

The Path of Life

by HaRav Ariel bar Tzadok

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In the late morning hour of 28 Shevat, just before the sun's rays reached the horizon, I sat and thought and like in times past I felt directed to turn to the keyboard. As I sat there with no thoughts in mind, no intentions and no known purpose, these words just flowed out. I did not think them, I did not plan them; they just were there and now they are here...

Life is a part of nature and so is death. Life marches forward and death marches backwards, yet some times death too is a march forward, it all depends on circumstances. Then again, the definition of everything depends upon its circumstances.

Sometimes a thing can be right and sometimes it can be wrong. There is no book to which one can turn to find all the answers to all questions. Some times answers cannot be found in any book of words. Answers, like questions are part of life, they both exist around us and surround us as does life itself. But as we all know, death also is never too far away.

There are question and there are answers, some embrace life and others embrace death. We too always walk that middle road between the two. The questions that we ask decide for us which way we turn our faces, either towards life or towards death. The answers we seek, the answers we receive, the answers upon which we act define for us our paths, be it towards life or towards death.

Life ever moves forward, with us or without us. Death ever marches backwards, either with us or without us. To all life there must come death. Death is the end of one cycle and the beginning of a new one. In this death moves us forward. We will all move forward through death at some point. It should not be feared. It is an adventure; an adventure into the great unknown.

Life moves forward even beyond what we see as death. Once we move beyond, we are no longer here. As such this place is no longer our concern. So why speak of another place, why address issues of another time? Here is the place we be. Now is where we are at. Focus on the here and now and one focuses on life. Focus on the beyond and one misses all the wonder and beauty of the here and now. What a shame and a waste.

Ask the right questions that swerve your path towards life. Seek out the answers that enable you to embrace the here and now, for this life and length of days. This is no great wisdom; there is no revelation of knowledge here. This is simply the natural way, what we once called common sense. This is the natural way, the hiding place of the Hand of G-d. This is the way of the center path, the way of Torah and the heart.

Silence your mind from questions, silence your tongue from speech. Allow your heart to speak into your mind and enable yourself to hear the inner soft voice. Follow its guidance in wisdom and with understanding it will lead you beside the still waters that will revive your soul. March forward into life and live.

At one time this did not need to be said, this did not need to be told. But today, many do not live in today, they live for tomorrow or for yesterday. This is not full life. Live here, live now, be who you are and cast off who you are not.

Choose life, become living wisdom, unleash the Torah concealed within your very being. When life, wisdom and Torah combine, there will only be fulfillment, peace and clear direction. Is this not what all seek today. Silence your mind, contemplate these words, allow them to sink into the soil of your soul, to take root and to sprout a great new tree of life.