many mistakes,
but no matter how far life would take me
from Mother's side,
her voice remained in my heart,
her wisdom filled my understanding,
and became my own.

In time I realized
that Mother is always with me,
and as long as I heed her now inner voice,
I will always be safeguarded
against the harshness and severities
that daily life can often throw before me.

To this day,
many turn to me
and ask me for the advice
that my Mother has given me.
I am surprised by this.
Don't we all have Mothers?
Why does one need to come to me
to ask me for my Mother's advice,
when one should follow the advice
of one's own Mother?

Even when one's physical Mother
grows old, and passes on,
the inner voice of Mother,
all Mothers,
remains as loud and clear
as any physical voice.
At least, it remains as loud,
to those willing to hear it!

So, when another asks me
for the advice of my Mother,
I, in turn, ask him/her
about the advice of his/her own Mother.
Many times, I am told
that their inner voice has died down,
and that they can no longer hear it.
Well then, I say,
instead of me telling you
what my Mother says,
let me help you learn again

to hear the voice of your own Mother,
the voice of wisdom and understanding
that still speaks in your heart.
Let me help you drown out the other noise
so that your Mother's voice
can be heard in your own heart, and ears.

Funny, but some people still don't do this.
They still insist that I tell them about
my own Mother, instead of them telling me
about their own Mothers.
Mom always taught me what to do,
and what not to do.
She was very strict in these matters.
And now, Mother's voice within me
speaks the same.
She says to me that the others
need to hear the voice of their own Mom's,
and that I cannot make their paths easier,
just like she did not make my path
easy for me.
Mother tells me
that you should understand this,
and that if your don't,
your own Mom will explain it to you,
although your Mom, like mine,
may be rather harsh, and severe.

This is dedicated to all Mothers, everywhere.
You understand here what I have written,
and you know
that every happy ending
will depend upon who listens to your voice.

12/09/16

Hey baby! It's cold outside.
So, what is one to do?
I have some suggestions.

One can stay inside until it get warms.
But, then again, some may
have to go outside to work, the store,
or elsewhere.
Staying inside until its warm again
is not a viable option.

So, what's next?
One can crank up the heat
inside one's home
until it is nice and toasty!
But, then again, heating bills
can be ridiculously expensive!
Not everyone can afford the high price
of heating one's home
to the point of making it feel like springtime.

Dealing with the cold
can be quite a challenge!
Not everyone can handle the cold,
or respond to it in the same way.
One cannot run away from the cold.
The cold cannot be escaped.
One has to learn how to deal with the cold
in a frugal, and wise way.

What frugal, wise way
will work for you?
Only you can say!
But, say, you must.
The cold is not going away
anytime soon.
One cannot run away.
One cannot ignore it!

Wisdom is the key to survival.
Dealing with the cold requires wisdom.
Now, up until here
you probably think
that I have been talking
about the physical cold outside.
How little do you know me
to think that I would exclusively
address something so mundane.

We live in the winter of our humanity.
Our global society
is in the midst of a psychological/spiritual winter,
and the long-awaited springtime
is nowhere in sight.

So, learn from the physical winter outside
how to deal with the spiritual winter inside.

In the physical cold,
you toughen up!
You put on an extra sweater.
You keep moving!
You eat warming foods!
Can you not see how to apply this wisdom
to their spiritual counterparts.

Our spiritual winter will one day pass.
Until then we have to survive it.
We will survive it when we address the cold
according to the practical and wise way
that cold needs to be addressed.

Learn from the world outside
how to address the world inside.
Stay warm!

12/10/16

I am a student of Torah.
Yet, the Torah I learn
comes not only from books.

The book said that
God created the Heavens and Earth.
The book says that
there is nothing in existence other than God.
Although the book does not say it outright
logic dictates to me
that God created the Heavens and Earth
out of "Himself," for there was nothing else.
Logic dictates to me
that if all things come forth from God,
therefore, in order to exist,
all things must be still connected to God.
How else could they exist?

In the beginning,
God spoke, and the world came to be.
The Word of God is Torah.
Torah, therefore, created the world.
The world was created by God, from God
following God's Word/Torah.
Torah reveals God's Way, and Will.
Torah is how God took from "Himself,"

and made the Heavens, and Earth.

