

***“Shimon HaTzadik was among the last surviving members of the Great Assembly.***

***He would say, The world stands on three things,***

***\* Torah,***

***\* Avodah (the service of God), and***

***\* Gemilut Hasidim (deeds of kindness).”***

**\* Torah**

**knowing the right way**

**\* Avodah**

**doing the right things**

**\* Gemilut Hasidim**

**always acting with kindness & mercy**

Torah is not a book.

Torah is the soul of the universe.

In the beginning God gazed into Torah

and from it created the universe.

Everything came forth from Torah.

Torah is thus the source

of everything in the universe.

Wherever one is, Torah is there.

Torah is learned from watching and observing...

how fire burns...

how waters move,

how the wind blows,

how animals live daily,

Torah is in everything, everywhere.

It is in the Higgs Boson,

it is in the pattern of congested city traffic,

it is in the hardships we face daily in life.

Everything comes forth from the source,

and those who “study”

can see the umbilical cord

that connects each and every thing

to the Torah which gave birth to it.

Avodah is doing what is right,

it is an on-going, never-ending process.

One does what is right and thus

seals the balance between Heaven and Earth.

One does what is right,

simply because it is right,

no further reasoning required!

Thought without action is blind.

Thought divorced from natural Torah

leads to harm.

To serve Heaven one must serve Earth,

to serve Earth, one must serve one another.

When one gives,

and provides the needs of another,

one is imitating God in the highest order.

As God gives so too must we.

As God tolerates all our crap,  
so too do we tolerate the crap of others,  
otherwise, no one learns anything,  
and no work gets done.

One who sees Torah in its natural forms,  
also sees how to build,

Avot 1:2

what to unite,

what needs to be tolerated,

and what needs to be done, and how.

There is a time and a purpose

for all things under Heaven.

***Knowing this is Torah.***

***Doing this is Avodah.***

***This is Divine Service,***

***the offerings of sacrifice in the Temple  
built of human stones.***

Gemilut Hasidim

often is not the way of the Earth.

It is often not the way of the angels,

but it is very often the way of God.

As God does, so do we!

There should be nothing simpler than this.

Life is a cycle,

like waves in nature,

there are highs and lows.

All life follows this pattern

because there is a time and a purpose,

for all things under Heaven.

We go with God,

and by consequence,

God goes with us.

As God gives, we give.

Even though we are sometimes given crap,

and sometimes it is right to return

crap for crap,

nevertheless, in order to improve things,

and to turn a natural wave

from going down into going up,

we must sometimes

just clean up the crap

and act with kindness,

compassion, mercy and love.

Every parent knows this.

Every infant (and puppy) needs this,

in order to grow up and become mature.

Shimon means, “one who hears.”

HaTzadik means, “the one who does right.”

He taught us right.

These words are his sentiments.

May the memory of the righteous

continue to be for us a blessing, Amen!