



Be Smart & Be Strong!

**Words of Encouragement & Guidance,
based on the wisdom of the Torah, and the Kabbalah.**

**Commentary to Selections from
the Book of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and more.**

By Ariel Bar Tzadok

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***“The fear of God is the beginning of knowledge;
wisdom and instruction have the fool despised.”***

Proverbs 1:7

You are driving a car, and come up to a traffic signal. The light is red indicating for you to stop, and let the other cars proceed through the intersection. As you approach, however, you see no other cars, so you decide not to stop, and you proceed. You reason that being there are no other cars, there is no danger.

Yet, as soon as you pass, you hear a siren. A police officer witnessed your violation, pulls you over a gives you a ticket, and you have to pay a hefty fine. You go in front of a judge to plead your case. You say, but “your honor” there was no one else in the intersection, there was no visible danger; why shouldn’t I have driven through.

The judge responds, and reminds you that the law is the law, and although you did not see any cars at that moment, one could have come out of nowhere, not expecting you to be there in violation of the law. The results could have been a terrible accident.

The law is there to protect, it is meant to be observed, regardless if at the moment the observance of the law seems unnecessary, or inconvenient. In the end, you pay your hefty fine, and your driving record is marked. You took a chance for a small immediate gain, and ended up with a much greater long-term loss. Where is the wisdom in this?

In real life there is not always a police officer there watching our every move to penalize us for violating every infraction of law. Yet, this is not the case with regards to Heaven. Heaven does not suffer from a “man-power” shortage. There is always a Presence



watching over us, protecting us from wanton harm, and at the same time noting our every act, and reporting it to the appropriate Heavenly judge to execute judgment upon us. While we can escape the fleeting notice of our fellow human beings, we can never escape the All-Watching and All-Seeing Eye of Heaven.

In our modern world, everything appears to be upside-down. Good behavior is seldom rewarded. Bad behavior is seldom caught. Good people seem to suffer, while bad people seem to be benefiting. There is no more a sense of justice. Yet, all this is merely an illusion of the moment.

In the end, who an individual is, and what the person does, always catches up with them. One way or another we all pay for our indiscretions, or are rewarded for our proper deeds. Heaven watches over us with Divine patience. We are given so many opportunities to better ourselves. It is only when we run out of opportunities that we have run out of time.

Wisdom is a knowledge not learned from books. Wisdom rises up from within the heart, from the very recesses of self that we call our spiritual source. Wisdom intuitively identifies for us right from wrong, and good from bad. It is the awareness and knowing of the Watchful Presence that is the beginning of true knowledge.

Intuition starts with one feeling the Higher Presence, and knowing that one is not alone. This is called the Fear of God. Fear means to be aware, and to be cautious. One who fears knows well that there are consequences for one's actions.

Wisdom and instruction are the pillars of psychological growth, and individual maturity. One must allow wisdom to rise up from within. At the same time, one must be willing to listen to those around who know better than oneself. Instruction comes from the Written Word. Wisdom comes from the heart. When one aligns one's heart with the written Word of God one finds oneself aligned to the greatest of all powers in the universe. In such a place, there is never anything to fear. Knowing this place is the beginning of true knowledge of life.

***"Listen my child to the instruction of your father
and do not cast aside the guidance of your mother."***

Proverbs 1:8

There are two general ways through which the lessons of life are learned. We learn things academically through books and school, and we learn things intuitively, through

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our experiences in life. One way of learning teaches us about the world surrounding us on the outside; the other way of learning teaches us about what is going on inside us, our feelings, and our true thoughts.

We human beings learn in both these ways. Both methods teach us about very different realities. We need to learn in both ways in order to fully acquire what we need to know to live full, and healthy lives. Metaphorically speaking these two ways of receiving knowledge are to us as the father and mother of the human mind/soul. As our physical moms and dads are responsible for our physical birth, so the two modes of human learning are the proverbial parents of our minds.

Instruction (musar), and guidance (torah), are not the same thing. Instruction comes from our father; and guidance comes from our mother. This is a secret of the inner workings of the mind, and the learning of true knowledge. It is also manifest in the relationship that one is supposed to have with one's physical parents.

Instructions teach us how to use a thing. Whenever we buy something new, it usually comes with a set of instructions. We read the instructions to learn about our new item, and how best to care for it, or operate it. Being that the item is external to us, it is not part of us, we do not have inherent, intuitive knowledge about it; we cannot look within ourselves for the answers of how best to use this new thing. We must learn from an outside source how to properly interact with this new outside thing. This is instruction.

Guidance, however, is very different. Anyone can offer advice, and almost everyone does. Yet, there is something deep within us that, in essence, feels the difference between the right direction, and wrong direction offered us by another. Something inside of us knows how to discern the difference based upon an entirely different criteria that external technical operating instructions.

The human heart is never understood by an operator's manual. We human beings do not come with written instructions for use. These are things we each have to learn by ourselves. When we intuitively heed that which we know within ourselves, this is true guidance.

External instruction is the metaphorical father of our minds, and guidance is the metaphorical mother. We need to pay attention to both. We need to learn about our outside world, and how best to interact with everything in it, and we need to pay attention to ourselves, our needs, feelings and intuitions, to best ascertain what is right for us as individuals.



There are some external interactions that we should be involved with, and some we should entirely avoid. External instruction can only inform us of some of these, but the full list of what is right and wrong for the individual is etched within the soul. One must learn to know one's true self, then find, and maintain one's true place in the world. No external source can reveal this knowledge, for no external source can ever possibly know the reality of one's inner being.

In this world, we are all spiritual children. There is so much for us to learn. Our human mind does have an owner's manual of sorts, but it is not a book in print. Rather, it is a book etched within our hearts. This book is the Living Word of God.

One who learns the written Word learns instruction. Yet, one must take these Words to heart, and feel the very truth within them. This personal embrace and emotional bond with the Written Word is the inner guidance and touch of the Word of our inner Mother. There is no warmer and more enveloping embrace than that of a mother.

Torah is the mother of our souls, when we allow ourselves to fall into Her warm embrace we feel safe, protected, and loved. This is how we receive guidance through the maze of life and instructions about the rules of the game. Therefore, we are advised to listen.

***“Wisdom cries out in public, she raises her voice in the streets.
At the entrance to the marketplace she calls,
in the open gates of the city she speaks her words.
Until when will you ignorant continue to love ignorance
and mockers take pleasure in mocking and fools hate knowledge?”***

Proverbs 1:20-22

Ignorance is a contagious disease. Today all too many believe that ignorance is bliss, and what they do not know, or believe, does not exist, and therefore cannot harm them. Can one stand in front of a coming train, and not be hit? Can one jump from a high building, and not fall? Can one point a loaded gun at one's head, pull the trigger, and expect not to be shot?

We all know the answers to these questions. We say that only an idiot would stand in front of a moving train, jump off a building or shoot oneself in the head. Yet, we also all know the sad truth, as offensive as it is to say, we all live in a world that is full of idiots, foolish people who endanger themselves in so many different ways that it is impossible to count.



Our human ability to think is a blessed gift from Heaven. As human beings, we have very profound, in-depth abilities of thinking and analysis, far beyond any other known species on earth. Yet, at the same time as our minds are capable of such great things, they are also capable of such stupid things.

Who has not experienced the great power of human imagination and rationalization? We can delude ourselves into believing in the rationality and correctness of anything we choose. We can twist and turn the most simplest of clear realities, and turn them into warped and perverted things. We can literally turn our world upside-down.

As intelligent as we are, there is something within us that sometimes makes us think or act like fools. While we believe that we can turn our world upside-down, we fail to recognize the consequences of our actions. We are, in fact, not really changing the world; we are merely changing the way we choose to look at it.

Herein lies human arrogance. We believe that if we look at the world upside-down that it has indeed changed, and therefore operates in accordance to how we now view things. Nothing could be farther from the truth. If we decide to call up down, and down up, this decision of ours will certainly not effect the laws of gravity.

You can believe all you want that down is up and up is down, yet if you decide to test your newfound beliefs by jumping off a high building, you will certainly discover that the laws of nature have not changed all because your perception of them has changed. You will pay the price for your incorrect perceptions of reality.

Not for naught was the forbidden fruit in Eden called the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. The problem in Eden was not so much the eating of the forbidden fruit of Knowledge. Adam and Eve could have first eaten of the fruit of the Tree of Life, then they could have eaten from the Tree of Knowledge without any harmful affects. Yet, knowledge first, before Life, brought with it death.

Without the fruit of the Tree of Life, which is the psychological power of moral discernment, knowledge brings with it both good and evil. Without the fruit of the Tree of Life, one does not have the ability to discern between what is helpful to one, and what is harmful. Knowledge without morality can justify anything; it can make the bad look good and the good look bad. Life without morality can turn even the most intelligent of individuals into the greatest of fools.



Wisdom can properly be called “street smarts” because it is learned along the highways and byways of life. Wisdom is acquired through experience, not books. When one pays attention to life, and learns lessons about the real way things are, not the way some people believe they should be; this is wisdom.

Life is not a puzzle whose pieces all fit nicely together. Life is like flowing river, one never knows what lies up ahead around the bend. Wisdom teaches one to be cautious and to be prepared for anything. Wisdom goes with the flow, it allows life to unfold, and one unfolds along with it.

Wisdom never tries to squeeze a square peg into a round hole. Wisdom allows a square to be a square, and a circle to be a circle. This all might sound like simple common sense, yet the verse says, “wisdom cries out in the streets.” That which should be common sense to everyone has unfortunately become very uncommon.

Wisdom is the proper expertise of what to do, how to do it and when it should be done. Wisdom may rightly be called intuition or instinct. We all have this within us, some more than others. How much wisdom we have depends on whether or not we choose to listen to the inner voice of conscience, the Living Way, or to the external voices of rationalization from others outside us.

Intuitively we all know that round pegs belong in round holes, and square pegs in square holes. Yet, the voices of external rationalization do not wish to be limited and hindered by what they consider to be the illogical demands of natural law. Those who disconnect from the Living Way and the inner voice of conscience have no moral compass to navigate them through life. As such, they waste their lives and energy hammering squares into round holes demanding that they fit, and puzzled why they have such a hard time.

The problem with listening to others at the expense of one’s inner wisdom is the inherent danger in all external knowledge. It can be twisted and turned upside-down. We have no inner compass to direct us how to interpret that which is outside of us. Therefore, external knowledge has to come from a trusted and faithful source, or otherwise how can it be trusted?

The only way for one to discern the good fruit of knowledge from the bad is by the inner conscience of the fruit of the Tree of Life, which is Living Way wisdom. Wisdom rises from a heart that bonds with the Way. One’s moral conscience guides one through the maze of information and knowledge that our world offers. Knowledge can be both good and bad. Only the Way provides one with discernment to distinguish between the two.



The Way is wisdom; wisdom is the Way. One who takes the Way to heart finds awakening of the soul, and true awareness in the mind.

The inner Voice of the Way conscience is as clear as one shouting out in public. One who is listening will hear. Yet, the public has many voices shouting all at once. The public is a place of noise and confusion. One must then retreat to the silence within, to discern the voice in the marketplace and recognize it amongst the many other competing voices. One who hears the inner Voice of the Way conscience within the recesses of one's heart will hear the wisdom in it.

Ones behavior will prove if one's has embraced wisdom or foolishness.

***“Although I have called, you have turned away,
I stretched out my hand and none take it,
you have cast off all my advice
and to my admonishments you paid no attention.
I also will laugh at your distress;
I will scorn you when that which you fear comes.”***

Proverbs 1:24-26

Wisdom is concealed in the laws of nature. We can learn much about ourselves, and our Creator simply by observing His creation. The laws and ways of Heaven are revealed through the ways and movements of nature. This is why many of the masters of old would spend long hours alone in the desert, or taking walks through a forest. Along the highways and byways of nature one can learn to see the Working Hand of our Creator.

Learn now a great law of both Heaven and earth; nature is a cruel taskmaster who does not take kindly to fools. We may use science to create airplanes to fly through the air, yet to this day, no human being alone can flap his arms, and fly. Anyone believing that he is a bird, or an airplane, will soon face the inevitable reality that he is, in the end, only human, and humans do not fly by their own power, according to Natural Design. We can work with the laws of nature, but we certainly cannot work against them. This is the natural parameters, and boundaries imposed on us by our Creator.

One who looks out upon the world with an inquiring eye will also see many things that will shine light upon much what goes on inside us. Outside reality and inside reality often reflect upon one another. In psychology, this is called synchronicity, the science of understanding what is falsely believed to be coincidence. All things are in a way



connected to everything else. Most of these connections are invisible to the untrained eye. Yet, one with wisdom has learned to see beyond what the physical eye can sense. Synchronicity helps us to understand ourselves by seeing in the world around us the subtle messages sent to us by our Creator.

Life is a learning process. In essence, we are all here schoolchildren. We come to earth to learn how to live and embrace life. At the same time, we must learn how to avoid dying, and shun death. True, we all have a time to pass on; yet, the goal of the game is to live until that time and not create circumstances that bring about an untimely demise.

The laws of nature reflect to us the laws of spiritual truths. As the laws of nature are very unforgiving to those who violate them, so too are the spiritual truths.

While we all might wish to believe our Creator to be the embodiment of unconditional love, we must rightly come to realize that the Divine definition of love and the human definition are very far apart. Our Creator allows natural law to take its course and to bring upon both the individual and societies terrible hardships and sufferings. Our Creator certainly does not love us as we would wish to be loved and apparently Heaven does not seem to mind this discrepancy.

Many pray, and ask why has Heaven chosen to treat them in harsh and unforgiving ways. Heaven in turn responds and says, it is not Heaven who has treated you in any way harsh, rather you are merely experiencing the consequences of your own choices. In other words, it is not Heaven who brings down sufferings upon us, it is we who bring them upon ourselves.

Heaven attempts to intervene and prevent us from experiencing such troubles. Yet, if we refuse to heed the admonishments of Heaven, and the clear synchronistic signs surrounding us in everyday life, then we will face the ultimate destiny of the terrible consequences of our foolish choices. When tragedy befalls us, it is not the fault of Heaven, rather it is our own fault.

Wisdom does not tolerate foolishness. There is no such thing as unconditional love. Everything has conditions; everything has parameters. Divine patience has its limitations too. When schoolchildren are misbehaving, they will face the teacher's wrath.

As it is with the laws of nature, so it is with spiritual law. One who has created for oneself a quagmire will not find Heaven very desirous or willing to extricate one from the mess of one's own making. Heaven allows us to suffer the consequences of our



actions regardless of how bad they are. Once a course of action is set, it is too late to ask Heaven to intervene.

Only true and sincere change within one's heart and soul can bring about a response from Heaven. Without a contrite heart, wisdom and Heaven will ignore the plight of the foolish and allow them to suffer their self-made fates.

Wisdom cannot and will not help one once the consequences of foolishness befall us. Let one who hears take heed to these words. Timely they are, and very relevant. Seek wisdom while it may be found. Learn from the signs around you. See now while there is still a choice as to what to see. Foolishness surrounds us, yet, we can still choose to see and live by wisdom.

***“When what you your fear comes as a holocaust,
and your calamity comes on as a storm;
when trouble and distress come upon you.
Then will they call me, but I will not answer,
they will seek me earnestly, but they shall not find me.
Because they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of God;
they would have none of my counsel,
they despised all my admonitions.
Therefore, shall they eat of the fruit of their own way,
and be filled with their own paths.”***

Proverbs 1:27-31

Great is the power of mercy for those who seek it; to those who seek it while it yet may be found. Great is the harm that can befall one who chooses to live life foolishly and wantonly avoids any caution.

One cannot drive a car out of control, head towards a brick wall, and moments before a terrible crash regret one's behavior, and then expect the results to change. Heaven does not extricate one from the quicksand one has chosen to jump in, especially when one has denied all attempts of rescue until one is up to one's neck.

The old saying rings true, in accordance to the efforts, so are the rewards. Heaven extends to us numerous opportunities to change our ways, and to repair the damage we have caused throughout our lives to others and to ourselves. When one takes heed, indeed one can save oneself from impending future doom. However, those who refuse warnings and adamantly pursue reckless behavior should not be surprised by the



terrible harm and suffering that befalls them due to their chosen and embraced foolish choices.

Life is really this simple; live wisely and you will live best; live foolishly and you will face the consequences of your stupid choices. Although there are opportunities for change, there is no avenue of escape. Once the consequences of one's behavior start to unfold, you cannot stop them. Like an avalanche in progress, the only thing you can do is get out of the way. Those with wisdom know how to do this, whereas the fool looks upon the crashing snowfall with paralysis and confusion. It is always too late for the fool, yet it is never too late to learn wisdom.

We all want to think that opportunities for change are always there. By believing this we subtly convince ourselves that when we can no longer follow a foolish course in life because of the negative circumstances we have created, we can always modify our course (the less the better) into a new comfortable situation where one can still continue one's wanton ways but without the negative consequences being caused by them.

Create havoc because it is fun, step out of the way of the negative consequences caused thereby, and keep stepping when necessary; this is the mentality behind those who do not wish to change. Unfortunately, one cannot keep stepping out of the way, for one of the inevitable steps will lead one to fall right off the edge of a high cliff, with nothing but doom, and disaster waiting at the bottom.

The wise warn the foolish of the consequences they face. Yet, the fool chooses to pay no heed. Eventually, it will be too late; too late to listen to the wise, and too late for anyone, be it the wise, or even Heaven, to intervene as save one from the terrible consequences of one's own choices. This inevitability is not a punishment. It is merely the natural outcome of those who choose to live life foolishly.

