

The Nature of Exile

Part 4, Synchronicity of Redemption Integrating the Inner & Outer Worlds

by HaRav Ariel Bar Tzadok

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There is only one reason why the world is in need of redemption and that is because the world is full of individuals who each need to be individually redeemed. Redemption will not come to the world before it first comes to the individuals of the world.

True, Mashiah can come at any time chosen by Heaven. But in our present state, how would he be received? As faithful followers of religious creeds, we all have our mutually exclusive views as to who Mashiah must be and what it is he must do. One religion's Mashiah will be the others "anti-Mashiah" (anti-Christ, Armilus, Al-Dahjal).

Before redemption can come to the whole world, certain exclusive differences will have to be addressed. Being that we do not see any movement by anyone to make peace here on Earth, we can be assured that such pre-messianic preparations are being made by Heaven.

It is an act of Divine mercy that Heaven has not yet sent a Mashiah to intervene in human history to set us all upon the right path. For if this were to happen presently, with humanity in a state unprepared to receive the consequences of its behavior, collectively all humanity would find itself "on the short end of the stick." No, we are not yet ready for Divine intervention to correct our human frailties. There is still much that we each must do as individuals before we can be ready to receive Divine intervention without such an event causing total psychological melt-down in the majority of humanity.

In my opinion, this is why Heaven delays the coming of Mashiah. We are being given time as a race to psychologically evolve and better ourselves. If we fail at this endeavor, and from the looks of it, we are failing miserably, then Heaven will have to act autonomously and intervene in such a way that serves the best interests of humanity. Of course, many individuals from all cultures, religions and nations might not see things the way that Heaven does and again, might find themselves "on the short end of the stick."

Messianic prophecies from all different religions always revolve around one central theme and that is the apocalypse. Before Mashiah comes, it is believed that the present world is destined to be devastatingly destroyed. The "world of lies" must be exposed and destroyed



before the “world of truth” is born. Now, just what is “truth” and what are “lies” all depends upon whom you ask. Even within each religion, there are various opinions. Each religion expects that the other religions and especially those within their own religion who disagree with them will face the Divine wrath when Mashiah comes, with only themselves being vindicated. Needless to say, the dangerous naivete of such a position is not fully grasped.

Everyone believes that their own path will be vindicated and that all those who do not embrace their path will be damned for their “evil rejection” of what the individual sees and knows so clear to be true. If all the world's religions had their way, then everyone would suffer from the apocalypse, with no one remaining alive to greet Mashiah when he comes. Luckily for us, I believe Heaven has other plans.

The reasons why we gravitate to such positions of extremism is not because of the teachings of this or that religion, but rather because of the psychological predisposition of the individual religious teachers. It is not that religion is bad, but rather that those who teach religious extremism are themselves prisoners to forces (klipot) that they cannot detect.

Every religion contains various schools of opinions. One never receives a full picture of the teachings of a religion by looking at only one aspect of these teachings. Islam, for example is a lot more than Wahabi'ism and the Taliban. Christianity is a lot more than the Evangelicals and the Baptists. Torah Judaism is a lot more than the certain extremist elements that have infiltrated and poisoned much of the Haredi community. All of these are examples of extremists who pick and choose what it is they want to believe about their religions and then proclaim their minority beliefs to be the one and only truth. They then work effortlessly to delegitimize all the others in their own religion who do not agree with them.

This problem is not a religious one; it is a psychological one. This psychological problem is not found exclusively in any one religion; it is found in them all. And it is not the religion that is at fault, but rather the problem lies in the minds of those who perpetrate such crimes against their own religion, against humanity and against themselves. An equally big problem is that fellow coreligionists give these extremists credence instead of confronting them. This is why we have exile.

Lack of knowledge of one's own religious teachings does leave one's mind open to persuasion from those who seek to manipulate the uneducated. When one is in a state of psychological exile and thus unable to see the differences between different types of peoples and beliefs in their own faith (and amongst those of different faiths), this is where the poisonous teachings of an extremist leader can come in and make bad matters even worse.

When the inner psyche is never allowed by the conscious mind out of its prison in the unconscious, it comes back to haunt us in the forms of nightmares, the worst form of them being the apocalypse. The untrained conscious mind is not aware of its own inner struggle. It never listens to its own inner voice screaming to be free. So then rather than interpret the struggle and turmoil being something going on exclusively inside the individual, the closed minded soul, thinks that the struggle must be something external to himself. In psychology, this is called projection.

