

The Canyon Drive

By Ariel Bar Tzadok

I drove through the canyon today on my way to teach a class.

It is such a beautiful drive, a narrow winding road through the steep high mountain walls.

As I pay attention to the road, the road looks sufficiently wide and stable. It looks like it could last forever. Yet, I know for sure, not everything last forever.

I stop for a moment to contemplate the canyon walls. As I look upon the road carved along the canyon's side, the road seems small and insignificant, not as wide and stable as when I view it as I drive.

The long winding road along the canyon side could with ease be snapped or crushed by the simplest of rock slides, all the more so an earthquake. In this area, both can happen in a moment, without notice.

Yet, as I drive, the road looks secure. Yet, when I stop to observe it, it looks so fragile. How true is it that both perceptions are accurate. How true is it that this is also a lesson about life.

Our path through life is like a canyon pass, long and winding, hugging the tight the side, for fear we might fall. Danger exists, for at any moment the path might be disrupted by events out of our control.

Nonetheless, with all this, we continue our journey, focusing upon the road, instead of upon everything around it. Focusing upon what is instead of what could be.

Life is a long road and only Heaven knows what awaits us around the next curve. We have not been given eyes to see the future. No one knows for sure what tomorrow, or not even the next moment may bring.

We must be careful to watch our every step. The road of life, like canyon roads, wind and twist and is full of sharp turns. We must focus on the moment and hug the curves because if we allow ourselves a moment's distraction, we can all too easily veer off the road and slide down a canyon wall to impending doom.

Focus upon where you are, instead of where you want to be. Pay attention to what is and not what should be, could be or you want to be. Keep your eyes on the road instead of everything else going on around you.

When you know where you are at, then you can easily take the next step to what comes next. Miss the step and you take a chance of falling on your face.

There is no wisdom in admiring the beautiful view if it means losing your step and falling on your face, or worse, crashing into the side of the mountain.

Be where you are, focus on what is, enjoy the ride and drive through life carefully with responsibility.

Also remember, you are not the only traveler on the road. What you do has an affect upon others, be it for good or bad. Herein lay the secret of redemption.