Heaven has no desire and takes no joy in seeing the foolish suffer and perish. On the contrary Heaven has no greater joy than to see a fool become wise. Nevertheless, Heaven cannot allow a fool to go unpunished. Therefore, rather than punish the fool itself, Heaven allows the fool to punish himself, simply by facing the consequences of the fool's chosen behaviors.

Learning from experience is the greatest teacher. Unfortunately, sometimes the lessons of life experience can be rather harsh.



***“For it is the backsliding of the ignorant that kills them
and the pleasures of the fools will cause them to be lost.
One who listens to me will dwell securely
and be protected from evil fears.”***

Proverbs 1:32-33

Here is a question for you all to ponder. How many times must you beat a dead horse in order for it to get the message to come alive again?

If any of you have the answer to this, please let me know; for as long as I have tried to teach wisdom to the foolish, I feel like I stand a better chance at resurrecting a dead horse, by beating it with a stick. Sometimes, some individuals are so stubborn, and so wayward in their thinking and behavior that no amount of effort seems to work to teach them necessary life skills to make themselves better human beings.

We all look out at the world, and see the injustices that surround us daily. We all feel that there is so much wrong in the world with no apparent way to make it all right. Granted, the extremists among us all have answers. They believe that world peace can be achieved, and that everything can be made perfect once we destroy out of the world all who do not fit into their individual narrow views of perfection. This leaves most of us on someone's list of destruction.

What a shame and waste it is that the only way some people can imagine human perfection is by the destruction of all others who are different from themselves. In the end, it is usually the extremists who bring down upon their own heads the destruction they seek to place upon others.

Many of us who are religious look to Heaven, and pray for the answers to all our human problems. Little do we realize that at the same time we are looking to Heaven for the answers, Heaven is in turn looking down upon us, and waiting for us to solve our own problems, using the wisdom that Heaven has already provided us.

Like wise and watchful spiritual parents, Heaven's desire is for us human beings to grow up and mature; to learn how to deal with our own problems instead of having Heaven come intervene every time. When Heaven intervenes, we are thankful, true, however, we are not left any wiser. Only when we learn to solve our own problems do we truly learn wisdom and at the same time properly please Heaven with our maturity and responsible behavior. For us to do the right thing, for this Heaven waits.



The way Heaven punishes us is by refusing to get involved. When we turn our backs on Heaven, Heaven, in a way, turns its back on us. Heaven declares that if humanity is so smart without Divine direction, then humanity can extricate itself from its own problems. Heaven views this true on both the individual, and collective nature.

Both, an individual and society in whole, that wishes to receive the spiritual abundance that Heaven can provide, must first as a prerequisite accept upon oneself to follow Heaven's directives. When one follows the ways of Heaven, one can be guided along the roads of peace and security. However, when one wishes to follow one's own directions, without the foresight and wisdom from Above, then one will end up in whatever place that one's lack of clear vision has directed one to.

Understanding life is this simple. Live by wisdom, and you will be guided wisely. Live by foolishness, and foolishness will be your guide. Live by wisdom, end up with the goodness wisdom can provide. Live by foolishness, and end up with the dissatisfaction and emptiness that foolishness provides. In the end, the truth of everything becomes apparent.

Those who lack discipline, and choose to follow their desires, instead of what they know to be right and true, may indeed succeed in fulfilling their desires. Yet, in the end, they will find their desires can never be completely fulfilled. Like one addicted to pleasure, one will be driven from pursuit after pursuit, seeking ever more unfulfilling desires, until in the end, one is left bankrupt and bereft. This is the path of the fool. How many of us today have a bit of foolishness within us?

Words are many. Talk is cheap. Opinions are like hands, everybody has two, and seldom do they agree. People today are confused. They have no sense of purpose, no sense of loyalty, no sense of direction. Lost and asleep, this describes most people today. And we wonder whether or not our world can possibly become a better place?

Maybe if we could wake up the sleepers and provide directions to the lost, maybe then we could change the world? Then again, as I asked when I began, how long does it take to beat a dead horse back to life? While I do believe in miracle, we have been taught not to rely on them. What then? Only you can decide that for yourselves.



***“My child, if you will take my words and my directives,
it will be well with you.***

***To turn you ear’s attention to wisdom,
to turn your hearts towards intelligence;
for if your call out for understanding,
to raise your voice for intelligence;
if you seek it like silver
and search it out like other valuables;
then will you understand the fear of God,
and knowledge of God will you find.”***

Proverbs 2:1-5

To everything, there is a value. To everything, there is a price. One’s character as a person is revealed, and defined by what one considers to be of value.

There are those who value foolish, and vain things. It is no wonder then that individuals of this nature are themselves foolish and vain. One is always attracted to what one is, one always wants more of what one already has. One who is shallow is attracted to shallow things. The opposite is also true; one who is shallow or foolish will not be attracted to that which has depth, or requires wisdom.

Those who value smart and wise things also reveal their inner nature. Their pursuits in life reflect the nature of their character, and their wisdom. Wisdom and being smart is not something acquired from books; it cannot be proclaimed by a some sort of a degree from a school. Having wisdom and being smart is what you do. If you have it, you do it. The opposite is also true, if you do not do it, then you do not have it.

The higher the value of a thing, the greater its price, and greater the hardship to acquire it. This is true of both physical things and non-physical things. High levels of education, emotional maturity and spiritual wisdom with insight only come about after one has made incredible efforts to receive them. The adage said in the sport of weight training holds true in application to acquiring perfection of one’s inner traits. No pain, no gain.

One who wishes to climb to the heights of achievement and success must be willing to make many sacrifices. The truly valuable rewards do not come easily, for this is the nature of the real world. Real people, living in this real world, who possess real vision as to how the real world works, know these lessons well, and live by them.

One cannot change the ways of the world, even more so the ways of Heaven. One who is wise does not resist the ways of Heaven, but instead surrenders to them, and allows



Heaven to work in harmony with one's own pursuits. One who surrenders to Heaven finds that both the needs of Heaven, and the needs of the individual are equally filled. Yet, this is a lesson only properly appreciated through wisdom, understanding and intelligence. These three ingredients are sorely lacking today in the recipe of human society.

Knowledge of God; what good is this information in real life, for God is in Heaven and we are on earth. Knowledge of God actually has very little to do with religion, and a whole lot to do with life. God is the Creator of the Law; this includes the laws of nature, and the laws that govern human psychology and behavior. It is God the Creator who originally established the cause and effect relationship of behavior and consequence.

Whether or not we believe in God is of no matter. The laws of nature and the inherent consequences of violating them is a known and given fact. Believe what you will, you are still subject to the Law. This is not religion; this is life. Violation of this is death and not because God is punishing you, but rather because you are subject to the natural consequences of violating natural law. Knowledge of God, therefore, is knowledge of nature. Both can give one life, and save one from death. What is more valuable that this?

When you realize this knowledge, that God is the Creator, author and director of natural law and its consequences, you will intuitively develop an awe or fear of Heaven. When you know what you do has meaning and that your behavior has consequences, this makes any rational being pause and think about what should be done next.

Information about what is the right thing to do; at the right time in the right way is the most valuable commodity in the world. Only one who has paid for this can possess it and payment cannot be made with money or other transient valuables. Only that which is of true value can purchase this which is of true value. Consider well what has true value and where best to invest your energies.

***“For God will give wisdom,
from His Mouth knowledge and intelligence.
And it is concealed for the upright,
a saving shield for those who ways are simple.
To guard the paths of justice and the ways of His merciful one will He protect.
Then will you understand righteousness,
justice and doing the right thing, every good course.”***

Proverbs 2:6-9



Life is forever a mystery. No matter how much we learn as individuals, no matter how much science will ever understand about nature, there will always be that which is beyond our understanding. There will always be that which is invisible. There will always be questions to ask, and answers to find.

One who sets out upon a path will only succeed in arriving at one's destination if one knows where one is going. If one does not know where one is going, how will one recognize whether or not one has arrived? This describes our present state of human confusion and psychological loss of inner direction.

While we all seek happiness and fulfillment in life, few recognize what it is that brings these things. Therefore, when those things that bring us happiness and fulfillment come along, we fail to take advantage of the opportunity to grasp and embrace them. Rather, we often ignore the precious chances that come our way, and thereby miss the opportunities to find that which we crave most.

What a waste when one craves something so desperately, and at the same time does not recognize what it is that one craves. In such a state one goes through life always being unfulfilled, and unable to correct the situation. What a shame!

In order for us to understand the mystery of life, we must first understand the mystery of our selves. We must understand how we human beings actually operate. We must understand all our individual parts and how they were designed to operate in harmony to create the complete and fulfilled human being. Torah wisdom is based upon this solid foundation of addressing the whole human being, and not just individual parts. When we understand ourselves, we will understand our world and then will we come to understand life itself.

It is no wonder that as we neglect full parts of our selves, and our true human needs that our lives suffer accordingly. It is not enough living life in pursuit of the things of this world. Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die is the motto of the animal, not the human. Run around, work hard, make lots of money, push, push, push, this is a recipe for death, not for life. Everyone who has ever lived a life in pursuit of these vain goals realizes in the end how much more there is to life, but now one cannot acquire, for one has ran out of time, health, or strength.

Morality is a matter of the heart. Morality does not begin with, nor does it end with one's self. The world is there to serve me is the motto of the arrogant and the fool. One who goes through life believing that life owes him everything is a dangerous person

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who should be avoided. One who believes that one's own way of thinking is the one right way and everyone who cannot see this is clearly wrong is a dangerous person who should be avoided. One who places their own needs and desires above the needs of others, and does not care who one hurts in pursuit of one's own pleasures is a dangerous person who should be avoided. Morality is not what you believe; it is what you do.

We human beings do not exist separate from the world in which we live. We are all still part of the natural order. We are all bound by natural laws and psychological parameters that are the natural and normal boundaries of humanity. One who knows well one's place in this world and stays there will not-so-miraculously discover how fulfilled and happy one can indeed become.

How profound is it that if one does the right things in life one is naturally rewarded with a good life. This should be common sense. Yet, in our society, common sense has become ever so uncommon. Today most individuals can no longer recognize what is helpful and what is harmful to themselves. Today, most eat drink and seek to be merry for they believe that tomorrow they die. In the end, most do live another day, yet they are fatter, lazier and ever much further from finding the merriment they seek.

True pursuit of one's needs must mean that one takes the time to pause and invest in one's inner self, to contemplate and discover one's inner being; to explore one's inner space and discover intuitive knowledge. This alone brings true contentment and happiness, when one knows who one is and that one is living in accordance to those internal rules engraved upon one's human heart. When one discovers the truth of self; one equally discovers the truths of others. In wisdom, one can realize how we all fit into life's greater picture as prepared by our blessed Creator.

One who seeks God will in the end find not only God, but will also find oneself and then discover the mystery of life and proper living. This discovery brings with it the greatest and most sublime wisdom and knowledge. No words can describe it, for how can one put passion into words. Only one who tries will ever know. Only one who experiences will recognize and perceive. Yet, if one does not do, then much is left undone.

What should one do? The answer is not what one must do, but rather what one must not do. Contemplate this, let God begin to answer your questions, from within. Enough words for now.



***“For when wisdom will come into your heart,
and knowledge into your soul, will you find pleasure.
It will protect you from lechery,
intelligence will guard you.
To save you from an evil path,
from the one who speaks destructively.”***

Proverbs 2:10-12

It is clear that all we need to know about living a happy life we have within us to discover. Happiness and fulfillment are not unattainable goals. On the contrary, they are very attainable. All one has to do to attain them is to do the right things to attain them. This sounds so simple, and indeed, it is.

What gets in the way that prevents us from achieving our goals of happiness and fulfillment is the very unfortunate, and real presence of our own inner lack of discipline, and loss or moral direction. If we ourselves do not do what we innately know is right and good for us, then who will.

If we do not stand up for ourselves then who will. If one stand up only for oneself then what is one? Moreover, if one does not take this to heart now, then when?

The secret of living a good life is found within the heart. However, often our hearts become clouded by emotion and our minds become foggy with confusion. There is an old saying that too many cooks spoil the broth. This means that the more complicated something becomes the harder it is to manage. How true this is of life, yet how few are those who pay attention?

Simplicity is the path to happiness. More does not mean better. Indeed the more one has, the more one must carry. Why do we choose to live life carry heavier and heavier burdens upon our already breaking backs? Why do we choose to make matters more difficult for ourselves by complicating our lives with unnecessary problems and acquisitions?

The more one has, the more one has to loose, and in this world of ours it is the natural way for all that is acquired to someday be lost. One day something is in our possession and the next day it is not. This is the natural order. Everything that we hold dear by natural earthly standards is at best only temporary. Expending energy to foolishly try to keep that which is fleeting is wasteful.



So much time, and so much effort are wasted upon so little. It is no wonder then why so many fail to find fulfillment in life. How can one be full when all that one seeks to fill oneself with, by nature, dissipates and eventually disappears? No one can be truly filled with something that by nature cannot be filling. This is the most simple of clear truths, and the one most clouded in the heart blinded by foolish desire, and foggy in the mind seduced by ridiculous justifications.

Heaven indeed offers to us the Divine Hand of help. Yet, this Hand is not the working of miracles. On the contrary, the Divine Hand teaches us how to live properly by following the guidelines for human character, morality and ethics. When we live in accordance to Heaven's directives, we find that everything in life goes well for us. It is, as if, creation was programmed to respond a certain way to those who themselves act in a certain way. Indeed, this is so; Heaven has programmed nature to respond positively to those who live in accordance to the Laws as ordained by Heaven.

Not for naught do we study religious works daily. For our daily religious study teaches us about life, in both the natural and supernatural realms. The Way is life and life is the Way, this is the beginnings of truths. One who can know and embrace this will see this wisdom in it.

Sometimes words cannot properly express the inner wisdom. A poem speaks in symbolic language to create a picture within the heart, and not necessarily to create a concrete rational image in the mind. Yet, the few short words of a poem can relate a message that thousands of words of explanation may not grasp.

The Way is a poem. It is the poem of Life. Know the Way, and know life, it is that simple. No words can describe fully what it is I mean. How sad for those who only read words. Silence your running mind. Still your desirous heart. Be calm, still and quiet in the moment and let the inner Voice of Torah rise up within you. Let it be heard in your inner ear. Be quiet now, listen.

***“[There are] those who cast off the proper path
to walk in the ways of darkness;
those who rejoice in doing evil and delight in malevolence upheavals,
whose paths are perverted and whose course is deviant.”***

Proverbs 2:13-15

Natural law dictates to us the reality of duality in our lives. We all know that there is both night and day, bitter and sweet, harm and help. What we should also know intuitively, and instinctually is that there is also good and evil, right and wrong.

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While we all recognize the reality of duality in the natural world surrounding us, we often cloud the reality of the duality within us. We often fail to recognize and distinguish the separation between good and evil, right and wrong. As such, the two often merge within us causing us great confusion and harm.

Good and evil are as different as are night and day. One with eyes clearly sees this. However, one who is blind cannot tell the difference. How many today are morally and spiritually blind and cannot differentiate between what is naturally good and evil, and inherently right and wrong. Today often when one with vision speaks out and declares what is clearly morally and spiritually correct, such a one is silenced, scorned and condemned.

One with vision today is told not to see, and not to speak out. The blind do not wish to know the difference between right and wrong, good and evil. For in their darkness they can pursue whatever malevolent course they desire and convince themselves of the correctness of their way. After all, who can see them to tell them otherwise?

It is hard for many today to deal with a simple fact of natural law; evil does exist, it does surround us, it can be found even in those very close by. Evil is found in misguided actions; evil is found in imbalanced emotions; evil is found in a clouded mind. When combined together a clouded mind, unstable heart, and misguided actions create havoc and destruction not only for an individual but also for all others around. And if none are allowed to bring correction, then one mistake leads to another, which leads to yet another, until everything spirals out of control creating a path of terrible suffering.

Good is its own reward, evil is its own punishment. When one chooses to deny evil and turn a blind eye to what is wrong, these forces grow unchecked and like a ravenous wolf eventually turn upon all with an unquenchable hunger.

Learn now a great lesson of Torah, and one of the secrets of the Kabbalah. To everything there is a time and a purpose under Heaven. There is both a time and a place for war and peace, hate and love, evil and good. Everything is a creation of the Almighty. Moreover, our job as human souls is to learn the time and place for each thing.

The place for war, hate and evil does not have to be within the human experience. We have the choice to place these things outside our reality and make their time to be the past and not the future. Yet, in order for us to do this great act of separation, we must first learn how to distinguish between the two forces in order to separate them. As long



as good and evil, right and wrong are confused, not being clearly defined and demarcated, forever will we suffer from our lack of insight by not putting things into their proper places and in to their proper times.

Evil will continue to exist for as long as we allow it to exist. As long as we tolerate evil, redefine it, rationalize it, and seek to justify it, forever will it rear its ugly head and turn to bite the hand that feeds it. We cannot defeat evil until we are first ready to point a finger directly in its face and expose it for the evil it truly is. The first step in overcoming an enemy is to recognize who and what it is.

A thing is known by it opposite. In order to know what is good one must first recognize what is evil. In order to know what is right one must first recognize what is wrong. Knowing the one will define what is the other. If you do not know the one, you will not know the other. When both are not known, no parameters sets, no boundaries defined, then evil conquers goods, suffering and sorrow rule supreme.

The solution begins with knowledge. Knowledge must lead to action. Successful action is built upon resolve. Begin with knowing and embracing the One of the universe. By embracing the Creator, one will come to understand His creation.