I am a student of Torah.
I seek the whole Torah,
not just the superficial layer found in books.
Where can I find Torah?
I find it in everything that God has made!
Therefore, I look to creation,
and everywhere Torah is to be found.

Torah is in the air, and in the water.
Torah is in the earth, and in the stars.
Torah is the Way of the universe.
Torah is the Way of Life, and death,
of living, and dying.
Torah is all things, and is found in all places.

Like I said, I am a student of Torah.
And I can find Torah in anything, everywhere.
All I need do is to
open my eyes, and heart, and gaze.
I will see it, if I look for it.
But in order to do this,
I must first close the books.
I must close the books,
and remember that they only show
the surface of Torah.

For the depths of Torah,
I need to penetrate beneath it's surface.
I must close the books.
I must turn from the written Word of God
to the Way of God, and to the Works of God.
The Way, and the Works
are the true Oral Torah,
the Torah that gives the written word
its content, and meaning.

Long ago, it was revealed that
written Torah is unfathomable
without the Oral Torah.
The writing of the Oral Torah points the way
to the still living,
and vibrant unwritten Oral Torah.

The Sound of Nature is Oral Torah.
Listen for it! Listen to it and learn Torah.

I am a student of Torah.
And so are you!
Torah transcends religion,
ethnicity, and nationality.
The written Torah can be
in the hands of those
to whom it historically belongs.
But the living vibrant Oral Torah
encompasses all.
Therefore, the living vibrant Oral Torah
is for all, for it is the Way, and Will of Nature,
of Heaven, and of the Earth.

Silence your tongue from speaking.
Clear your mind of questions.
Listen to the living vibrant Oral Torah
speaking within every atom,
and gene within your existence.
Listen to the living vibrant Oral Torah
in everything around you, and within you.

Listen to the silence,
and hear the roar of creation,
the roar of life.

Close the books.
Focus not on the people from history.
Let the living Oral Torah guide you.
After all, it already is,
and you just don't know it yet.
Seek the Way, and know the Path.
This is how one stays warm
in the winter of the soul.

12/12/16

Can you be persuaded
to believe something
that you wouldn't otherwise believe?
But, of course, you can!

All one has to do is to convince you
that what is said is valid, and true.
But is it really valid and true?
How does one know?

Be on guard against persuasive talk,
that tries to emotionally,
or intellectually manipulate.

When words are spoken,
imbued with elements of persuasion,
then the words often stop being
logical and rational,
and start taking on a life of their own.

People are often unaware of
the power of words.
Few ever venture to examine
what is said
to ascertain if the words spoken
are indeed worthy of belief.

Watch for words
that emotionally charge!
Watch for words
that seek to ensnare the mind,
all the while bypassing rational thought.
Think about what is being said.
Ask questions.
Do not be satisfied with simple answers.

Let no one threaten you
into believing the unbelievable.
Do not jump on the "bandwagon" of belief
just to fit in.
Think for yourself!
Analyze for yourself.

When swimming,
enjoy the waves of the ocean.
When thinking,
do not allow the waves of popular opinion
to drown you.
Be on watch against popular opinion,
it is often shallow,
and without substantiated merit.

If you do not stand up for yourself,
then who will?
And if not now, then when?
The red light, and green light of belief
is in your hands,
your mind, and your heart,

to control access to what you believe,
and thus what you will do.

Allow the traffic entering your mind
to flow with smoothness.
Avoid traffic jams of confusion.
Take it slow! Take your time!
Try never to rush a decision!
Guard your minds,
and you will be protected!

12/14/16

Some books do say
that sinners in one life-time
are punished with suffering
in a future life.

But who today can say
who is a reincarnated soul,
and who is not?

Who can say if reincarnation
is actually, and literally true
as many suppose it to be.

So many people today
believe foolish, and stupid thoughts.
So many people today
care so little for others,
and care nothing for another's feelings.
And these same people
call others "wicked," and "evil."

Hypocrisy takes many forms.
Foolishness is wrapped
in many different packages.
Ignorance comes in all shapes, and sizes.

How can you expect
to understand anything about others,
when you lack
even the basic understanding of yourself?

