

KosherTorah School

for Biblical, Judaic & Spiritual Studies

P.O. Box 628

Tellico Plains, TN, 37385

tel. 423-253-3555

email. koshertorah@wildblue.net

www.KosherTorah.com

Ariel Bar Tzadok, Director, Rabbi



Don't Forget the Real Message! A Word about the Jewish High Holidays

by Ariel B. Tzadok

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Here we are on the eve of the Jewish High Holidays, which begins with Rosh HaShana, the New Year, considered in Rabbinic tradition to be the day of global judgment, when the Creator reviews His creation, and decides its fate for the coming year. At this time of awe, and reverence in Judaism, what are many individual Jews doing?

Granted, the secular, nonreligious, and atheist are going about their lives as they normally do. Not believing in religion, for them Rosh HaShana, and the High Holidays are no different from any other days. And yet, in spite of their ignorance of religion, and their ignoring God, the Creator takes this all in stride, and judges the non-believer with the same criteria as the believer. For “judgment” is actually never really Heavenly-based. Torah tradition teaches us that Divine judgment is Earthly-based.

Judgment is based upon the moral standard: “what you do to others, ends up being done to you!” In the mystical traditions, it is taught that one's own Higher-Self, which stands in Heaven as one's personal Guardian Angel watches over its lower counterpart's fate. Essentially, it is our own Higher-Self, our individual Guardian Angel, who bears witness to all our Earthly doings, and bears either the pride, or the shame, of our behaviors.

It is said that God then asks each individual's Higher-Self Guardian Angel what needs to be done with each lower counterpart, and as one's Higher-Self Guardian Angel answers to God, so too does God judge the Earthly individual. Essentially, what this means is that each one of us stands as our own judge.

As one spiritual teacher put it, God arranges circumstances to occur in our lives, and then watches how we interact, and respond. Just as we interact and respond to others, God ordains how others will interact, and respond to us. Each individual becomes one's own judge, jury, and executioner.

Religion, dogma, and theology play not part in any of this. God judges, and God knows. One's own Higher-Self Guardian Angel, who resides within the individual's unconscious mind bears witness to all. Thus, there is no avoiding fate. There is no avoiding either reward, or punishment. For it is not God who rewards or punishes us, it is each individual whose own inner, Higher-Self, bears witness, and seals one's own fate. This psychological truth is more sobering, and even more frightening, than any story of religious myth, or judgment legends.

Judgment becomes real, very real, when we realize that each of us individually is our own judge, jury, and executioner. While we often lie, and deceive ourselves on a daily basis, our inner, Higher-Selves are never deceived in like fashion. When we lie to ourselves, our own inner, Higher-Selves take notice, and act accordingly.

Whether or not one believes any of this is irrelevant. One can never escape one's own inner, Higher-Self, one's personal unconscious. For the human mind, conscious and unconscious are one, they can be perceived to be split, but in reality they never can be. Therefore judgment follows us, and walks along side of us, with every step, on every day.

On this Rosh HaShana, Day of Judgment, keep these thoughts in mind. God is not judging you. You are judging yourself! And you could not ask for, or find, a harsher judge than one's own inner, Higher-Self.

In light of this, repentance should take on an entirely new light. Self improvement is always in our hands. So too is forgiveness. Yes, we must forgive one another, but we must also be able, and willing to forgive ourselves.

When we can move forward in life, with “clean hands,” and “pure hearts,” which means that psychologically we have dealt with our individual internal issues, we can then address the world's problems in an entirely new light. And this is what the message of the High Holiday period is all about.

The KosherTorah School



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