***“So that you may take the good path,
and observe the ways of the righteous.
For the honest will dwell over the land
and the pure will remain there.
And the evil one will be cut off from the land
and the traitors will waste away from it.”***

Proverbs 2:20-22

The way of nature, and the way of humanity are connected. One influences the other. We cannot push against natural law without natural law eventually pushing back. Whenever human society gets to a certain point of imbalance natural forces are activated in the world that seek to realign the natural balance.

The more human society pushes against the shift back to a position of normality, the greater the force exerted against it, forcing it to change. This explains why, from time to time, major world upheavals and wars occur. Changes are natural and inevitable, yet all changes in society in general must be in harmony with natural law, otherwise natural law creates scenarios that lead to the removal of the human unbalancing agent.



This is the underlying history of humanity. Let this lesson well; for it is not a matter of the past, but an issue for the present, and a warning for the future.

Guided as we all are by a Higher Hand we still each have the ability to choose our own destinies, and walk our own course through life. The Higher Hand only offers us suggestions about what to do and how best to live through subtle signs throughout our lives. We choose whether or not to follow the signs so graciously bestowed upon us by Heaven.

Some are not sensitive enough to recognize a Heavenly sign or Divine guidance. Therefore, Heaven sends us numerous opportunities to help us cultivate our spiritual sensitivities. However, if we do not take advantage of the opportunities afforded us, Heaven will nonetheless try to reach out to us, but, in the end, we are still held responsible for everything we could have known and done but have chosen otherwise.

Consequences for our behavior are far-reaching, and almost impossible to avoid. Mind well what you do today, for you will run straight ahead into the consequences of today by tomorrow, or the next day.

It is the natural way that those who imbalance the natural order are themselves toppled in the end. Heaven has made the laws of nature act in this way to realign lost balance whenever things get too out of hand. Those who lead simple and balanced lives in the end will be left to do what they have always done, maintain harmony and peace on Earth. There is no great secret to the Way of Heaven. Actually, the wisdom of Heaven is revealed in its simplicity, not in its complexity.

Heaven ordained the laws of nature, and allows nature to take its course. There is a time and purpose for all things under Heaven. One who flows with the times will ride high the waves of life and live to see the end of one's journey in peace and contentment.

Woe to the fool who fights the ways of life, and the course of nature. The order of the universe is way too strong for humanity to fight. Try as some will to change the natural order; the more they push against the order of Heaven, the more Heaven pushes back, and imposes natural order upon them.

In the end, those who walk in the ways of Heaven at peace with the Earth will inherit the Earth; whereas those who fight the ways of Heaven and seek to impose themselves upon the Earth will in the end be lost; swept away and disposed of, like all other trash.



This is the way and natural order. It is inevitable. We cannot fight it; all we can do is submit. We choose whether to be treasure or trash; to live or to die. How we live dictates how we die. As always, the choice is left up to us. Heaven is calling; who is paying attention to the Divine Voice seeking audience?

***“My child, do not forget my Torah
and let your heart guard my commandments;
for length of days and years of life
and peace will be added to you.”***

Proverbs 3:1-2

Many are the forces in the universe, and on Earth that do not seek the better welfare of humanity. Many look upon humanity as a form of livestock, intended to be corralled, harvested and exploited. Like sheep led to the slaughter, most of us go through life totally oblivious of the negative forces that surround us. Like animals in a pen, we allow ourselves to become distracted by life's temptations, and fail to realize or care that these temptations successfully avert our gaze from seeing the true nature of our condition.

Humanity today is held in bondage, not to any outside malevolent force, but to an inner enemy, an internal force that creates within us ignorance, apathy and lethargy. Most today do not care, do not know, and do not care that they do not know. How can one free a slave that does not believe oneself a slave, and worse, does not care if indeed one is a slave?

Bondage of the mind is the worst type of slavery. One who does not want to be free will never experience freedom. One who is not willing to pay the price for freedom will never achieve it. Therefore, most remain slaves, willingly and complacently. And generation after generation goes by, like sheep to the slaughter.

This would be fine if we were but animals, but we are much more than this; we are created in the Divine image, we are human beings, and not animals.

Humanity has a higher calling, and a higher destiny. And in spite of ourselves and our choices of apathy and lethargy, we as a race will rise up to embrace our destiny. How this will occur depends upon us. Awakening can be a beautiful thing, or it can be very rude. Time will tell, and each will choose how one is to be awakened. Yet, in the end, when all is said and done, the sleepers will indeed awaken.



Many today know well that evil exists, and that it poses a significant and present problem for either themselves, or our loved ones. Yet, instead of turning to tried and true methods for overcoming evil, many foolishly wish to embrace superstition or worse, convince themselves that the problem is not so bad, that it can be lived with, possibly ignored, and that hopefully it will go away. Alas, this mentality expresses the fears of the fool, and of the slave. This is the expression of the defeated, not the victor.

Reality is a funny thing. Deny it all we wish, it still does not go away. Reality has a funny staying power to remain and continue to be there, regardless of whether or not we pay attention to it. Ultimately, in the end we are forced to deal with reality, for in the end, reality will always shock us out of our sleep. In the end, the sleepers must awaken.

A simple lesson of life holds true; one who is prepared for a thing better handles that thing than one unprepared. Life is easy to face, even evil can be easy to handle if and when one prepares oneself to face the challenge. One does not go off into battle without the necessary weapons of war. One should never face the conflict against evil without one's appropriate weapons. The weapons in the battle against evil are not physical. No gun or blade can be used to defeat evil. Evil exists beyond the boundaries of the physical and therefore must be fought at its source in order to be defeated.

Defeating evil, within ourselves and within others requires us to possess spiritual, psychological and emotional weapons of significant power. The weapons used to defeat evil therefore include a sharp mind, a balanced heart and proper behavior. These three tools joined by a willing spirit will surely enable anyone to confront and to conquer evil.

Torah and commandments are both a means to an end, and an end unto themselves. One who studies Torah and embraces its lessons is changed within. One's character is transformed, one masters the clouded mind, the confused heart and inappropriate behavior.

A master of Torah above all things is an awakened soul, for the master of Torah allows the power of Heaven to flow through oneself. The master of Torah becomes the conduit to unite Heaven and Earth. The master of Torah becomes the vessel, and vehicle through which Heaven moves upon Earth. In Hebrew, this vessel is called a Merkava, chariot. Thus the master of Torah is the true chariot of Heaven.

The chariot of Heaven, although cloaked in human form is no mere human being. The master of Torah who has become the chariot of Heaven is the conduit for awakening. The follower of commandments becomes the leader of the awakening. One who is awake can recognize evil. One who knows Torah can confront evil. One who is a master



of Torah can defeat evil. No outside force can stand against the masters of Torah. Try as they have in the past, they still seek today to destroy Torah from Earth. As they have failed in the past, so will they fail in the future.

This is the promise of Heaven, and the destiny of the righteous. The chariots will march forward victoriously in the war against ignorance and complacency. He who rides the chariot shall corral the corralors, be they of this Earth, or beyond. Victory is inevitable. It is destiny. Darkness always comes before the dawn, but rest assured daybreak soon comes. Let the one with open eyes see the rising sun. Let the slave seek freedom, for with freedom one can open one's eyes and see the treasures that freedom brings.

***“Mercy and truth will never abandon you,
bind them to your throat,
write them upon the tablets of your heart
and you will find grace and good sense
in the eyes of God and man.”***

Proverbs 3:3-4

Truth is a very troublesome reality. As much as some try to conceal it, pervert it, or just simply change it, there is some baffling power within Truth, something almost like an inherent force of gravity. Truth always manages to set itself right, straighten itself out and set itself erect. Apparently, with equal and opposite affect, the more one tries to conceal or deny Truth, the more it becomes known and confirmed.

Many have not yet learned the simple lesson that it is not wise to, as we say, “spit into the wind.” For all who try learn the inevitable lesson that our own spit comes back, with added force, right back into our faces. This is also true with regards to truth and falsehood. One who tells the truth will always be surrounded and protected by it. One who embraces and covers oneself with falsehoods will forever live in fear and danger of being exposed, and stripped naked.

One who knows truth never fails to express it. One speaks it and lives it; Truth is never distant or separate from anything and everything that one does and is. Truth defines the essence of a person. One who is truthful is thus trustworthy. One who is trustworthy is worth cultivating as a friend, ally and confidant. Truth builds bridges and binds souls. Truth is the stable foundation upon which all else can be built.

Mercy is next. It is not enough that we give that which is due to the one who has merited it. There are all too many among us who have fallen short from time to time. It

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is the nature of humanity to strive for perfection, yet has anyone ever really and fully achieved it? As much merit as we due accrue, there is much more demerit that we deserve. If not for the Grace of God, none of us could stand and say I deserve another chance, I deserve better than this.

Heaven is a mirror that reflects onto us our own character, morals and judgments. One who acts with truth will be shown truth. One who acts with mercy will be shown mercy. What you yourself do is what is done to you.

Being truthful and acting with mercy towards oneself and others in a sure recipe to safeguard one from hard times and harmful circumstances. While no one is wise enough to foresee and avoid all troubles in life, nonetheless, one who lives by truth and by mercy faces much less complications and many more good opportunities.

When one does that which is right and proper in the eyes of Heaven, one's character radiates forth like the beams of the sun. One who lives by truth and mercy receives truth and mercy. One who receives truth and mercy from Heaven shines with the Light of Heaven. These are those whom we called blessed.

One who is blessed by Heaven will receive special Divine guidance. The blessed are those whose hearts are open to Heaven and whose minds think clearly here on Earth. The blessed live by Heavenly standards in our Earthly quagmire. As such, they shine Light into darkness and bring healing to the sick.

The blessed bind the broken heart, and mend the broken bone. The blessed are the teachers who lead by example and not merely by instruction. The blessed by their natural proper behavior and their natural good heart know that which is proper and good. They thus do it, naturally and always. This is why they are blessed by Heaven and respected by others here on Earth.

Truth has a way of making itself known. One who lives by truth will also become known for such. One who lives by mercy will be shown mercy. One who is shown mercy will also become apparent when life's adversities arise. Those with open eyes clearly see the value of truth and mercy. Why then would one not chose to embrace this most wise, secure and safest of ways and follow its path forever?



***"Trust in God with all your heart
and do not rely upon your own understanding."***
Proverbs 3:5

That which is under your control you can understand and direct. What is in your power, you can control. Yet, of all the things in the world what really is truly and fully in our power?

We cannot control when we are born; for the most part, we cannot control when we die. We cannot control what happens to us on a daily basis. We cannot control circumstances in our lives. We cannot control who we meet and when. We cannot control what others might say to us or about us. We cannot control the moment. We may or may not be in the wrong place at the wrong time or in the right place in the right time. While we may be able to extend some influence over all these matters, nonetheless, we cannot control them; we cannot dictate or direct everything that happens to us or around us.

Try as we do to create our world in our own image we are forever doomed to fail. Only the creator of a thing can control a thing. Being that we have not created our world, the world is not under our control. Being that we ourselves are created beings, we are under the control of Another. This is the greatest proof for the existence of the Higher Hand. For life is far too strange, daily events are far too bizarre and haphazard to merely be by chance. One with eyes and certainly one with a living heart sees clearly that life is a mystery and is subject to a Force unseen by our eyes.

We cannot control what happens to us. At any given moment, we can become victims of any type of random event. Be it for our betterment or harm things befall us without warning, at any time and in any place. We can call some harmful occurrences accidents; we can call some beneficial occurrences good fortune, luck or fate. Yet, life is not a gambling game. Occurrences, be they for good or bad are not haphazard; life is not a roulette wheel with you being the ball spinning around and around each time falling by chance into a different slot.

How poor and unfortunate it is that there are those foolish individuals who see their lives happening around them with such a perceived anarchy. It is no wonder why such souls live with such high anxiety and stress. Without a solid foundation upon which to stand, they go through life spinning around and around, never knowing the peace of stillness and the calm of silence. What a shame that some people allow themselves to lose sight of the true anchor that supports good living.



When we look out upon our lives there is so little under our control. We can understand that which we control. We cannot understand that which is not under our control. Life and living is under the control of Heaven. It is God the Creator who directs His creation. The Creator understands. The Creator knows. We all are but clay in the Almighty Hand. We are all molded and formed; we are all being directed from Above. This is the truth of things. Believe it or not; like it or not; it does not matter. We are not in control of life. The Author of Life is in control of us.

Knowing the Creator, one can come to understand the creation. Although our human minds are incapable of understanding everything in creation, we can understand one vital thing. We must surrender ourselves and how we behave to the Higher Hand that controls us whether or not we like it or believe it.

One who says in their hearts, I surrender to my Creator, and I ask that I be formed by the Higher Hand into the best form I can become; this one lives in surety; this one lives with blessing. The Creator pays special attention to the willing and pliant clay in His Hand. For the pliant are the ones most willing and easy to mold. Therefore, they receive first attention and receive the most creative forms.

There is much the Creator can do with pliant clay. When we allow our Creator to form us as the Divine Hand knows best; we will be surprised by the beauty of the Divine creation. We will look at ourselves with amazement seeing that which God has made us. We cannot control it, but we can certainly help it along. Trust means surrender and cooperation. How many of us can say we do this?

***“In all your ways know Him
and He will straighten your paths.”***

Proverbs 3:6

A map is a really great thing to have. With a map, one can find directions. Not only can one know where one is, one can also know where one is going and how to get there. There is just one thing about a map that many people do not understand. In order to use a map properly one has to open it, read it and follow its directions. Otherwise, the map is worthless. What good are directions if one does not follow them?

Life without a map is a terrible thing. One spends one's days forever lost, going around and around in circles, never knowing which way to go, never knowing a right way from a wrong one, never knowing how to reach one's destination. Try as one will to deny the truth but one who is lost can never be happy and content. Not knowing one's place means that one cannot know one's self. This is truly a shame and a great loss.



What is the map of life? How does one know how to live? How can one know where lies one's destiny? How can one know if one is indeed in the right place and doing the right thing? To all these questions there is a right answer and unfortunately, there is also a wrong answer.

What is the map of life? One's own inner feelings and beliefs. How should one live? In accordance to one's desires. Where lies one's destiny? Wherever one wants it to be. How does one know the right place? One decides this for oneself. What is the right thing to do? Whatever one wants at the moment.

Many read these answers and agree that these are the right answers. Those that believe this are the lost. Those that place themselves as the center of life and their wants and desires as the map have no clue as to what life is all about.

Centering life on oneself is the wrong answer. Thinking that the answer to all questions will be based upon what one wants and desires is the wrong answer, a mistaken idea and a dangerous path. This is the path of the lost, who know no other way to go in life. Their path inevitably brings them into conflict with the paths of others. Self-centeredness always brings conflict in its wake. For all the individual selves battle for domination, because for the self-centered, there can only be one at the center; everyone else is secondary and exist only to serve the one.

When one is the center of one's own universe, one's universe is a very small and confining place. Unfortunately, although one believes oneself to be the center of the universe, the universe itself does not agree. The universe continues to operate according to its own laws. The self-centered individual on the other hand demands that the universe revolve around him. Conflict is unavoidable. The winner is obviously not the self-centered selfish fool.

Such a one loses the battle against reality and thus retreats into a fortress of self-made illusions of grandeur and over-inflated importance; angry that the world does not recognize his value and central role in creation. Can such a one be more lost and more misguided? I do not see how.

One does not need an outside force of evil to mislead one all the while that one is willing to mislead oneself. One who is so selfish, so self-centered, and so blind not to see the truth of the Almighty Wisdom will pay for their lack of vision by having to live in their self-made darkness. In such blindness, it is inevitable that one will cause severe harm to oneself, and unfortunately to any other not careful enough to avoid such a one.



In the end, one who decides to follow the map will end up safely at his destination. One who decides to follow the map of Torah will end up in the right place in life, peace and fulfillment will be achieved. One who submits to the directions of Heaven will be guided safely and assured. Although one's path may at present be crooked and lost, one who seeks out Heaven will find HaShem's road map to life. It is called Torah; its directions are easy to follow; to all those willing to open it, read it and follow its directions.

***“Do not be wise in your own eyes,
fear God and turn away from evil.”***

Proverbs 3:7

Vision is a wonderful ability; however, what our personal vision is limited to how much we see. There is much to see that is outside the scope of our vision. This is true of our physical vision and our inner vision as well. What we can see we can know, what we cannot see we cannot know through seeing. “Seeing is believing” is a nice statement, but it is also a very untrue statement. There is much to be believed that is not seen and there is much that is seen that should not be trusted.

There is much that we know and much more that we believe we know but in fact know not. There is much that we know only upon the surface without our realizing how much depth there is that is unseen by us and unknown to us. What one does not know indeed can hurt one. There is much more in life that we do not know than that which we do know. Therefore, there are many dangers and pitfalls in life that we must be careful to spot and avoid.

Many are the students of wisdom. Many seek to know the unknown and to offer instruction to others about that which is unknown to them. Yet, how can the blind lead the blind? How can those who lack insight and true vision serve as guides to others equally lost and misguided? Arrogance rules the blind, especially when they claim that they can see, even more so when they proclaim their false ability to see to others in order to elevate themselves as leaders so that they can lead in their blindness. Yet, what can we do? Those who are blind often wish to remain such. Those who usurp positions of leadership and authority are often supported by many who share their lack of vision. Many are the lost sheep. Many of those who want to stay lost.

