

## *Of Machines and Cogs*

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Long ago, it was taught, *"Better to walk behind a lion than behind a woman"* (Eruvin 18b). The hour is upon us to again take up the path. The lion roars before us, the time of the woman approaches. The balancing of the scales will be upon us sooner than we think.

We all live inside the intricate machine that is our universe. It operates with a precision better than the best made watches and clocks. So many moving parts all performing their operations with exactness, never failing, never slacking. Of all the random elements that we see, we fail to comprehend how they fit into the greater mechanical operations, yet, fit they do.

So small and insignificant are we humans. In our arrogance we try to see and understand the entire operation all the while that we exist inside the clockwork tucked away into a very small corner. From our vantage point, we can never see the whole, from our present position we will never be able to understand much. The machine of the universe operates around us according to its order. We are very small cogs inside this grand machine. Our influence is miniscule; our power is next to none.

As the woman approaches and the time for balancing the scales draws close, it is also time for us to begin the new school year. Our children return to their learning. Are we aware that our adult school year also begins anew? Our children learn more in school than what their books teach them. Their interactions with their peers and their lessons about life will mark them much deeper than any academic lesson taught in a classroom. Indeed, our children will learn more in school outside the classroom than they will within it. How many of us remember the lessons our teachers taught us? How many of us remember the good times and bad times of school with our friends?

Our sojourn in this world is our classroom. The academic lessons we can learn by observing the clockwork movement of the universe around us. Yet, there is more to our educational process here on Earth than our mere learning of the laws of science. We are sent here to earth for our schooling. Like with our children, we learn more from one another than we ever will inside the classroom. We learn more about our universe by observing ourselves and others than by observing the clockwork movements of natural law.

Here now is the great insight; what happens inside us also happens outside us. We are part of the greater machine. How we operate on the human level is also how the universe operates on the cosmic scale. Although we cannot expand our vision to look outside ourselves to see the whole universe, we can on the contrary look within ourselves and discover the entire blueprint of creation. Everything without exists within. This is the great truth and beauty of being human. To learn and experience this truth is why we come to classroom Earth.

The lion always roars first, the woman always follows it, only to be followed by the scales, the scorpion and the archer. This is the way and flow of things. We cannot change the great outside world; neither can we change the greater inside world. Ignorance of the natural operations places us in jeopardy of conflicting with natural law. Ignorance of our inner natural law jeopardizes us by causing with our true inner operations. This will cause us great harm in school. We can fail our lessons if we choose not to listen and learn.

Cogs in a machine are designed to function according to their design. Sometimes due to wear and tear, they get dirty. When this happens, they are removed, cleaned, repaired in necessary, and then returned to their place to perform their function. Some cogs however get so dirty that they cannot be cleaned, or so broken that they cannot be fixed. These are removed and thrown away. The operation of the great machine is too important to be concerned about the welfare of individual cogs. When a part refuses or is otherwise unable to perform its function it can have a negative impact on those parts close to it and depending on it, therefore to address the problems with individual cogs is important and is handled in its proper way and time.

Fine-tuning a complicated piece of machinery is itself a mechanical act. There is no emotional attachment to this work. The repairer has no attachment to the cogs and other parts. His job is simple, make sure the apparatus continues to operate smoothly as designed, clean and fix what needs be and remove and dispose of what needs be. This is what is done. The repairer does not hear nor would he listen to any pleas from a cog asking for anything. A cog is simply a part of the machine. There is no concern for what it wants, how it feels or what it thinks. The cog is there to do its job. If this is done, then the cog remains. If it fails at its appointed task then it requires attention. The amount of attention shown to the individual cog is limited to the scope of that cogs importance. It will either be cleaned or repaired within an allotted time or it will simply be replaced. Often when viewed, the repairer might considered the cog not to be worth any effort to clean or repair, he simply removes it and disposes of it.

The repairer acts mechanically to fix the great apparatus. This is his job. He too, like a cog must perform his function. He too, like a broken cog can be replaced if he were to fail to perform his duty. In order to become a repairer one must show a high level of accomplishment and responsibility to the job, therefore rarely has a repairer even been found lax in his work and in need of replacement. As far as we know, it has only happened once.

All year long, the apparatus functions. All year long, individual cogs get dirty and some break down. Once the lion roars it signals that the repairer is coming to make his regular rounds. Once the woman appears, it is time for the cogs to fix themselves as best they can. Once the scales are set, balance will be restored, the good cogs will receive fresh reviving lubrication. The bad cogs will be cleaned or removed. The whole job takes but ten days. Yet, these ten days will decide how the great machine will run for the whole next year.

We have been taught a myth. We have be told a story appropriate for children yet unacceptable for adults. We have been taught that we each have intrinsic value. We are pumped full of stories about of own self-importance. We have been taught that G-d is a loving King who rules in Heaven. All we have to do to win His favor is to say we are sorry for being bad and promise that we will be good. He just loves to forgive us. He wants to give us

the world and all He asks of us is so little. These stories and ideas are a poison to the soul. Those individuals who perpetuate this charade will answer for their misguidance in short time.

There is nothing personal about Heaven. Everything operates in accordance to a greater Law. Call it whatever you wish, whatever names we use to describe the Higher Power obviously fall short of properly describing it. Law is what we live under and Law cannot be escaped. This is the ultimate truth of the universe. In order for us to be proper cogs in the machine, we must be subject to and in conformance with the Law. Our violations of Law are what get us dirty and break us down. Law was not meant to be a metaphor, it is actual. Law directs our proper action and defines improper behavior. Law is the language of the universe, it rules over all, without any exception.

Law is natural and it is supernatural. There is Law that we know and there is Law that we do not know. Although we know it not, nor see it, the supernatural, invisible Law still is what it is, immutable and authoritative. Its movements direct the repairer just as seeable natural Law directs the cogs and the greater machine. All operate together in harmony. All follow a greater scheme and plan unbeknown to us.

In the greater scheme of things, our individual lives and fortunes are terribly insignificant. Have we not all seen the mighty fall, the rich become poor, the suffering of the righteous and the victories of the wicked? We all fall victim to lies, to theft and to all forms of evil. It appears as if there is no justice, no judge, no right and wrong and no accounting. Yes, it can appear this way. However, no machine can ever run under such haphazard condition. Dirty and broken cogs are removed regularly. Yet, maybe the nature of this removal does not meet our criteria of judgment. We expect so much and receive so little. Indeed, maybe in fact, we are receiving a great deal, but fail to recognize just what it is we are receiving?

The machine's operation always runs according to plan. One thing is for sure, you and I have absolutely no idea as to what that plan is. The machine follows its natural and supernatural course. We follow along in like kind. It does not matter if we like it or not. Our feelings are insignificant. It does not matter what we believe. Our ideas are equally insignificant. What matters most is what type of cogs we are? Are we doing our jobs? Are we adding to the efficiency of the great machine or are we diminishing from it? Know the answer to this and you will become one very smart little cog.

שויתי ה" לנגדי תמיד