Before calling anyone "wicked," or "evil,"
try looking into the mirror!

Strip away the mask,
and you may not like
the face staring back at you.

Consider this now,
so that in your next lifetime,
people will not be telling false stories
about you!

12/14/16

Tell me this,
why is it,
when I say black,
you hear me say white?

Why is it
when I say up
you hear me say down?

I listen to myself.
I know my words are clear.
I write them down,
and reread them.
My words do say what they say.
And they do not say
what they do not say.

Yet, you read my words
and say that they say
what I did not say.
You say that I said up,
when my words clearly show
that I said down.

My words clearly say black,
but you insist
that I said white.
And even if I show you
that I said black,
you persist in insisting
that even though I said black,
I still mean white,
even as you say!

Why is there so much stubbornness?

Why is there so much blindness?

The world is full of such
stubbornness, and blindness.
The blind cannot see,
yet are convinced that they do see.
The blind are convinced
that those who do see
are the truly blind.

And what is worse than a blind fool?
Those who are willing to believe
blind fools, and to follow them blindly.
It is from here
that we have the term,
“the blind leading the blind.”
And we wonder why so many
stumble and fall into
chaos, confusion, pain, and perfidy.

The world is not the way you see it
just because you want it to be.
My words are not what you say they are
just because you want them to be.

In order to see the world properly
one must remove their prejudices
from before their eyes.
If one wants to understand my words
the way that I mean them,
then one must again
remove the prejudice from in front of their eyes.

But alas, who can tell the blind
that they do not see?

My words will stand
to bear witness to themselves.
The blind will grope,
and they will complain.
But in the end, their blindness
will be the cause of their downfall.

My advice is simple.
Stay clear from before the blind.
Stay clear so that when they fall,
that they do not cling on to you
to bring you down alongside them.

If the blind refuse to see,
then they will eventually fall.
If the blind continue to embrace their blindness,
then they will walk forward in darkness
until they no longer go forward,
but collapse, fall, burn, and die.

Those who embrace the black and white
will never see the beauty in the colors
of the sefirotic rainbow.
Thus, they will stay forever distant from Heaven,
proud of their blindness
that tells them that they are already in Heaven,
when in fact, they are already in Hell.

Destiny is a very harsh teacher.
Mother Nature shows no pity for fools.
Now, read words, all words, carefully.
Open your eyes and see
a greater, new world.

12/20/16

Again, we have the entertainment
of the world body politic
to keep our minds occupied
with imagined thoughts of
doom and gloom.
Yeah, right!

How long will it take?
What words need to be said
to awaken the slumbering souls?

Everyone seems to want
more excitement, and more tragedy.
Isn't there enough of these
in the world already?

There is an old saying,
"man plans, and God laughs."
Do not underestimate
the extent of the Divine sense of humor.
Let the parties that be
grind their swords,

and spew their poison.
Nothing will come of it!
And why?
Because it's not supposed to!
That's why!

The times, they are a changin'.
So, let it be.
Stand strong,
and remember the wise advice
of Teddy Roosevelt.
"Speak softly, and carry a big stick."
This is, and always has been
the message of the festival of lights.

In the fight for what's right
one must stand tall,
and not be afraid!
Peace on earth,
and goodwill towards man,
is a universal concept,
worthy to be embraced by all.

But sometimes
peace on earth comes at a price.
Sometimes, goodwill towards man
needs to be imposed
upon those who are
not of goodwill.
So be it!

Let time take its course.
Let the folly of fools
go its own way.
It will come to naught.
So, don't get too excited!
Don't pay too much attention
to what is in the news.
This too shall pass
and will soon be forgotten.

Focus on the light.
Shine it!

Happy Hanuka, and Merry Christmas!
Don't fret! The Light has already won!

12/24/16

Whatever comes into
your sphere of influence
is there for a reason.
Exploit the opportunities
given to you,
and make the best
of what you have.
There is no greater wisdom
than this.

We live in a world
that is governed by actions.
What one does either
builds worlds, or destroys them.
While we are not
masters of our world,
nor of our own individual fates,
we still, nevertheless,
have free domain
of choice of action.