Seeing the unseen cannot be done with physical eyes. The ways of Earth will never be understood unless viewed with the Eyes of Heaven. The Eyes of Heaven look within, and see from within the Inner Light. The Inner Light is the Wisdom of Torah. Thus, to



know the world one must know Torah. In order to see one's way clearly through life here on Earth, one must be able to see and thus navigate life with the vision of Torah directing one's heart, the seat of Inner Light.

The greatest arrogance is for one to claim to know that which one does not know. Wisdom is of Heaven, it is given to us as a gift from God. No one can ascend to Heaven and grab wisdom, no one can possess wisdom by their own right; no one can demand a gift of Heaven. Heaven's gift of wisdom is freely given but it also to be graciously and humbly received. If the gift is not to be properly received, it will not be offered in the first place.

Fear is the emotional awareness that doing something can be harmful. Most of us today have lost all sensitivities as to what harms us and what helps us. We seldom recognize what is harmful and we even less seldom care. This is the path of foolishness and outright stupidity; yet individuals do have the choice to embrace either wisdom or stupidity.

Fear of God is expressed in one's choices in life, in all areas, not just the religious. When one acts with thought-out discipline, makes the right choices merely because they are the right things to do and acts properly with others and oneself, these are the highest forms of expressing one's fear of God. One naturally turns from evil because one recognizes intuitively how that causes one harm. Naturally, one who turns from evil will also turn to good.

One who knows not wisdom will seek it and thus find it and live by it. One who believes oneself wise will seek nothing, find nothing and in the end have nothing. Seek to achieve and you will. Seek nothing and that is what you will in the end become (be it above or below).

***“Honor God from your wealth,
and from the first of all your profit,
and He will fill your store-house with plenty
and the wine of your vats will multiply.”***

Proverbs 3:9-10

There is nothing Heaven smiles upon more than the expression of generosity. No other trait better defines Heaven more than being generous. Therefore, one who is generous in all ways and means here on Earth, Heaven is in turn generous with such a one in all ways and means. Heaven interacts with us in accordance to the age-old rule, “what you



give is what you get.” Mind well this truth, for it will guide your destiny, whether or not you like it or believe it.

The nature of reality dictates that we are all somehow or another dependent upon one another. This is true in nature and it is true of us. No one is an island unto oneself. As independent as one wishes to be, in some way or another we will always remain dependent upon another for something. This is life, this is natural, it is the way of Heaven and Earth. Those who are wise embrace this truth and use the natural ways to better themselves, their lives and the others with whom they are in contact. Fools continue to believe themselves detached and thus bring loss and suffering upon themselves and others.

Our world goes around and we are never the center of it. Those who try to make the world revolve around themselves are always in for a rude awakening. For as the one stands still and demands the world revolve around him, this one soon finds out that the world has moved on and one is left out-of-place, stranded and isolated. One will have to play a game of catch-up just to get back to the rightful place that one should have been in the beginning.

One who gives freely will be given freely. One with wisdom recognizes and knows that everything that we possess one day or another will pass on to another. All things on Earth are mere temporary possessions. Therefore, we should use what we need and share what we do not need. Hoarding much gives the false impression of having much. Yet, one with much has much to lose. It is the way of life for there to be loss.

Generosity means sharing. It means giving of what one has in one’s possession at present to another so the needs of the other can be met, even as yours are met. This giving must be free and in good will. Taking from another without such good will and agreement is stealing.

Stealing is always wrong. Yet, selfishness breeds stealing. For when one hoards and prevents another from rightfully acquiring one’s own needs, one is tempted to act in like kind, without good will, towards the other. When this occurs, bad will reigns supreme. No one trusts another. All seek to hoard. In the end, everyone becomes an island unto themselves, seeking only their own good. In the end, all the islands waste away and are left behind, for without cooperation and working together, without sharing, that which one needs from another is not forthcoming. The one who runs out of what one needs first dries up and dies. This happens one after another until all the isolated islands are gone.



Giving of money can be easy, especially for one who has a lot to give. Yet, one must also give of one's heart, one's time, and one's efforts. For a moderate individual it is enough to be generous with a moderate amount. For a wealthy person, much more has been given, much more is thus expected.

The wealthy who hoard their wealth and do not give thanks to Heaven by using what Heaven has given them to assist Heaven's other children will see in their lives how Heaven will in the end turn away from the selfish soul. One must give, this is natural. One does not have to give all, for this is unnatural. Yet, one must give and help others.

A general rule is for one to give ten percent of one's net income; this is a wise and noble rule to follow. Seek out those in need and provide for those needs. Do not do so to aggrandize yourself. Provide for others through a trusted intermediary. Appoint a trusted soul to find a proper and needy receptacle for what Heaven has blessed you to give. When the one who gives and the one who receives both acknowledge Heaven as their benefactor, then all is proper and in harmony. In such a world, peace can only reign supreme.

***“My child, do not abhor God's discipline
and do not revile His admonishment.
For God admonishes the one He loves;
like a father who desires best for his child.”***

Proverbs 3:11, 12

In Heaven's eyes, we are all children. Immature, undisciplined, and irresponsible is how Heaven sees us. Yet, the vision of Heaven is not one of judgment. Heaven does not seek to smite us because we are merely human. On the contrary, Heaven seeks our best, to improve our welfare, to help us grow, mature and become respectable spiritual adults, mature in all ways of all worlds.

The Way of Heaven is to intervene in our human affairs. Yet, like a thoughtful parent, Heaven watches us from a distance, allowing us to make our mistakes, yet, also protecting us from damaging ourselves beyond the point of learning from our mistakes. The Hand of Heaven is always there, like a watchful parent who disciplines and punishes a wayward child, not to cause harm or to seek retribution, but on the contrary, to direct, educate and protect. We discipline our children and punish them, not to harm them but to teach them how to not harm themselves. As it is below, so is it in Heaven.

There is a wise old saying, “this too is for good.” Whatever happens to one, no matter how bad, good can still come forth from it. One who is mature can look at any setback



and seek to recognize the opportunity within it. One who is mature will mourn one's losses and then move on to rebuild even bigger and better things. This is the way of the adult.

These are the lessons Heaven seeks to teach us. Heaven does not want us to sit and cry every time things do not go our way. On the contrary, Heaven wants us to recognize that not everything in life can or will go our way and we have to make the best of what we have; not cry over what we do not have.

Many of us are like actually grown-up spoiled children. We expect Heaven to treat us as we expected our parents to. We demand of Heaven what we want, when we want it, and if Heaven does not meet our every demand, then we turn our wrath to God and Heaven, deny them both and seek to thwart the natural Divine way in our futile and infantile attempt to punish Heaven for not giving us what we want.

This is similar to a child who throws a fit and cries every time Mom & Dad says no. Good parents do not relent just because their children throw a fit. Good parents will discipline a misbehaving child. Sometimes a child is put into time-out, other times the child is spanked. As it is below, so it is with Heaven.

When we act like spoiled children in the eyes of Heaven and pursue courses of action that are detrimental, Heaven comes and metaphorically spanks us in some way to get our attention, to get us to think about changing our wayward way. If we choose not to listen to Heaven's subtle warnings speaking to us through the not-to-coincidental circumstances that pop up in our lives, then Heaven in its own spiritual way raises its "Voice" to make known to us the foolishness of our wanton ways.

One way or another, the Voice of Heaven is heard by us all. Sometimes it is soft and reaffirming. Other times, it is harsh and painful. The events that befall us daily reflect the Voice of Heaven. We should pay more attention to what happens to us, because within every occurrence, there is a message. This is all inherent in the natural order of life and the universe. It cannot be changed. As it is below so it is above.

***"Happy in the person who finds wisdom,
and the one who extracts knowledge,
for good are its wares, better than goods of silver,
and its produce more than fine gold."***

Proverbs 3:13, 14



Information is a commodity of great value. This matter is not only true in the age of computers; it has always been true since earliest times. In ancient days, those who possessed knowledge were highly sought after individuals. They were called councilors and sages. The advice that these wise souls generated was a commodity of great value.

Acquiring the services of a sage was considered quite an accomplishment. Often the sages loyal to one party were sought after by others; their services often acquired at great financial cost. If a loyal sage was lost to an opposing party, this was considered as serious a loss as loosing a great battle. In ancient days, the sage was sought by warrior and king alike. All in power knew that the council of the sage could either make or break the security of the kingdom and society.

Although things have changed somewhat over the centuries, nonetheless the respected position of the councilor and sage still exists. Every organization in business and government still has its modern-day counterparts to the counselors and sages of old. Today, they are called advisors and consultants. The fees paid for this type of service is usually very high. This is because the eye of the counselor/sage/advisor/consultants can see things that others cannot. Therefore, the modern day advisor, like the ancient sage before him, becomes a person of irreplaceable value.

Indeed, knowledge is the most important commodity; yet more important than knowledge itself is the ability to process knowledge and extrapolate from it many things which themselves may be unclear. This is the role of wisdom. Wisdom cannot be learned from a book; it is much more than a simple preponderance of the knowledge and facts. No computer, however well programmed, can be wise. Wisdom is the sole possession of the human being. Only a human being can see beyond what the eye sees and put together the invisible pieces to create the image of the puzzle of life and the future.

Wisdom is the domain of the sage. Wisdom is acquired learning that comes from life and from Heaven. Knowledge is found in books, wisdom is found in the heart. Today although we have counselors and advisors, there are very few wise individuals and sages among us. Few today take into account the Way of Heaven. Few today seek harmony and balance between opposing and competing forces.

Today advisors seek to serve their individual cause and care not for the consequences of their actions upon others. If what they do serves their purpose then the end justifies the means. This is not the way of the sage. The sage looks at the whole picture and allots what is needed and what is due each in its place. With this sense of obligation to the whole, the sage serves all, and not just the elite. This is the way of wisdom that



brings peace and harmony to life. This is the Way of Heaven that brings the blessings of Heaven to Earth.

To know a sage brings one great blessing and opportunity. To become a sage brings one great transformation and value. Treasures of this world come and go. The treasures of wisdom and the value of knowledge are not like the treasures of this world; they can never become depleted. Wisdom is of Heaven. Wisdom always reflects its source, therefore, wisdom always seeks to unite Heaven and Earth. Because wisdom is Heavenly it never diminishes or loses its value.

***“All her ways are ways of pleasantness
and all her paths are peace.”***

Proverbs 3:17

The Ways of Heaven is to promote pleasantness.

Learn a lesson from technology. A smooth running machine is a combination of many different pieces, each performing a different function, often in many different ways, yet, each working together, each doing its own job, each functioning in harmony with all the other pieces that make up the smooth running machine. When the Ways of Heaven are followed by humanity then human society operates as smoothly as a machine.

A machine breaks down when an individual part does not perform its function. By not doing its share, this creates a chain reaction disabling other parts from properly functioning. The whole depends upon the operation of the individual.

When each part operates smoothly with the others this is called pleasantness when applied to humanity. In the machine, parts that are well greased move easily with regards to one another. In human society, individuals who act with pleasantness towards one another allow for the smooth operation of human affairs.

Pleasantness can thus be called a kind of human grease. Yet, unlike machine grease, human grease makes one clean, not dirty. Human grease is the proper personality and behavior that allows us to get along well with one another, thus enabling our communities to function with the highest degree of cooperation and mutual benefit.

Pleasantness creates peace. Pleasantness by its very nature solicits kind response and cooperation. This is echoed by the old saying, “you attract more with honey than with vinegar.” When one acts nice the chances are one will be treated nice. This is a simple formula, which apparently baffles many.



Many individuals treat others with terrible disrespect, impatience and outright meanness and then wonder obliviously why others treat them in like kind. Some are just so blind that they do not see how their own dishonorable behavior boomerangs back and hits them square in the head.

The simple truth is what you show to others is what they show to you, be it to your face, or behind your back. Be good and you will be treated well. Be bad, and you will be treated badly.

One who acts pleasantly creates peace and good will. One who acts pleasantly, creating goodwill and peace wherever one goes never has to watch ones back for betrayers or back-stabbers. For as one creates a path of pleasantness and peace before one, so that path continues behind one after one has past by.

A good individual creates an environment wherein which others treat them well. Pleasantness and peace create a stable and sound environment; they establish a safe and secure path; they transform the individual filling them with all of life's good things.

Pleasantness and peace are not magic; on the contrary, they are common sense. Learn from the machine how all parts work together in harmony (peace). We are better than machines. We can do what they can, and more.

***“She is a Tree of Life to those who grasp Her,
and those who support Her are enriched.”***

Proverbs 3:18

There is life of the body, and there is life of the soul. Many of us drudge our way through life without any real joy, passion or hope. We wake up each morning just to go through the doldrums of the day and cannot wait to get home at night just to go to sleep to forget about the repetitive, oppressive state that we call our lives. Those who live like this have no life so to speak.

Life is worth living, yet in order for one to live, one must start living. Passion makes the world go round. Without passion, life becomes one boring repetitive act after another. With passion, every day is new. Every moment is an opportunity. Every experience is full of meaning. Life of the soul makes or breaks the life of the body. One with passion is alive; one without it should be considered the walking dead.

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Torah is wisdom, and wisdom is Torah. People can study Torah, and not even know it is Torah they are learning. Whenever one learns a lesson about proper character; whenever one learns a truth about life, the universe and the ways of nature, one who learns these things is as if one has learned Torah. For the Torah is the foundation of the world. Everything in creation came forth from the Torah and everything in creation is sustained by it. The Torah is the Tree of Life; it is the fountain of blessing. One who bonds with Torah bonds with life. This is the promise of Heaven.

Within every sub-atomic particle there is some innate aspect of information and knowledge that tells it what it is supposed to do and where it is supposed to be. This innate knowing is the Spark of the Creator, which directs all elements of creation. All comes forth from and is directed by the Creator. Yet, everything in creation has its own identity and is thus the creation and not the Creator. Everything comes forth from the Creator but is separate from Him. This is the reality of things.

Every element within creation has within it great potential to operate in accordance to the fullness of its design. The Spark of the Creator that enlivens all is called the Presence of God, in Hebrew, this is called the Shekhina. The Shekhina is the source of wisdom, Torah and Life.

One who seeks to know Torah will thus come to know both life and God. One who seeks to know wisdom will find both Torah and life. For Torah is wisdom, Torah is the envelope of the Divine; Torah reveals the Shekhina. Thus, Torah is life and life is Torah. One who knows the one will by nature come to know the other.

Torah is referred to as the Tree of Life. For as a tree grows from the earth and provides fruit for nourishment and shade for rest, to too does Torah provide wisdom for nourishment of the soul and direction that provides rest for both body and soul. One who grasps Torah receives all this and more. Yet, the Tree must be nurtured and cared for, if it is to thrive and grow. One must embrace well the Torah and nurture its wisdom for one to see its benefits.

Doing the right thing in a world that no longer knows right from wrong is a hard thing. Yet, the right thing still must be done, regardless of whether or not it is recognized by those who can no longer tell the difference. One who embraces Torah will come to know wisdom. With wisdom, one will come to realize what is right to do, how it is properly performed and when is the right time to act.

No book can teach these lessons. Only life can dictate the Ways of Heaven. One who eats of the fruits of Heaven will know the Ways of Heaven and how to live them here on



Earth. Embrace the Tree and become enriched thereby. Do it, and see for yourselves the rewards. Grasp again the passion to live.

***“God founded the earth with wisdom,
established Heaven with intelligence,
with His knowledge the depths were separated
and the skies will drop their dew.”***

Proverbs 3:19-20

The laws of nature testify clearly that as smart and powerful humanity becomes we are still not the ones in charge of life and living. We can indeed change many things; we can indeed harness a portion of nature’s power to serve our needs. We can make changes and improvements, yes, but only in context of the natural laws. We can work with them, but we cannot work outside them.

No matter what we can do, no matter what we can change, the laws of nature will still rule supreme. Thus, in the end, while we can do much, there is much more that we cannot do. In the end, we are not the ones in charge.

It is humbling but honest; it is enlightening and awakening for us to realize that our fate is not in our own hands. The wise have learned this great lesson and live by it. The fool on the other hand still believes himself master of his own destiny and pushes life and fate, challenging the natural order of things, demanding that his own will be done, here on Earth and in Heaven.

The fool pushes and pushes, making some movement, yes, but at the same time, wasting tremendous amounts of energy, effort and time. In the end, the fool is exhausted and defeated by life. However, this is to be expected, this is only natural. The wise would have told this to the fool long ago, before so much energy was spent and time lost. But who listens to the wise anymore?

The relationship between the natural order, and supernatural authority over it is constantly questioned, but in the end, it cannot be denied. The universe remains to us a mystery and it always will be. Humanity is not lord of the earth. We do not rule here. We have not created, nor formed the earth in our own image. Try as we do to make this so, we will never succeed. Life and living are far beyond our control. When we try to control everything, much slips through our fingers and creates chaos for the new world order we try to create.



Higher powers than we exist. Yet, even they are no more than clay in the Hands of Heaven. It is the Invisible Hand that directs all. All decisions that affect us daily are decided upon in realms unseen to our eyes and unknowable to our minds. That which is invisible exists regardless of whether or not we see it or believe in it. Invisibility is a funny thing. For just as there are forces in nature invisible to us, so there are even higher forces of nature invisible to those lower forces of nature. Like an ascending ladder, there are authorities and natural influences, which ultimately touch the realm of the supernatural itself.

Our world is a very big place. Try as we will to influence it we will succeed only to a point. Yes, we must always try to do what we can to make our lives and world better. However, this effort on our parts requires of us to turn towards the Invisible and recognize the movement of the Hand of Heaven.