The individual's mind has locked itself into its own way of rigid thinking and is unable to free itself. One's own inner-self struggles to be free, and faces a constant fight with the conscious mind trying desperately to repress it and keep it down. In the end, the conscious

mind becomes full of fears, knowing that something is after it and that something pursues it to destroy it. These fears then become projected on to the opposition group, whomever that may be. This is where fear, prejudice and violence comes from. Such forms of social unrest are always expressions of previously existing psychological unrest. This is what the Ba'al Shem Tov recognized as being the source of the three levels of exile.

The only way to address the external exile is to first address the internal one. No one will ever become free unless real freedom is first achieved psychologically. Any effort to free one physically prior to being freed psychologically is for the most part a futile effort. This is clearly showed in the experience of the Children of Israel who left Egypt. G-d performed all types of wonders to redeem them physically and still the people complained and complained. Eventually Heaven decreed that the whole lot of them (with 2 exceptions out of 600,000) would die in the wilderness.

Because the people never dealt with their individual internal exiles, they never became free. Try as He did, even G-d couldn't free them from their internal exiles. Only the individual can free him/herself from his/her own internal exile. This is the true return to fullness and truth and another reason why we call such a psychological integration Teshuva (real repentance).

This is also why apocalyptic prophecies from around the world always predict that the vast majority of humanity will suffer and die before the coming of Mashiah. Jewish prophecies are no different. They predict that over two-thirds of the Jewish people will be wiped out before the final redemption comes. In light of our understanding of psychological projections and psychic fears, let us ask, why is there so much doom and gloom? Why is there this repeated message of death and destruction prior to the coming of the redemption? The answer is rather direct, although psychic.

Deep down within the inner recesses of the unconscious the inner individual knows full well his own state of imbalance and the resulting psychological blindness this causes. The individual knows deep down that before there can be healing (at the individual or collective level) there must first be a removal of the disease. Only the removal of disease can be called healing. Yet, the conscious mind identifies with the disease, embraces it and calls it reality.

When the time for healing comes, the time for the reality of disease must end. The end of disease is its death and destruction. Therefore the conscious mind interprets and senses that its own healing brings with it the death of that which has kept it imprisoned. Being that the conscious mind cannot understand all the inner psychic workings inside the unconscious, it projects these feelings of dread and fear on to the outside world. Therefore, the doom and gloom to come, the death and destruction of the apocalypse comes upon the outside world, upon the "others" and only maybe upon oneself.

Yes, the end of the world is sensed within. However, the unconscious is not sending a psychic signal to the conscious mind about the end of the outside world and the destruction of humanity. Rather, it is sending a signal about the destruction of the conscious prison that presently imprisons the unconscious "higher self" (neshama).

The conscious mind somehow senses the coming apocalypse but cannot realize that it is the internal psychological apocalypse inside oneself that by nature must come about in order for one to be personally and individually redeemed. Only this is true redemption. Only this is the true return to G-d and salvation of the self (soul). This is what the Children of Israel could not actualize in the wilderness. This is what modern day people, like the wilderness

generation cannot grasp. Yes, the apocalypse is coming, but first it is coming to the inner mind, before it will ever reach its outer limits.

Heaven is moving through human history. We human beings have a Higher Hand upon us requiring of us growth, maturity and evolution. We are destined to accomplish the purpose for which we were created and this is to be and to live as creatures created in the Divine Image.

Everything therefore that hinders this growth will be removed one way or another. Either we will remove our hindrances personally through effort and inner exploration or Heaven will intervene and remove them for us through a coming apocalypse. One way or another we will meet our collective destiny.

Each and every human being has a choice to make whether or not they are willing to confront their own inner turmoil and heal it or to face the expression of that inner turmoil in an external world that will crumble around them.

In our next essay, entitled THE PATH HOME, I will discuss practical steps that each individual can take to help expand their limited perspectives to help them see and accept the ways of others and thus by doing so see the grander picture that Heaven has drawn.

THE PATH HOME will be about personal redemption, healing and growth. These things are never easy, but all things worth having are worth the price we pay for them.