While we cannot decide
how the universe
will act towards us,
we are in total control over
how we chose
to act towards the universe
in response to how the universe
acts towards us.
We build, we destroy,
or we let alone.
This about sums it up.

Life is supposed to be simple.
It is we ourselves
that complicate matters.
Simplicity is a gift to the soul,
it restores vigor and life.
If your life is too complex,
then seek simplicity.
If your life is too difficult,
then cut out the fat,
and seek to make things
easier on yourself.
You can do it,

but you must chose to do it,
and be willing to pay
the price of your choice.

The inside world-outlook and
the outside world-outlook
are two very different perspectives
that are united
like two sides of the same coin.
Yet, just like with a coin
there is heads, and tails,
and the two are never the same,
so too are our two worlds.
There is the heads of the inside world,
and the tails of the outside world.

Flip a coin, and we see it land
on one side or the other.
Whether we view the outside world
for what it actually is,
or we view the outside world
through the tinted-color glasses
that each of us wear,
the reality of the outside world
is defined by individul perception.

Regardless of what one sees,
regardless of what one thinks,
one must still always
do what is right!
Actions count!

Sometimes
doing the right thing is hard.
Nevertheless those times
are the times
when doing the right thing
is most important.

12/24/16

Never ever make the mistake
of confusing the symbolic
to be literal.
Never ever make the mistake
of confusing the poetic
for being prose.

Never ever mistake
matters of faith
to be matters of fact.

Anyone making any
of these mistakes
will confuse fantasy
for reality,
and confuse delusion
for truth.

Never ever mistake
the symbolic, metaphorical
teachings of the Sages and Kabbalists
for literal facts.
Never ever mistake
the symbolic, metaphorical
teachings of the Sages and Kabbalists
as having to do with anything real
in the external world.
The teachings of the Sages and Kabbalists
are focused on our internal worlds,
the worlds of the human soul.

Mashiah will only materialize
in the reality of the external world
once "his spirit" has materialized
in the human heart, mind, and soul.
Mashiah is a spark within
every human soul.
Thus redemption comes first
to the individual psyche,
and once critical mass has been achieved
only then to the world at large.

All midrashim, be they Talmudic, or Kabbalistic
must never ever be taken literally.
Such action is an offense to the memory
of the great Sages who spoke
such sublime teachings.

Even Biblical prophecy
was revealed through
visions and dreams.
No dream, and no vision,
even those of Isaiah, and Ezekiel
were ever meant to be understood
as describing literal events.

One just needs to read
the standard commentaries
to see the truth of these things.

Never mistake Kabbalah
for being anything literal (k'peshuto).
Not for naught
do the Kabbalists themselves
differ between what they call
the Pshat of Sod, and the Sod of Sod.
The difference between the two
can be rightfully compared
to the body and soul.
Both belong together,
but one is as different from the other
as differences can be.
The true Kabbalah (sod of sod)
will never be found in books.
To learn this, one needs to be
prepared, and ready,
just like the Law outlines
in Hagigah, Chapter Two.

Too many people
argue over superficial understandings
of matters of which
they truly know next-to-nothing about.
Talmud Torah takes a lifetime.
A proper understanding of Kabbalah
still requires a one-on-one relationship
with a true Mekubal,
and not just one with someone
who has read a lot of books on the subject.

There are so many good people out there
who are unfortunately filled
with so much bad information.

Take the time to study properly.
Vomit out all superstitions.
Stick to the Kabbalah teaching of
drawing down the Mohin
of Abba and Imma into the head of ZA.
This metaphor simply means
to open your heart (Tiferet/ZA)
to an imagination (Hokhma)
tempered by rational understanding (Binah).

The reality of this bring psychological redemption.
The misunderstanding of this
creates all kinds of delusions
that lead the blind into the pits of chaos.

It is time to remove
the blinders of the klipot,
and to see Torah for what
it really teaches.
And the in-depth,
proper study of Torah
is that which will transform
one's soul, and give one
PEACE.

Theology, doctrine and dogma
mean nothing!
Don't go quoting books!
Torah must be internalized
in order for it to become real.

12/28/16

What is of value to you,
you will pay for. No?

What is of no value to you,
you will not pay for. No?