When we surrender to the movement from Above, we will be moved in to the proper place, in the proper time in the proper way. None of this movement may make sense to us. Heaven may ask of us what to us appears to be illogical, irrational or worse, uncomfortable. Yet, one who moves with Heaven successfully navigates life and earthly living. One who resists Heaven is moved forcefully, dragging one's feet. Such a one always leaves a mess in their passage. Why create more problems for oneself?

***“Do not panic from sudden fear,
and from the coming holocaust of the wicked.
For God will be your confidence,
and protect your foot from a snare.”***

Proverbs 3:25,26

Troubles best us all; this is the reality of life. Yet, some are able to face adversity head on, persevere, and come out from them even stronger than when one went in. Others, on the other hand, when faced with life's adversities, crumble, and succumb to all forms of self-destruction, including any and all type of escapist addictive behaviors. Some live to strive, others live only to die.

Life can be compared to a ride on a roller coaster; there are always ups and downs, sharp turns and even sharper drops along with ascents some of which are slow while others fast. The nature of a roller coaster ride is that one never knows what is coming next. Movement happens so quickly that we are literally just taken along for the ride. In the amusement park, after a few moments the ride ends, this is not true however with life itself. We cannot just get off the ride of life and not go on it again because we are afraid of it or it makes our stomach sick to be jostled around so much.



We can choose whether or not to go on a roller coaster. We cannot choose whether or not our lives will resemble one. Live can be a thrill, or life can make one sick and afraid. It all depends upon how one chooses to live.

Bad times and good times always come in cycles; this is the natural order of things. We cannot necessarily change the good or the bad. However, there is one great power that does reside with us. Although we may not be able to choose what befalls us, we do have the power to choose how we respond to whatever befalls us. In other words, we can make a bad matter good (or a good matter bad) all depending upon how we respond, what we do and how we do it.

"To every cloud there is a silver lining," is the old saying. To every tragedy good can come forth from it. It all depends upon us. One way or another, tragedies comes, to everyone, this is only the natural order of things under the sun. However, being that one can to a point work with the natural order, there are those who can foresee tragedy and work in advance to avoid it or lessen its negative influences. Yet, in order to do this, one must have the wisdom of foresight and the discipline to prepare.

One of the greatest of all tragedies is that there are those so foolish that they fail to take note of the signs around them to prepare, and adjust themselves for that which is to come. Most of the terrible things that befall one is because either one has brought it down upon oneself, or one lacked the wisdom and foresight to recognize a coming bad event and prepare for it properly.

Rightly are fools called wicked. Wicked means evil, and there is no greater evil that one who closes one's eyes to self-preservation. Those who live by the attitude, "eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die" usually end up being dead either tomorrow or the next day. Thus, this attitude is a recipe for death, not a wise course for life.

The fool, because he refuses to embrace wisdom, will thus march forward towards his own doom. This is but the natural order of things. Do not mourn him, do not warn him. He will pay no mind to your calls for his self-preservation. On the contrary, he will try to get you to give up your cautions and join him in his frivolities. Like one addicted to the high of drugs or alcohol, the pleasure is short and the suffering and grief much.

One who walks the path of Torah learns wisdom, and lives by it. As such, Heaven can guide one's steps towards good and away from future tragedy that one cannot foresee with human insight. This is called Divine guidance and spiritual protection. Anyone who has tried it knows well its truth. Anyone who lives it knows well that whatever may



come, there is the Higher Hand that will guide one through to greener pastures on the other side, no matter how bad things look today; there will be a brighter tomorrow.

Yes, the wise know that there is a tomorrow for life. Unfortunately, the fool knows only that tomorrow we die. Why would one choose death, when life is so easy to grasp. Only the fool knows the answer why he chooses his so foolish a fate.

***"Do not hold back good from its owner
all the while that it is in your hands to do so."***

Proverbs 3:27

Yes, good can be one's possession. Good can be earned. Good can be deserved. When one does that which is good, the reward is that good finds its way back to the one. What goes around comes around. This is a simple law of magnetism that exists in the universe.

What is the definition of good? Unfortunately, some define good as being what is good for oneself individually, personally and selfishly. Yet, true good is not defined as what is right and good only for the individual. For we all influence one another, some from afar, and some from up close. What is good for one might not be what is good for another. Therefore, the greater good must be understood as what is good for the moment, in that time, in that place, with those people, in those circumstances. What is good, therefore, cannot be defined universally, but only subjectively in the moment. This is very hard, and it is nearly impossible to accomplish without a Higher Authority as one's guide.

Good and bad are ultimately defined by Torah. Torah has revealed to us the Will of Heaven and the path that we are to walk. Yet, our path is not spelled out for us in its every detail. Many decisions in life cannot be made from what is written on the page in a book. Real life requires real wisdom. Wisdom is what is extrapolated from the book. Real wisdom is learned from understanding the intent with the written Word. Torah is a living document. Although its every word does not answer every question, the intentions behind every word does contain all the answers to life. One just has to know not only where to look but also how to look.

When one knows Torah, one knows what is right and good for the moment, at the moment. Others may be baffled and blind to what the wise conclude to be the proper good of the moment. Yet, the wise cannot allow themselves to be dissuaded by the lack of clarity and irrational emotions of those who cannot see the greater whole.



Torah wisdom defies rational logic and speaks to a reality invisible to the mind void of spiritual awareness. Without spiritual awareness, the Ways of Heaven may seem cruel and heartless to the blind and unlearned. Yet, this too is part of life. The wise accept this and live. The others reject this, and refuse to accept the Ways of Heaven. Thus, they fight and try to create an alternate reality in their own image.

When this is done, the wayward paths of humanity, created in the image of the confused and unsettled mind only create a confusing and unsettling reality. Such a reality is created doomed to failure, hardship and pain. Yet, the blind embrace this path, for they feel that it is right for them to struggle, persevere and maybe in the end, overcome.

Those who wish to embrace this struggle may certainly do so. Yet, Torah warns us to be wise, to avoid struggle when possible and to surrender to the Ways of Heaven, known within us only when we are calm, quiet and compliant with Torah. It is not the Way of Heaven for us to suffer. Yet, the blind choose to suffer because they refuse the warnings of wisdom; they refuse to recognize the greater good, and thus reject what is good all together.

One who merits good will receive it; this is the Way of Heaven and the course of nature. Good is not demanded from one by another. Such demands are not good. One who proclaims that they deserve such a thing may or may not be correct. Only Heaven knows for sure. Therefore, only Heaven will decide what one truly deserves and what one will truly receive. This is the truth about life. Fight it all one wants, one's efforts will change nothing. The Will of Heaven will be revealed on Earth, for this is the natural order of things.

Torah commands us to always do the right thing. One who knows Torah will know what is right for the moment, at the moment. One who knows what is good and has the power to do such good is told to do so, for this is wise. The good that one knows should be done may not be considered good by others, those who know not the Ways of Heaven. Nonetheless, the Ways of Heaven must prevail and the path of Torah must be followed, for this is the highest good of them all.

Good and bad are mysterious things. They cannot be fathomed by the rational, logical mind alone. They cannot be known just by one following one's heart. Head and heart, alone and isolated cannot be balanced and thus lead one in a balanced way. Only when head and heart are balanced with Torah in the middle embracing them both will one gain wisdom and insight and know the highest good.



It is the Highest Good that must not be withheld. Some might not consider the Higher Good to be good at all. This is because they lack the insight to know true good. Nevertheless, those with wisdom must do the good thing. You may not be thanked. You may be misunderstood. Pay this no mind. Do the right thing because it is the right thing. This is the ultimate good. Heaven will smile on the one who walks in this path.

***“Do not say to your neighbor go and come,
and tomorrow I’ll give you,
[all the while] that it is with you.”***

Proverbs 3:28

Oh, the tricks we play one upon another. It is no wonder why so many people have a problem trusting others, when so many others are so busy playing games with another’s well-being.

Simplicity and honesty are almost forgotten practices today. We make our world and our lives so much more complex than they need to be. We think up an idea and then defy reason and logic to insist that we squeeze our square shaped ideas into the round holes of reality. We fail to grasp why it is that the world does not recreate itself to our chosen image of the moment. We fail to understand why reality cannot shift and change and keep up with our vivid imaginations.

The solution to so many problems is rather simple. The answer itself is simplicity and honesty. We must learn to be straightforward and honest about what we feel, what we think and what we are going to do. We must be honest and acknowledge our limitations and then be careful to live within them. We must not ignore our innate parameters and demand that life itself change so that we can fulfill our every desire.

The wise know their limitations, fools do not believe in limitations. The wise often live; fools often die. Maybe this is nature’s way of natural selection, sifting out from the human gene pool those too stupid to survive. Honesty can indeed be cruel, but knowing the truth enables ones to see and live with reality. Heaven has its plan; there is Divine Purpose in everything.

When there is clarity, there is understanding. When one understands oneself, one can then express oneself to others. When there is honesty between people then trust can be built. Yet, when one can be forthright and chooses not to be, and then is discovered, how can such a one be trusted in the future?



There is a subtlety to how we must communicate with others. We can be very straightforward or we can be round-about. When to act one way and when the other depends upon the type of person we are dealing with. A neighbor is the term used to describe a friend, someone to trust. With a neighbor, it is right and proper to behave with simplicity and clarity. However, with someone who is not a neighbor, this is one who is a potential source of harm, whose motivations towards one are questionable; with such a one caution should be the rule. Neighbors are treated with simplicity and clarity. Strangers are treated with caution and subtlety.

There is a time and a place for all things under Heaven. Our problem is that we fail to distinguish properly between these times. We fail to recognize the difference between the neighbor and the stranger. When this occurs, we treat our neighbors, who should be trusted, as strangers. This distances them from us causing disharmony. When this occurs, we treat strangers as neighbors. This brings close those who should remain distant. When this occurs, we open upon ourselves the windows of misfortune. How much trouble have we caused ourselves merely because we have never learned to be clear and simple. For it is in the simplicity that comes discretion and the power to distinguish.

Treat the neighbor as your neighbor. Treat the stranger as a stranger. Embrace the one and distance the other. Do so with wisdom, discretion, simplicity and truth. By knowing your parameters, ordained for you by Heaven, and by living within them, you create for yourself the surrounding fence of security. Safeguard the fence, let in only those who belong. Violate not the space of others. Respect them as you wish for them to respect you.

Treat your neighbor as is right; give to your neighbor accordance to the ways of neighbors. When neighbors act as neighbors we all benefit. There are enough strangers around us of whom we must be wary. Know your neighbors, live with them and by them, and the Way of Heaven will open before you with ease.

***“Do not plot evil against your neighbor
while he dwells securely with you.
Do not quarrel with a person for no reason
if he has not caused you harm.”***

Proverbs 3:29, 30

How we treat others will always come back to haunt us. How we treat others will always be proclaimed before us. What is said about us by others will reflect what it is



we ourselves say about others. Being honest and straightforward is the surest way to create security. Being deceptive and deceitful for selfish gain and motivation is a sure way to alienate others and ultimately bring harm to oneself.

Trust between allies is paramount. There is a old saying in wartime, “divide and conquer.” The way of an enemy is to divide strong and united friends, making each one separate and thus weak. There is strength in numbers and weakness in isolation. Friends expect enemies to attack them from outside; they do not expect to be attacked from within by those who they trust. One who attacks a trusted friend is given a special name, such a one is called a traitor. During war times traitors are summarily put to death, often without even wasting time for a trial.

One who betrays a friend, a confidence or a partner destroys something that often can never be rebuilt. Bonds of trust are forged with great effort. It requires little or no effort to destroy them. Yet, once destroyed bonds of trust seldom can be rebuilt.

Try as we will no one can control the course of the mighty river of life. Everyday brings to us a new turn and a different circumstance. The wise captain of the ship knows not to fight the flow of the mighty river, but rather sails along with the current, thus ensuring smooth passage. The fool on the other hand defies the mighty river and demands that his ship obey his orders and follows his directions regardless of however hard this may be and however much this endangers the ship by forcing it to run against the current.

The wise captain takes pride in knowing that he has steered well the ship through the river’s turbulent rapids. By flowing with the current instead of against it, the wise captain saves both ship and crew. The foolish captain also has his pride. The fool takes pride in his arrogance and in his resistance to the natural order and what is right. The fool is proud of his foolishness all the while that he causes damage to himself and others.

Wisdom knows loyalty. Foolishness knows betrayal. Wisdom seeks to help. Foolishness seeks to harm. Wisdom does what is proper and good. Foolishness does what is improper and wrong.

The moment defines what is right and wrong, good and bad. The wise are one with the moment. The fool stand against the moment. The wise recognizes the Higher Hand. The fool rejects it. Wisdom can be trusted because it is stable. Foolishness cannot be trusted because it has no sense of stability.



Trust between allies is a bond of righteousness. One watches and protects the other; both can then rest and be secured. Two together are stronger than one or even two apart. Two work together, live together and stand together. The wise know the value of tow, especially when the two become one.

Therefore, maintain the unity of the two. When two become one, the one is truly great. Watch each other's back. Protect one another and look after each other's interests.

***"Scales of deception are an abomination to God,
a complete stone is His Will."***

Proverbs 11:1

All life hangs in the balance. All things are supposed to be fair and even. However, the sensitive balance between good and evil has been tipped. The forbidden fruit has blinded the eye and dulled the heart. Today, there is no balance, and therefore no fairness. When things are not even, then life becomes odd, very odd indeed.

Natural law was born to bring alignment and balance to the universe. When natural law is allowed to take its course all things find their place. When natural law is thwarted and challenged, the imbalance caused creates its own need for balance. The great law holds that to every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.

Nature moves slowly as ordained by the Hand of God. The Divine Mind sees and knows that which mere mortal humans cannot perceive. Limited human minds, unbalanced by the forbidden fruit, push and push against nature. They do not see and do not know that the opposite reaction builds and builds. At the moment of Divine design the balance is restored.

The moment of Divine design when balance is restored comes quickly and unexpected. Yet, come it does, and balance is restored, with the removal of everything, absolutely everything, that stands in the way of balance and that caused the imbalance in the first place.

Balance is the Divine design. Harmony and peace between forces is the Way of Heaven. Though things tip from side to side, this is only necessary movement. For without movement there is no growth. Yet, with great movement comes great growth. The Divine design allows the great imbalance to occur in order that the great balance will naturally follow.



Woe to those who see only the imbalance and think it will last forever, for they will be washed away along with the imbalance. This is not a warning about the far away future; this is stern advice for today. Nature hates imbalance; this is true of the world surrounding us and the world inside us.

When we create imbalance through the mistakes of our minds, hearts and behavior, we automatically and naturally create and set into action an equal and opposite force that will stop at nothing to restore matters into the greater harmony and alignment. This cannot be avoided. It is inevitable.

When we seek to create our own advantage at the expense of another, in the end we only end up harming ourselves more than if we had done nothing in the first place.

There is no greater abomination in the eyes of God than for a human being to act stupidly. Not even the animals, who are supposed to be lesser than humanity, act with the stupidity that we see in many people. Animals follow nature. We humans are supposed to as well.

When, however, we choose to ignore the greater whole and selfishly act as if the world revolves around ourselves, we then act unnaturally. Yes, it is unnatural for the human to act in ways that are inhuman. When we act unnaturally and inhuman; we create the equal and opposite force that pulls us away from our own stupidity and back into the simple wisdom of what should be common sense.

There is nothing that pleases God more than when human beings act humanely, in accordance to the Divinely ordained natural law. In this there is wisdom, balance and fulfillment.

And remember this; the Divinely ordained natural law is in Hebrew called Torah. It is the “complete stone” under our feet and upon which all the universe is built.

***“An agent of evil will fall into bad;
a faithful messenger will bring healing.”***

Proverbs 13:17

The universe has its own state of innate balance. Try as we may to alter the natural way; in the end there will only be failure. This is inevitable. For being mere mortal humans our influence upon our world is insignificant at best. Our world is far greater than are we, either as individuals or as a race.



The Earth was not created by human beings, nor shall it be destroyed by them. Sully and smitten the Earth we may, but in the end, the Earth will cleanse herself of the dirt and that which causes the dirt as a cat would lick its paws.

We human beings come from a Divine origin, so too does our planet. We are endowed with a Divine mission of accomplishment and a collective destiny of greatness; so too is our planet. Although we human beings are created in the Divine Image, we have not been given Divine power or authority to destroy. We can create and make things better, but there is a limit to what we can destroy and how much worse we can make things to be.

When we follow the Divinely ordained natural law we live in harmony with our world and our universe. When we think ourselves clever and proclaim ourselves above natural law we inadvertently transform ourselves into agents of evil. We do not see the ultimate destruction and bad that results and await us because of our mortal arrogant human foolishness.

Let no one be so deceived to believe that there is no pay back and that injustice continues forever. Look back into history at the mighty nations and empires that have arisen and fallen. Their only remnants are relics in museums and information on pages in history books.

The mighty have indeed been toppled. Nature itself directed the course of human events and the Divine order spoke into the hearts and minds of the collective consciousness. One nation rose to the heights. In its arrogance it became drunk with power. It grew fat and became lazy. Soon, its replacement arose, filled with righteous indignation, it struck down that which had become unable to sustain itself.

The replacement then ascended to the heights of power, it too them became arrogant, fat and lazy. It too provoked righteous indignation in yet a third, which came and did to it exactly what it had done to its predecessor. Then came the forth, the fifth and so on. This has been the history of humanity.

Righteousness is good motivation; but righteousness must never be complacent. Arrogance, fatness and laziness are evils that violate the Divinely ordained natural law. Once they are embraced evil is sure to follow. One cannot become an agent of evil, and expect good to result. Such a consideration is madness, and the heights of delusion and self deception.



When one is faithful to the Divinely ordained natural order, one is faithful to oneself, one's home and to one's Source. Such faithfulness creates an alignment and balance that naturally brings in its stead healing and all things good.

Faithfulness means proper alignment and steadfastness to one's relationship to the Source. There is no greater source for healing in the universe than for one to be in proper alignment with the Force above that is the source of all below.

This is the Divinely ordained natural law. And remember this; the Divinely ordained natural law is in Hebrew called Torah. Torah brings healing in its wings and restores the soul to those who have lost it.

***“There is a straight path before a person
and its end is the paths of death.”***

Proverbs 14:12

The shortest path between two points may or may not be a straight line; it all depends upon the obstacles along the way.

I contemplate our human way of viewing things; how we consider ourselves wise, cautious and preparatory. We all try our best to foresee that which cannot be seen and to prepare for a future unknown. Yet, try as we do to make our futures secure, there are limits to what is possible to accomplish. We simply do not have the ability to plan our futures and to materialize them exactly how we have planned.

Life is a long road and only Heaven knows the right course through it. That which is the right course for one may very well be the wrong course for another. One's course through life is highly subjective. The path which one follows is never the exact same path followed by another.

Therefore, only with guidance from Heaven will one find one's true path. Without the guidance of Heaven one will walk through life lost and forever searching for that place which only the Soul within can recognize as home.

Human foresight at best sees what it can see, yet even the best cannot foresee all the dangerous curves on the road ahead. One never sees the need to slow down before it is too late. One never plans for the inevitable, unknown and unforeseen twists and turns that make each of our lives unique and unpredictable.



We cannot foresee, but Heaven already sees. Smart people lecture about their smartness. Wise people share their wisdom, but only those whose eyes look up to Heaven can see the road in front of them.

For the path we walk cannot be seen with human vision. So we turn our eyes to Heaven and see our reflection cast within the great sky. We see our walk here on Earth by seeing it reflected back to us from the eyes of Heaven. Although we cannot see, Heaven sees for us.

When we surrender our vision and our future to Heaven, only then can we see those dangerous curves before we approach them. With our eyes on Heaven we can internally know that which is coming and make proper preparations for, what for others, is yet the unseen future. Yet, for the one with eyes on Heaven, no future is unseen and no dangers can overtake one unannounced.

How strange is it that the only way to see ahead is to look away. With eyes on Heaven all is seen and foreseen. Look as one may towards the future, one will always trip up over some unseen thing here in the present, all because one is not paying attention where one is at.

The vision from Heaven is not like looking forward with human eyes. No words can describe it. No talk can justify it. The way of Heaven is invisible to the untrained mind, for the way of Heaven is seen and known in the heart. The mind always has a hard time understanding the language and ways of the heart.

Torah is the Way of the universe. Only by gazing into the Torah can one penetrate beyond its surface and see the reflection of Heaven therein. Through this reflection one can gaze upon the proper course of one's own life, know it and walk it accordingly.

It may not make any sense in the eyes of the blind. Yet, the blind cannot see, especially when they think that they are not blind and can indeed see. Should we follow the blind? Should we become the blind led by the blind? I should say not!

So then, gaze into that place where true vision is to be found. Cast off the derision of the blind. Their path is lost to them. They will never see the terrible precipice in time to avoid it. This may be their destiny, but it does not have to be ours.

It is time for the blind to see. Close your eyes from this outside world. Gaze into the Torah with the eyes of your heart, not just with the eyes in your head. When your gaze is set properly upon Heaven all worlds and all ways will be shown to you. In time the



path will become clear and you will find your way home. This is what we must teach to all lost children.

***“Best to have less with righteousness
than abundance without justice.”***

Proverbs 16:8

More is better and how much one has defines one’s worth and value. This is what we are all taught today. It does not matter who you are, what matters is how much you have. This is the modern day motto of truth.

There are two things that need to be said about this: first the modern motto is a fantasy; and second, it is an incredibly dangerous fantasy.

We usually chose not to see that there is more to life than meets the eye. We love our distractions and our illusionary little worlds brought to us by the popular media and its peculiar forms of so-called entertainment. We often choose to get lost in the fantasy of our fictions because the realities of our factual world are often too hard to bear.

Burdens in life are natural; everyone has his/her share to carry. Some burdens are easier to carry than others. Some are too hard even for the most robust of us; then again some are way too light, even from the frailest and the weak.

Yet, we see a bizarre occurrence. The great heavy burdens seem to be managed even by those who are considered weak, whereas even the lightest of burdens cannot be carried by those who are considered strong. The weak manage the heavy and the strong crumble under the light. Where is the wisdom in this?

Truth is a bizarre thing. Many things would never be believed other than for the fact that they are true. Fiction is also a bizarre thing, for more people today embrace fiction and accepts its fantasies over all those others who claim to be following truth.

Truth is stranger than fiction; however, today most cannot discern and tell the difference between the two. When reality and fantasy collide in the mind and heart they create clouds of confusion that blur a person’s course.

Granted, one may believe whatever one wishes, and walk whatever path that one may chose. Yet, is it right or wrong for one to be walking one path all the while thinking than he/she is on another?



If we see one walking towards a precipice should we not speak out words of warning? What if we do speak out and instead of being heard we are instead silenced. What if instead of appreciating our revelations of truth we are told to be silent, because one wishes to remain embraced in fantasy? Should we not then remain silent and allow nature to take its course?

That which is weak cannot by nature maintain a heavy load. That which is false cannot be maintained forever. Eventually truth will rear its head, and the world of fantasy will be shaken, jarred and eventually collapsed. This is the natural course of events; its path cannot be altered.

Try as we may to reinforce our fantasy world, our efforts will all be in vain. The natural order cannot be dismissed or wished away. We may ignore the natural way all we wish, as long as nothing comes along to awaken us from our delusional slumber. However, nature never allows us to sleep for too long. Not before long comes a jolt or a shock that awakens us long enough to realize that we have been asleep.

Now the question is, once awakened do we seek to rise up and see the true world, or do we make all efforts to go back to sleep to reenter the world of fantasy and illusion? Although we may get lost again in the fantasies of our own making, in the end, we will again be jolted awake and not be given the opportunity to slumber forever.

More is not necessarily better. When there is more, the more creates heaviness. If the more stands upon the solid foundation of what is right and good, then the more stands firmly and secure. More can be added without concern.

When, however, the more stands upon shaky ground, upon the foundations of fantasy embraced today, then we build on shaky ground and proceed at our own peril. For all that is built upon shaky ground and upon unstable foundations will eventually collapse and be destroyed. This cannot be changed or avoided. This is the natural order of things.

Truth will stand the test of weight, no matter how heavy it may be. Fantasy lasts only as long as the believer wishes. One who blurs the line between fantasy and reality will eventually be in for a rude awakening, with all the pain, suffering and loss that comes along with such awareness. This does not have to be. This can be easily avoided.

Embrace now the cold hard truths of life and lay down your insane fantasies. In this way the harshness of today will transform into an easier tomorrow. For today's



burdens when carried faithfully will not seem to be as heavy tomorrow. The burden has not changed, but you have! You are now the stronger.

This is the right path, the way of righteousness and the road towards proper and natural balance. This is justice. It is decided by Heaven, based upon the true state of one's humanity.

***“Be not rash with your mouth,
and let your heart not be hasty
to utter a word before God,
for God is in Heaven, and you are on the earth;
therefore, let your words be few.”***

Kohelet 5:1

Whether we know it or not we are terribly arrogant in the eyes of Heaven. We always seek to judge Heaven by our own human standards. We think that God should think like we think, want what we want and behave as we think God should behave. How many of us see God in our own image? How many of us deep in our hearts feel (but, God forbid, never express) that we can indeed run the world better than does Heaven? We forget the wisdom of old.

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, says HaShem. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts [higher] than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9

How many of us still believe the fairy-tale myth that God is some kind of grandiose human king with whom we can interact with similar to how would interact with a human monarch? This foolishness is both infantile and insulting to intelligence. The Creator of the universe is no human being. We cannot relate to God as a human being. We call God a Father and King only to help our minds accept the fact that there really does exist a Higher Authority above us. But there is no literal truth to these symbolic images. Rightfully we should not even refer to God as a “He,” but rather as “It,” but there never was a Biblical word for “It.”

We are mortal human beings living in a very large and complex universe. We do not understand the ways of the universe, we do not understand the ways of our own planet; we do not even understand the ways of our own bodies. We control nothing, not the universe, not our world, not even our own flesh.



We are part of a very large and complex universe and yet each of us has our place and purpose. This is what one must seek and this is what one must pursue and do. There is no room to bargain or argue with God anymore than one can bargain or argue with existence itself.

It is time to wake up and see the greater world and perceive one's individual place in it. Only in this will one find one's true purpose, one's true happiness and fulfill one's true destiny. Speak little; do much.

***“For a dream comes with much concern,
and the voice of the fool with many words.”***

Kohelet 5:2

Dreams do not speak the language of the intellectual mind. Dreams speak the language of the soul. This is why they consist of pictures and images. Dreams do not speak to the confused mind, but rather they speak to the knowing heart.

The heart knows deep within us. The heart sees and understands. The heart feels and thus is alive. The mind on the other hand is always confused; so many thoughts and so little understanding. Everything can be made to make sense. Thus we convince ourselves that all types of perversions are rational and logical. After all one can be convinced of anything.

But the heart knows better! The heart knows truth! And for this reason most of us repress our hearts and silence its inner voice. Why allow a challenge when we believe that we are right? Why allow doubt which clouds action? Yet, maybe the inner voice of doubt is not one of fear but rather a deeper inner knowledge that sees clearer than does the physical eye? Yes, the inner voice is heard when the heart is calm; it enables the mind to become clear.

Thus when we dream we receive the message of the heart. Our minds do not always understand it, but its message is still loud and clear. The message troubles the confused mind, but when silent and still, the message of the heart spoken through the dream can be understood within the depths of being where the mind and heart merge as one.

Do not speak many words trying to explain and rationalize that which is wrong. Many words confuse the mind into accepting even the unacceptable. Many words can confuse; that is all they ever do. Fools speak at great lengths to convince others how right they are. The wise need only say but a few words; their wisdom is self-evident.



Simple words: this is what is most deep; short speech: this is what is long and profound in understanding. Sometimes more is understood through silence than through words. Sometimes more is seen in stillness than in movement.

Silence your tongue from speech; hold back your mind from racing thoughts. Seek silence within and be still in your body. Allow the heart to speak its message without the mind's confusion, rationalizing wrong.

Silence! Stillness! See the dream within; only then will you be able to live it!

***“When you pronounce a vow to God,
do not delay to pay,
for He has no pleasure in fools;
that which you vow, pay.
It is better that you vow not,
than that you vow, and do not pay it.”***

Kohelet 5:3-4

Does it take much common sense to understand that one is supposed to keep one's word? Is not the very definition of wisdom to know to do what is best for oneself? How can one be considered anything other than a fool when one does not keep one's word?

True, God knows our hearts. Heaven knows all possible futures and sees whether or not we will keep our word. Heaven also sees the consequences of when we lie as well as when we keep the truth.

Alas, we lack Heaven's vision. We never know when we give our word if indeed we will keep it or find some lame excuse to justify to ourselves why we break it. The word that we break most often is the one we make to ourselves. It is bad enough that we lie to others and hurt them in the process, but it is sheer insanity and foolishness when we lie to ourselves and allow self deceptions to lead us into the valley of the shadow of death where we face nothing other than our own self created evils.

The evil and demons that we face tomorrow are the ones that we ourselves create today. Do not look to Heaven, and pray that God clean up the mess that you yourself have made. If you roll in the mud, you must clean yourself off. If you mess up your life, it is you that must clean it up. Heaven will help you, yes; if you are sincere. But part of sincerity is your resolve to make right that which was done wrong. Only you can fix what you break. Heaven will help you, yes; but the majority of the work remains on your shoulders.



When you make a commitment; keep it! Do not go looking for excuses! Do not follow your cravings! Do not allow yourself to lie to yourself. Fight your own worst enemy; this is the liar within each of us. Keep your word, through “hell or high water.” One who does this is smiled upon from Heaven.

If you can't commit, then don't. Better to tell the truth and face the consequences than to lie and face even worse consequences. One is respected when one tells the truth and keeps one's word. This is common sense; it is basic survival and the most profound of wisdoms. Now, go do it!

***“Do not allow your mouth
to cause sin to your flesh,
and do not say before the angel
that it is an error;
why should God be angry with your voice.
and destroy the work of your hands?
For despite the many dreams,
vanities and many words fear God.”***

Kohelet 5:5-6

One of the worst things in the world, in my opinion, is when someone speaks about something of which they really know nothing about. True knowledge is based on experience, true experience must be personal. Without such personal experience, there can be no true knowing, without true knowing there is no true knowledge. Without true knowledge one should keep silent.

Our world is full of garbage because so many people talk about things they do not know and act in ridiculous and foolish ways that make no sense to those who do know.

The human mind is a fragile and weak thing. Because we never learn to experience what we think, our thoughts and conclusions are all abstracts. They are repeated in books and we thus ascribe to them authority and correctness even though we have never explored and experienced things for ourselves. This is how falsehoods grow. Like a cancer they spread among us and eat at the mind and will of all. We are left with a people who follow their marching orders like good little soldiers. They do not bother to think for themselves; their superiors have thought for them. All they have to do is follow orders. After all, is it not easier just to follow rather than to lead?



To experience requires of one effort, energy, testing, tribulation and discipline to overcome. Who today wants to invest such effort when everything can be handed to them on a silver platter? Why work to think when you can be told what to think?

There is no fear of God today, especially amongst those who claim to fear Him simply because their entire lives and lifestyles are something out of a book and out of a fantasy of living long ago in a place far away. No one today seeks to experience God. No one seeks to know Him. No one knows anymore what it even means to know Him. Yet, we are commanded to do just this. Those connected know. Those unconnected do not know, cannot know and all the while think that they do know and that they are the only ones who know. Oh well, what can we say? Self deception is more intoxicating than all kinds of hallucinogens and other drugs. Self deception numbs the mind and blinds the eye.

Do not wonder why the world, as we know it, must radically change, and why the vast majority will not survive to see the new day. In their blindness the disconnected see nothing, therefore they cannot see what is coming and thus cannot avoid their own doom. Yet, this too is for good. Souls must continue on their paths and their self deceptions must end. Either they choose the long and hard road to end self deception for themselves or Heaven will chose for them the short road and end it quickly.

We always have a choice. Every day we chose life or death. Every day we chose either truth or lie. It is high time that we learn how to do things right, if we expect to move properly with the dance of the coming of the Messiah. Only those who know how to experience directly will gain true knowledge. Only those with true knowledge will know how to survive. As for the rest, oh well!

***“If you see oppression of the poor,
and deprivation of justice, and righteousness in the country,
do not wonder about why it is so,
for the higher are over the high guards,
and there are higher ones over them.
And the benefit of the earth is in everything;
even the King is subservient to the field.”***

Kohelet 5:7-8

Yes, there is injustice everywhere. We do not need to see it in the news; we see it every day in our own lives. It is a simple fact that life is not fair. Try as we may, we are never able to make everything right. This is the truth of the human condition. To deny it only leads to further failure and depression.



Many point to injustice and proclaim this to be proof that no God is watching over us. For how could a loving and benevolent God allow all this injustice to exist? Yet, both God and injustice do exist and do so simultaneously. This reveals to us something about the true nature of God.

God is not a human being. God does not judge by human standards; nor does God feel things with human emotions. God does not think with human thoughts. God is Creator of all, of the natural and the supernatural. God is the author and definer of balance and imbalance. It is God that ordained the laws of nature, and puts them into place.

And God allows His system to become imbalanced, and God allows there to exist injustice. Yet, basic science teaches us that to every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. To counteract every unnatural imbalance there comes a movement and force of natural balance to restore alignment. This is true on the cosmic scale, and it is equally true in our individual lives.

We can only push things out-of-whack so far before nature itself unleashes a balancing force pushing us back into alignment. This is why we face so much turmoil, hardship and conflict in everyday life. This is why there are wars, cultural battles and daily conflicts with our peers. When we live out-of-sync with the natural way, we create imbalance. When this occurs nature takes its course.

As much as we think we are in charge, we really are not. As much as we wish to deny God, we cannot. For natural law itself declares the Existence and Presence of its Creator. We can tightly close our eyes all we want and still the glaring brilliance of the sun will shine over the Earth. We may not see it or want to see it, but just because we do not see it does not make it go away. So it is with our individual lives.

Resist the power and pull of Heaven all you want; it does not matter. Act unjustly and create imbalance all you wish; you only end up arousing a greater opposing force of counter-balance. It will push you back into place, no matter what. This is natural law; it cannot be denied or avoided. Some call it Divine wrath or God's punishment; but this is such a limited view.

We create our own personal heavens or hells. This has been ordained by God. Yet, when we allow things to get out of hand for the worst, Heaven intervenes and maneuvers events to set the record straight and to realign the natural balance. This is true in the world and it is true in each of our personal lives.



The great and small are all equalized before the humbling power of God's natural law. God is the author. His Hand is in all. Seek the Hand and gaze deeply within and you will be able to see the "Face" that guides the Hand. This is the secret unity of Elohim and YHWH.

***"Whoever loves silver will not be sated with silver,
[as well as] he who loves abundance without result,
this too is a waste
With the increase of good, its eaters increase,
and what is the advantage to its master,
except seeing [with] His eyes?"***
Kohelet 5:9-10

The greatest problem facing most today is a simple matter of insatiable cravings. People today do not know when enough is enough. For some reason, no matter how much one has, people want more and more.