You know that the answer
to both questions is a resounding, yes!

In a world where things are given,
and received freely,
the concept of value loses its meaning.
This can never be a good thing.

In a world where morals and values
have fallen by the wayside,
and people cheat, and steal to get ahead
the practice of what is proper
loses its meaning.

Everything has a value.
Everything has its worth.
Sometimes the worth of a thing

can be decided by a monetary figure.
Other times, some things are just
beyond the value
that money ascribes to them.

How much would you pay
for something you dearly want?
How much will you pay
for something
that matters little to you?

If one is sick and near death,
how much is the cure worth?
If one is ignorant,
and in desperate need of knowledge,
how much is that knowledge worth?

Yes, there are some things
that are worth
far more than their monetary price.
Yet, many still look superficially
and do not recognize true value,
or true worth.

In an immoral society,
people are willing to steal,
as long as they are not embarrassed
by being caught.
In this mind-set, the most valuable,
alongside the least valuable
are both simply items to be pilfered at will.
In the society of thieves,
there is no value,
and thus everything within it
is cheap!

When everything in society
is considered to be cheap,
so too is human life considered cheap.
When life itself is considered cheap
how much more so is
respect for others,
and even respect for one's self
equally considered cheap!

Only when things have value
do they have worth.
Value is not defined by money.

Value is defined by your heart!
If you value something,
then treat it right!
Even if you do not value something,
others do!
And if you want them
to respect what you value,
then show respect for what they value.

How much is respect worth to you?
How much are you willing to pay for it,
not in dollars and cents,
but in giving respect to others.

Do not steal!
Do not seek to cause harm!
Do not devalue another
because they hold different values than you!

Shining God's Light
is meant to be done on Earth,
not in Heaven.

So, cut out all the talk,
stop all the hard-feelings,
and get to work!
Start with yourself,
and work out from there.

Peace!

12/29/16

To every beginning
there comes an end.
This is just the natural way.
Everything has its time.
Once one's time has passed
one must pass on.
One passes from the worn-out old
to the brand new.
This is the never-ending cycle of life.

Life is forever in movement.
This is why attachments
are always painful.

Attachments create bonds.
Physical bonds
can never be permanent
due to the ever-changing
ways and forms of life.

Those who refuse to let go
when the time comes for change
often feel the pain of
the tearing away from the old,
on its way to becoming new.
This is why
the wise ones of old taught
that all sufferings arise from attachments.
Remove attachment,
and one removes suffering.
Sounds rather wise to me.

Every song has its melody.
And every song,
however beautiful,
eventually comes to its end.
One can replay the song
over and over again
to continue to enjoy
its enchanted melody.
Nevertheless,
even enchanted melodies
grow old with time,
and are eventually replaced
with newer, and younger melodies
that are equally enchanting.

Beginnings, endings,
and new beginnings,
the cycle continues,
the beat goes on.

Be wise,
and go with the flow.
Be wise
and embrace what is before you,
and let go of that
which is not yours to grasp.
Save yourself from pain,
let go of a thing
in the time of its departure.
Do not harm yourself

by going through the pain
of tearing asunder.
Why deny the inevitable?
Why fight that
which cannot be fought.

Some decisions indeed
are in our hands.
Some decisions are not
in our hands.
Embrace that which you have.
Let go of that which you do not have.
Chose wisely
what to embrace
and what to let go.
Chose wisely when to embrace
and when to let go.
Chose wisely.
Avoid pain.
Is this not wisdom?

Now, its time to say goodbye.
Embrace the memories,
and be glad for all the good times.
There will still be good times,
but in other forms,
and in other ways.
Role with the flow,
and embrace the new
as it is renewed upon you
like the dawn's rising sun.

Now, be fluid, be pliant.
Flow with life,
and do not stagnate like death.
Live a little, or live a lot.
Just chose life
because life has chosen you.
It is time to close this book.
Another one is waiting
for you to begin tomorrow.

Until tomorrow,
good evening, good night,
and soon, good day.
And the cycle continues,
and the beat goes on.

Peace.

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Daily Thoughts 2016

THE END.

The KosherTorah School



The Written Works of Ariel Bar Tzadok

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