We fail to realize the basic principle that...
The more that we have, the heavier we become.
The heavier we become, the more we have to carry.
The more we have to carry, the slower we can move.
The slower we can move, the more frustrated we become.
The more frustrated that we become, the angrier we get.
The angrier we get, the more hateful we feel.
The more hateful we feel, the more vicious towards others we become.
The more vicious towards others we become, the more we attack them.
The more that we attack others, the more that they lose.
The more that others lose, the more that they seek to gain.
The more that others seek to gain, the more that they acquire.
The more that they have, the heavier they become.
And on and on the cycle repeats itself, until eventually we all just explode.

We always want more. We always want better. We always want to be ahead. We are taught this by every lesson modern society has to teach us. This alone makes such societal values imbalanced and thus wrong, very wrong!

Natural law teaches us that a flow must be back and forth, give and take, in and out. It cannot just go one way! Ultimately all one-way flows will come to an end, and then nothing will remain. With nothing remaining, all suffer and all perish; this is insanity, the opposite of wisdom.



What will it take to break this cycle? What will it take to make us want to give instead of receive? Here is a great secret of the Way of Heaven. The great secret of eternal receiving is eternal giving. Yes, that's right! The more you give defines the more you get. Giving and receiving are always in the Hands of Heaven. There is a Higher Hand who deals according to what the Higher Eye sees.

Do not underestimate the power of giving. Heaven gives to the Earth; we in turn must give back. When we do, we complete the cycle, we complete the circuit. We thus enable receiving to continue, every time we give. When we give we pass on. What we give, another receives. Thus receiving is giving and giving is receiving. This is the natural cycle of life that completes the circuit of perennial blessings for all.

Please, get this message! For your sake and for mine.

***“The sleep of the laborer is sweet,
whether he eat little or much,
but the satiety of the rich does not allow him to sleep.”***

Kohelet 5:11

Which is more valuable, wealth of the body or wealth of the soul? Money can indeed buy many things, but how much money does it cost to buy peace of mind? How much money do you need to really be happy? How little peace of mind can you live with and still function without going insane?

Push, push, push; this is the mantra of the modern world. Make money, more money and on top of that even more money; only this defines accomplishment and success. So many have so much and the more that they have the less they become. If money is supposed to buy happiness, how come so many of the rich are unhappy? If money makes one rich, how come so many of the rich are so psychologically poor?

Is there a connection between financial wealth and inner psychological poverty? Can it be that one builds on the outside at the cost of tearing down what is on the inside? Is one defined as a person by who one is of by what one has? To have or to be? I am not the first one to ask this question.

With little worries the mind can be at rest. The rested mind can sleep deeply and sound. Life is good for one with peace of mind. With peace of mind, financial wealth is a peripheral thing. It is good to have and good not to have. One way or another, the worker works and fulfills his obligations and provides for his needs. Why do more than

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Ariel Bar Tzadok, Director, Rabbi



what is needed? The worker then goes home relaxed, at peace and enjoys however much or little he has. He is truly wealthy because he is happy with what he has and does not crave or miss that which he does not.

Having a lot or having a little will all balance out in the end. But peace of mind, being able to sleep soundly and at peace every night; how much does it cost; how can one buy it? The answer is that the price for peace of mind costs nothing and at the same time it costs everything. No amount of money can buy it, however great or small. Being rich will not give you peace of mind and neither will being poor.

Peace of mind is an attitude, not an acquisition. It is an attitude of having a full soul. The empty belly eats when hungry, so too the empty soul cries out to be full. Why feed the belly and starve the soul? This is foolishness and imbalance. This is why so many are so unhappy.

Let enough be enough. Go to work and work hard. Fulfill your daily chores and provide for that which you must. When the day is through and the work is done; don't push any further. Go home and enjoy your well earned rest. In this there is peace of mind. Feed your soul and you will no longer be spiritually hungry.



Once Upon A Time

“Once upon a time,” these are the words used to introduce a tale, or to tell a story. Yet, some stories are more real than others. Some stories relate facts from the past. These stories are called history. Other stories relate messages that are alive and present. These stories are called legends.

History speaks to the intellect, and can serve as a valuable rational tool to help us make proper choices today based upon the mistakes made in the past. Legends speak to the heart, and serve to mold our inner character and inspire us to greater achievements. Legends too help us make proper choices today, but not based upon past mistakes, but rather on the inner awareness of knowing what is right, good and proper.

Jewish religious literature contain the legends of Israel. Many of the stories within this great wealth of literature are literal history, and many others are not. The factual historicity of Torah is absolutely irrelevant. The Torah was not given to us to relate historical affairs. The Torah is not an historical document. Our Sages have always been quite clear about this. While the Torah does contain an element that speaks to the mind, the true essence of Torah, as expressed by our Sages throughout Jewish history, speaks instead to the heart. Legend, not history, relevance, not a mere rendition of past facts.

In recent centuries, however, the minds and outlook of many a Sage has changed from the old ways. Instead of sharing legend, many a leader has arisen who are academics and philosophers, masters of intellect and rational, who at the same time, have lost the inner meaning of the legend, and thus have lost much of the very essence of Torah.

These esteemed Sages have grown accustomed to educate the public using intellectually stimulating lessons calling upon numerous quotes from various holy sources to validate the strength of their arguments. While this approach may be well and good in establishing the legal precedents for the establishments of Torah Law, this is not the way the address moral issues of character. This way builds laws, it does not create legends. This way convinces the mind, but has not the ability to reach the heart.

The Truth of Torah is at the center of every true Jewish soul. The truth is not something you have to be convinced of, nor is it something you should have to be shown.

Your intellect should not have to be convinced of the truth of a thing using some appealing words in a sermon, on the contrary, your heart should recognize truth regardless of whatever words are used or not used to describe it.



Often the message of Truth gets lost in the very words being used to describe it. In my opinion, it is all too often the case that the many words and sermons used to teach about truth have themselves become the very hindrance to recognizing the truth.

Truth resides in the Heart. This is because the Torah resides in the heart. Do you really need me to quote a pasuk to convince you that this is true, or do you already know deep within you the truth of this, with or without the words of a pasuk to convince you? Do not take my word for it! How about taking your own word for it, the Word of God that is speaking within you right now.

Silence your chaotic mind and indeed, you will hear the inner voice, often heard just as a whisper speaking within you. When you finally do hear it, that inner whisper will become so loud within your conscience that you too will no longer need an outside voice to steer your course through life.

You will know what do, and how to do it for God will be your guide. Your own inner awareness will guide you to Torah learning, for you will know within yourself the value of living according to Torah, and how you need to learn how to do this. No one will need convince you of how important this is, you already know this. You need only learn the mechanics of what to do, not be impressed with intellectual arguments why to do it!

This is the difference between the one who has fulfilled the verse to place Torah upon one's heart, and one who has not. But you did not need for me to reference this verse, to you to convince you of this, because you already knew this, with or without, the verse. Mentioning the verse only proves that which you already know.

Life in the real world flows a natural course. Even that which we call supernatural or spiritual is itself just the source and cause of the natural. Therefore, knowledge and awareness of the natural way of things grants us insights into their spiritual sources and counterparts. This enlightenment is what brings us closer to experiencing the Presence of God.

One learns natural law through the process of observance. Throughout Torah, our prophets and Sages spent great lengths of time out in nature so that they could accumulate experience of the natural world and with the power of the Torah engrained within their hearts come to recognize the Hidden Hand of God in all natural acts.

This is how sacred holy men such as Nahum Ish Gamzu were able to look upon any occurrence and recognize the good, within it. His consciousness was able to recognize the Hidden Hand of God, and then by his positive attitude he was able to make the



proper choices of behavior, to unleash the hidden Light, and reveal the Hand of God out in the open.

Rightly did our Sages say that the lives of our forefathers serve as role models for their children. The stories of the past are far more than mere historical events. They are archetypes, legends, role models and examples that we are to follow. The experiences of the past are the same as the present and the future.

Therefore, the stories of the past are not just lessons about what happened then. They are living stories about now, about you and me. This is what makes Torah legendary. Torah's stories are our stories. They are eternally relevant and true. These legends have never been meant to be understood as having only historical meanings, irrelevant to us today and thus worthy of our ignoring them. No, Torah legends lives forever, more than this; it is Life itself!

We do not need extensive commentaries to tell our minds how to interpret these events. Rather, we need to be more like children and embrace the awe and wonder of a story, with simplicity and faith. After all, the entire Torah is summed up as the righteous living by faith. This is legend!

Our present society is unfortunately fundamentally sick. For centuries now, western civilization and the Jewish communities within it have become infected with a disease of rationalism. While there is nothing wrong and everything right in being rational, nonetheless, rationality is not the end-all of human consciousness. This is a sound and known psychological fact taught by our Torah since Sinai and even echoed in the words of modern psychiatrists.

Carl Jung, the founder of Analytical Psychology wrote (CW 13, 7),

"The intellect does indeed do harm to the soul, when it dares to possess itself of the heritage of the spirit. It is in no way fitted to do this, for spirit is something higher than intellect, since it embraces the latter, and includes feelings, as well. It is a guiding principle of life that strives towards super-human shining heights."

Western society has taught its citizens to be half-brained, to be rational and to dismiss anything other as irrational, and thus as not real, bad and wrong. As such, religion, which is founded upon faith and legend, has been delegated to the trash heap of history. The proud western rationalist proclaims himself a secularist, emancipated from the myths and fairy tales of primitive and stupid religion. Yes indeed, this is what secularism teaches and this is exactly how many secularists feel, believe and publicly proclaim.



What is amusing about this is that secularism and rationalism are themselves faiths and stories based upon as much an irrational foundation as are simplistic interpretations of religious stories. Rationalism and secularism proclaim their correctness and seek converts to their causes with the self same vigor and conviction of all the proselyting religions throughout history. But enough about current events and the ways of the world.

We cannot change the world, nor should we try. It is the job of Heaven to change the world, so let us stay focused on what we have to do and let Heaven do God's work. Our job is to change ourselves and by doing so serving as role models to assist others in achieving higher consciousness to enable them to also better their lives. While we do not change the world, we do indeed change our little portion of it. This is why we are here. This is what we are destined to do.

"And these words that I command you this day shall be upon your hearts" (Dev. 6:6). There, I have given you a quote. Do not run now to seek all the numerous commentaries to it. Simply allow it to sink into your head until it reaches your heart. Start to use your heart, the place where Torah is supposed to be. Stop thinking so much about how to do this, and just start doing it. Certainly, you will make mistakes, we all do, this is part of being human. But, as the old saying goes, "practice makes perfect."

Know the Torah, embrace the legend. Facts of the past do not matter. What is history or metaphor does not matter. What matters is the lesson, embrace the lesson and you will know the Torah. Know the Torah and you will glimpse the Face of its Master, the Creator, God.

What more than this is there to do? So while the world burns around us, pay it no mind. Instead, pay attention to this. Save you, it will. Teach this to others, by example, not by rote. Save them, it will. What more than this is there to do? Ask God, I am sure He will lead to you to understand and know the right direction.

Life is a long road and only God knows the way. This is another psychological truth learned from religion. Jung (CW 7-72) said it eloquently,

"Direction in life is not a simple straight line, fate confronts us like an intricate labyrinth, all too rich in possibilities and yet of these possibilities only one is the right way."

Let us conclude with the legendary words of the Sage Hillel, who once upon a time said, Zil Gamar, now, go do it.



Getting Serious

I have just had a brilliant revelation. The world is “going to hell in a hand basket,” and I finally figured out what the problem is. You see, the world is so entirely messed up for one specific reason, the one reason that most people emphatically avoid and ignore. If we are willing to look at what the real problem is, I believe I can offer some real solutions. Maybe if we actually make the effort to work to fix the problem we can somehow change our world. I am an eternal optimist, so let us “give it a shot.”

I do not need to “beat around the bush” here. The one reason why the world is so messed up, and what people are ignoring and avoiding is, did you guess it, yes, the problem is none other than YOU! That is right, YOU, not us, not the world, not society, the problems that you are facing in your life come from, and can be changed by none other than Y-O-U!

Let us begin with the issue of discipline and self-control. Do you have sufficient discipline and self-control? How many times have you known something to be right, yet, you fail to do it because of some stupid excuse you made up? It is either too hard, you considered it beneath you, or you thought of some other stupid or foolish reason all to avoid doing what should have been done. Needless to say, all of these excuses belong in a toilet and not in your head. Let the analogy continue, if you place these kinds of ideas and attitudes in your head then indeed your head is a toilet and you are full of, well, you know!

Our emancipated modern society today has taught one lie that is greater than all the rest. The great lie is that the value and importance of pleasing oneself and accomplishing one’s personal happiness is paramount and how one feels about something is what is most important. Let the truth be known, in the eyes of Heaven, your happiness means nothing and your feelings mean even less than that. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness might be guaranteed to you under the United States Declaration of Independence, but Heaven and the natural laws of reality that they ordain, care nothing for U.S. declarations.

In other words, the realities of life, as ordained by Heaven, are not geared towards one finding fulfillment, happiness and feeling good. Indeed, all who place these selfish personal pursuits as paramount in their lives are doomed to live lives of horrible pain and suffering. Life does not countenance fools and anyone who believes life will provide them exactly what they want, when they want it is a fool.

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I truly feel very sorry for those people who live ruled by their emotions. Emotions are well and good, they are a natural and necessary aspect of our human experience. However, let the truth be known, emotions are fragile and transitory things; they are always changing and in a state of flux. One who therefore lives under their influence has no stable foundation upon which to build one's life.

Individuals who allow their emotions to cloud their judgment, and to direct their choices throughout life are the most unhappy and unsuccessful bunch of human beings. They are most prone to psychological disorders, and all types of substance abuses. Everything revolves around one's feelings; they live their lives in the pursuit of feeling good. Being that feelings, by nature are ever changing, the emotional individual without any control over one's feelings is wracked from side to side throughout life.

The circumstances in one's life are ever changing and never stable. If one cannot emotionally handle the daily changes that life brings then one's life is usually a complete mess because of it.

The emotionally oriented individual needs to learn a very important lesson about balancing head and heart. The emotionally based individual must be taught, by whatever means necessary to overcome the imbalance caused by ever changing feelings and learn to become stable, fruitful and productive. Only in this is true happiness to be found.

Emotionally based personalities unfortunately are not the only ones with problems adjusting to the real world. The single greatest problem in the world is selfish individuals. These are the people who believe everyone and everything in life should serve them and revolve around them. When the world is full of selfish petty people, then the world become corrupt and evil. Modern western secular society unfortunately is built upon the premise of pleasing everybody. Everybody can get what they want, regardless of however perverse or despicable their perversions may be.

In the eyes of the self-centered selfish individual, nothing is considered wrong anymore, even much of which is still considered illegal. For example, the reason why so many people are involved in the usage of illegal narcotics is that the pursuits of their own pleasures have convinced them that such usage is not wrong or immoral, it is just illegal. They disagree with the law and are willing to flaunt it and just hope they never are caught. As long as they are getting what they want, they do not consider their behavior wrong and thus should not be subject to punishment. They hide their behavior so as not to be penalized, nonetheless they do not believe there is anything wrong in what they are doing.



When society is made up of individuals who care more for their personal pleasures and interests than for the laws of the land and the security of the nation, this is a society headed for a big fall.

Selfishness, self-centeredness, the pursuit of pleasure, relaxation and comfort, these are the ingredients that destabilize society and create chaos. Life is not about being comfortable. Life is not about pursuing and receiving pleasures. These types of pursuits speak for themselves. Individuals focus upon fulfilling not their personal needs, but rather their personal desires. Such selfish individuals only take interest in others as it suits or pleases themselves.

The old adage says, “there are too many (chiefs) leaders, but not enough (indians) followers.” When everybody wants to be the boss, then this means everyone wants to give the orders and wants everyone else to follow orders. What happens when everyone is giving the orders and no one is listening to follow them? What we have is anarchy, division and disaster, which aptly describes our society today.

The natural form of the human body dictates to us the natural order of human psychology. Just as the head is placed above the heart, so too must our intellect rule over our emotions. It is not wrong to have feelings or be emotional. It is very wrong to allow one’s emotions to cloud one’s judgment and to dictate one’s actions.

Performing proper behavior requires clarity of mind and determination of focus. Behavior must be guided by what we know is right and proper and not by how we feel about an issue or what our emotional state is at the moment. Such type of emotional dominance is what we call immaturity.

One can feel any way one wants, but those feelings must not be the determining factor directing what one does and how one behaves. One must do what one is obligated to do, regardless of how one feels about it. As it is said in military lingo, “yours is not to question why, yours is but to do and shut up.” There is a lot many of us can learn from military style discipline.

I have always encouraged military style discipline programs; indeed, I have always encouraged young people to join the Military. The Military requires its members to be mature. In order to be mature they learn how to follow orders immediately and properly. It is this type of cooperation that enables the Military to work together as a cohesive unit instead of a bunch of squabbling individuals each seeking to better the next.



The Military teaches its members that they are part of a greater whole and that the good of the unit far exceeds the good of the individual. Each individual learns to see the bigger picture and to live for something bigger than oneself. One learns to live under adverse circumstances and to accept them without complaint. One learns to do what one has to do, to deal with what one has to deal with and to make the best of what one has. All this is done without complaining, whining or crying.

One carries one's own burden and actually seeks to assist and support others carrying theirs. The motto is "all for one and one for all." It is no wonder that the western secular world views the military today with such disdain and revulsion. The Military teaches and stands for everything the selfish, self-centered disgusting lazy undisciplined modern individual hates. In the Military, there is discipline, responsibility, selflessness, sacrifice and most important, consequences for improper behavior. If you do not do the right thing, there is hell to pay. The exact opposite is true in modern society.

In the world today, everyone seeks to avoid all consequences of any type behavior. Everyone just wants to do whatever they want and that there should be no consequences and no one calling any type of behavior bad or wrong. However foolish and unrealistic this is, it is still the dominant attitude taught and believed by a majority of people today. Therefore, instead of "united we stand," today we have "divided we stand," and thus "divided we shall fall."

You ask, what can we do about this sad state of affairs. Well, unless the individual is willing to change, to adopt discipline and proper behavior, then there is no hope. Unless we stop making excuses for ourselves and others and blaming everything under the sun for our personal problems, there is no hope. As the American President Harry Truman said, "the buck stops here." In other words, responsibility begins with the individual.

Related to this point of selfishness, pursuit of pleasure and lack of discipline is the growing epidemic of obesity. Obesity is gluttony, pure and simple. It is over eating in excess and is considered a cardinal sin. Obesity is disgusting. It is grossly unhealthy and the most obvious and overt sign of a lack of self-control and discipline. Stop blaming being overweight on societal pressures, hormones, stress and every other kind of stupid reason. One becomes obese for one and only one reason; one eats too much, period.

Want to lose weight? Stop over-feeding yourself. Stop giving in to stupid cravings deluding yourselves into believing you are hungry. You are not hungry; you just have

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cravings, wants and desires, the manifestations of self-centeredness. Your body is not lacking from food. Instead what you lack is discipline.

Learn to say no. If you have a problem with this, consider joining the Military, (yes, I am serious). I assure you the Military will teach you how to say no when no is necessary and to say yes when yes is necessary. If you cannot learn this by yourself, then place yourself under a teacher who can make sure you are taught the lesson. Martial Arts training is very good in this respect. Anything short of this is laziness and weakness and by religious standards sin and evil. By God, Heaven will judge one ever so harshly for disgracing the Image of God in which we are created.

No more excuses. It is time for action. The world is messed up because Y-O-U are. Change yourself and you will change the world, at least your little corner of it.

It we start by changing individuals we can make a difference, and a big one at that, in the lives of many. Now, stop complaining, stop making excuses, just go out and do it. Do not tell me why you cannot. On the contrary, go out, do the right thing and then tell me how you can!

Life is not all about you; it is about service.

One will find true meaning and fulfillment in life, all the while that one is giving to others.

It is in the giving, not the receiving that true fulfillment and happiness is to be found.

Try this and you will see for yourself the truth and wisdom of it.

God is already with you, right now, all that is needed is for you to be with Him.



Be A Builder

It is easy to tear down. It is hard to build up. Maybe this is why so many choose to be critical instead of choosing to be supportive.

It is easy to tell one what they are doing is wrong. It is hard to tell one what is the right thing to do.

Too much talk leads to too little action. Building is accomplished with deeds, not words.

Each proper action is a building block. Many together form a strong and secure structure.

A nation, a society, a culture is made up of individual building blocks, just like any other structure. If the blocks are solid, then so is the structure. If the blocks are broken and weak, the structure will not be able to stand. As it is with blocks of bricks and stone, so it is with blocks of individuals. The same rules of nature apply equally everywhere.

Too much talk leads to confusion. We often confuse ourselves placing our minds and hearts at odds with one another. We are often led to feel one way and to think another. There is no need to be led into this state.

Simplify matters and one's head and heart will naturally align.

Do the right things and the right things will get done.

Pay no attention to the voices that seek to confuse. Confusion is the first step to destruction. Confusion destroys, it does not build.

Pay no attention to too much talk. Be simple. Pay no attention to idealistic and unrealistic ideas, just because they sound good or right. Just stay grounded; do the right thing, the right way at the right time. This is all, we ever need to do.

Yes, life is this simple. It is only the voices that seek to confuse that make life more difficult.

Be part of the team. Serve others so that others will in turn want to serve you. Act decently towards others so they will in turn act in like kind towards you.

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Be simple. Do not ask, “what if,” rather ask, “what is?”

Change only that which needs to be changed. Fix only that which is broken. Build, do not destroy. Support, do not undermine.

Do this, and you will be blessed, by Heaven and also by those around you.



Untitled

Water flows down stream. It does so because it is only natural.

It gets dark at night, and light by day. This is another one of those natural things.

After work, I feel tired. After resting, I feel strong again. Again, it is the natural way.

There are many things that are just naturally meant to be in a certain way. There is wisdom in knowing the natural way of things.

When I go with the flow, things seem to happen so much easier.

When I go against the grain, things happen with much more difficulty.

How then can I know what is the flow and what is against the grain?

The paths in life that we are meant to walk are all marked with open doors.

The paths in life that are not meant for us are marked with closed doors.

Why do we stand at a closed door waiting for it to open, when the open door next to it is waiting for us? This is not wisdom.

It is natural to walk through the open door. It makes no sense to wait for something that is not meant to be. This is wisdom.

Knowing the natural way, one recognizes the open door and walks through it. Life is so much more simple this way.

Heaven ordains the natural way. In our confusion, we seek to make the unnatural to be natural. This is like standing before the closed door waiting for it to open when the open door next to it awaits us. There is no benefit in this.

One who follows the Path of Heaven will go with the flow. By doing so one will know what is right and what is good.

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Simplicity is the key to clarity. Walking straight helps one not to walk crooked, not to lose balance and not to fall.

Walk through the open door. Be who you are. Accept what is. Embrace the moment. In this Way will you see the invisible Hand of God.

Profound are the Ways of Heaven. So concealed, yet so revealed. Peel away the wisdom in nature and one will see God. See God and one will know wisdom. Know wisdom and one will embrace all that is good and best in life.



The River

Do you remember how much you used to want something that you did not get?

Do you remember how disappointed you were when you did not get it?

Are you still disappointed or did life move on?

Things in life always come and go. Sometimes we get what we want and sometimes we do not. Sometimes we are happy and sometimes we are disappointed. Whichever way we end up feeling, in the end, life goes on.

Life goes on, no matter how we feel. Life goes on, no matter if we are happy or disappointed. Life goes on with or without us. Life goes on whether we like it or not.

Life has a life of its own. Life controls us, we do not control life.

What happens in life is ultimately not in our hands. Try as we do to control and change things, sometimes we can and sometimes we cannot. This is what life is all about. There is no use getting upset over it. No matter how upset we get we cannot change much. This is life.

Life flows like a mighty river. It follows its own course. It is not natural to think we can go against the flow. It is only natural that the river takes us to where the waters flow.

Why would we travel along the river other than to get to where the water flows? It does not make much sense to do otherwise. Yet, how many of us lack such common sense?

Why exert energy in such a wasteful way? Why be disappointed over that which we cannot control? Why should we desire that which cannot have?

Life flows like the mighty river. Life goes on whether or not we are happy or disappointed with what we receive or where we end up. In the end, the river of life cares not for how we feel about things.

Why then exert energy on wasteful things, why be disappointed by life's course? Flow with the river, embrace the moment and appreciate the movement.

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You will end up where you are destined to be. You will end up with what you are destined to have.

This is the Will of Heaven. This is the true definition of happiness.



Dreaming

As I slept, I dreamed a dream. What I saw seemed so real. The colors, the sounds, the tastes were most intense.

The dream seemed so real that I did not want to wake up. Yet, in the end it was but a dream, and in the end, I did wake up.

That following day, what I saw and heard, what I tasted and felt was also most intense.

As I laid down that night to sleep, I wondered which set of experiences was more real, my intense dreams or my intense life. I contemplated this until I drifted off to sleep.

When I awoke, I became aware that my dreams of the previous night were nothing special, no intensity of any kind.

I went through my day the same way. Nothing special happened; nothing intense occurred.

So, again I contemplated upon my bed and wondered, which is more real, the boredom of my dreams or the boredom of my life.

I am still contemplating this.

What defines what is real, intensity or the lack thereof? How can I tell the difference between when I am awake and when I dream?

When I am awake everything is so real, yet again as I dream, my dream appears to be just as real. When I awake, I recognize that I was dreaming. Yet when I am dreaming, being awake seems like a dream. Which then is real and which is the dream?

I am still contemplating this.

Being alive, is this a dream? Being in Heaven, is this a dream? Suffering in Hell, is this being alive or being in a dream? What is the difference between them?

I am still contemplating this.

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Where I think I am, I really am, be it in a dream, in Heaven or in Hell. My life can be a dream, or it can be Heaven, or it can be Hell. It all depends upon where I think I am.

I have such power of thought? Yes, I do! My dreams have shown me this!

I must contemplate this some more. Learning the Ways of Heaven is a most profound experience.



Good and Bad

Peace brings life; war brings death. One is good, the other bad. Is this not true?

Wealth brings strength; poverty brings weakness. One is good, the other bad. Is this not true?

Authority brings respect. Servitude brings humility. One is good, the other bad. Is this not true?

I can say of all these that they are true and that they are not true. Of all these things, I can think of times when any one of them can be good and other times when any one of them can be bad. It all depends on the circumstances and life provides us with a limitless number of circumstances.

Think not in absolutes. Think not of "either, or." Rather think of "this and that," instead of "this or that."

Always seek proper balance. Seek out how much of this or how little of that is what is right for the moment and the circumstances. Ask, is this the right balance? Is this the correct recipe for making that which I wish to be?

By nature, all absolutes are extremes. Nothing in the natural world is absolute. Everything in life is but a combination of parts, some good, and some bad.

There is wisdom in knowing the true nature of a thing, to recognize within a thing what inherently is good and what intrinsically is bad.

Everything in life can be used by us to serve us or be used against us to destroy us. We must be able to look at a thing and recognize within it what part is good and what part is bad.

Fire is good; it can keep us warm when it is cold. Fire is bad; it can burn us and cause us great loss. So, which is it? Is fire good or bad? It all depends upon how it is used. As it is with fire, so is it with everything else.

Know well this simple wisdom and you will be able to recognize and distinguish between the good and bad within everything that crosses your path.

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One will then be able to embrace the good, even within the bad. At the same time, one will recognize the bad and cast it off, even when it comes our way attached to something good.

Wisdom discerns. Wisdom distinguishes. Wisdom sees with the eye of simplicity and is not blinded by a lack of common sense or by deceptive argument and rationalizations.

Place these words upon your heart. Carry them in your hand and wear them between your eyes. When wisdom enlightens your eyes, and rules your heart, it will also guide your actions.

This is the recipe for surety and safety. Learn well the Ways of Heaven and you will come to see the Hand of God.



A Walk in the Woods

A Fictitious Story

I was walking through the woods one day when I saw a large poisonous snake coming right for me. I knew that if it bit me I would be in serious trouble for my life. However, I thought, if I am meant to die, then I will. So I did nothing. The snake approached me and bit me for no reason. I became very sick very quickly. I almost died, but I was saved at the last minute.

After this I was exposed to a terrible contagious illness, I very quickly became very sick. I came very close to death. However, I thought, if I am meant to die, then I will. Therefore, I did nothing. I did not see a doctor, nor follow the doctor's unsolicited advice. After not too long, I went unconscious. If not for the intervention of others, I would have died, but I was saved at the last moment.

After this, I took a walk along a very busy highway. There were many cars and trucks going by at great speeds. I wanted to cross the highway and play in the traffic, so I did. The traffic was heavy and at any moment I could be hit by a passing car, one that is not expecting an idle walker to be in the middle of the road. I could have avoided traffic, but, I thought, if I am meant to die, then I will. Therefore, I avoided nothing. I did not even see the truck before it hit me. I was struck so hard that I only woke up in the hospital hours later. I was told I was going to die from my injuries.

I thought to myself, this must be the Will of God that I am to die this way. Therefore, I surrendered myself to death. In that state I dreamed a dream and saw myself standing before the Throne of Heaven. Upon it was the Great Judge. I was there for judgment to see whether I would live or whether I would die.

I told the Great Judge, that I surrender to the Will of Heaven and that if Heaven wished for me to be hit by the truck, then Heaven can also take my soul.

The Great Judge looked upon me with anger and wrath. "Fool of a human," he called me. "Why did you go out to play in traffic? Why were you so careless for your own safety?"

I responded and said, "I do not believe that safety is in my hands. That is the job of Heaven. I prefer instead to enjoy life and do whatever it is I wish. If Heaven objects, then Heaven can mercifully show me a better way."



“Fool of a human” the Great Judge called out. “Heaven did show you a better way, three times now. It was Heaven that saved you from the poisonous snake; it was Heaven that allowed you to be healed from your illness. Yet, in spite of Heaven’s interventions trying to teach you to care for yourself you still go out and play in traffic. You have no regard for Heaven’s most precious gift: your mortal life. You are such a fool that you are totally blind to your own obligation to protect yourself and do what you must to safeguard yourself.”

I looked to the Great Judge and said, “why should I do all this? It is your job to look after me, not mine.” At this, the Great Judge was outraged. He said to me, “you are not worthy of life. The most basic lesson of life is to seek its preservation. If you did not learn this as a human being, then you will have to learn it elsewhere.” With those words I died.

Almost immediately I awoke. I felt like I was in a dream. However, now things seemed strangely different. My sight, my hearing, my body, my shape was no longer mine. I had become something else. It dawned on me that I was no longer human. I was now an animal, I was a snake.

I slithered down a forest path, when I happened to see another human being. I was desirous to make contact to tell this person, that I was just reincarnated into this snake. Is that not great news? Yet, the moment the person saw me, he picked up a heavy stick and hit me on the head, over and over again. The pain was terrible and I lost consciousness.

I again awoke to find myself in strange surroundings. This time, I had no sort of body that I could imagine, yet I was aware of myself and my surroundings. Somehow I intuitively knew that I was a microorganism inside some body, somewhere. I thought how amazing this was to be an entirely different life form in an entirely different environment.

Just then I could sense something penetrating me, as if eating me alive, piece by piece. It dawned on me that I was a germ, a virus of some kind and that I was being killed by some sort of a medicine. I tried to tell the invading entity that I meant it no harm, but this was to no avail. In a moment I again lost consciousness from the pain and awoke again in yet another entirely new form.

After the past two experiences, I began to wonder what was the point in all this. How come I cannot share my feelings and desires with others. How come others out there



view me as a threat and want to kill me? Just because I was a poisonous snake did not make me dangerous. Just because I was a virus did not mean that I wanted to kill.

Yet, I was killed nonetheless, not just once, but twice. Moreover I had fading memories of this happening other numerous times that I no longer remembered. What was the point in all this? What did that Great Judge do to me, what was he trying to get across to me? I did not have much time to ponder the thought, for again I felt a sharp pain and again lost consciousness. Again, I had been killed.

Getting killed all these times has been a very painful experience. I need to stay alive for a bit so that I may ponder my circumstances. Yet, every time I begin to think, I am killed. Maybe I need to take precautions to protect myself. Maybe there is something I need to do, in order to stay alive, so that I can make the time to consider my circumstances.

However, I thought, if I am meant to die, then I will. Therefore, I did nothing. And indeed, I died, over and over again.

Then it dawned on me, I am not getting anywhere thinking this way. All I get is pain and misery and I never come to the conclusions that I need to consider. This time has to be different. I thought that if I am meant to die, then this time I would not! I will do something about it, to avoid it, so as to give myself sometime to consider my plight.

Yet, what about Heaven I thought. What about what is meant to be should be? Deep inside me, I said, forget that! I do not know what is meant to be, but I sure know what needs to be. Next time I am in danger, I am defending myself. Next time, I will not place myself in harm's way. Next time I am going to decide what is to be and take proper actions accordingly.

All of a sudden I felt strange again. Again I lost consciousness. This time I awoke in pain. I felt like many of my bones were broken. Yet, I could speak, I could see and I could hear. I was human again. I was in the hospital. I was told that I was hit by a truck as I was playing in traffic.

I thought to myself what a fool I had been to do such a stupid thing to endanger Heaven's most precious gift, my life. I resolved from then forward not to allow this to happen again.

Weeks later when I was healed I again took a walk in the woods. Again, I came upon a poisonous snake across my path. The snake headed straight for me. I thought to myself,



not this time, I am no longer willing to endanger myself. I picked up a large stick and hit it on the head over and over again until it was dead. I saved my own life that day. I felt proud, as if I had learned and applied a great lesson.

Some time after this, I again became ill. Rather than do nothing I immediately went to the doctor who gave me an injection. He said that I was fortunate that I came to him so quickly because the illness I contracted, if left unchecked, could prove fatal. Over the next few hours I could feel my body getting stronger as the illness was being killed off inside me by the doctor's medicine. I felt relieved that I would recover and be able to live another day. Again I felt a sense of accomplishment, that I had learned and applied a great lesson.

Some time after this, I dreamed a dream one night. I saw myself standing in Heaven before the Throne of the Great Judge. This time, his face was absent of anger. He rather had a pleased demeanor to him. I inquisitively asked. Why did it look like he had a smile?

He said to me, "because my son, you have learned your lesson. Go now and teach others that while Heaven bestows life upon you, we also bestow upon you the responsibility to safeguard it. Anyone not fulfilling their responsibilities will be judged harshly when the Moment of Accounting comes."

This was a most profound revelation. I was never taught that along with a gift also comes a responsibility. I always thought I could do what I wished and that whatever needed to be done would be done by others, so I could be left alone to do what I wish and to have fun. How wrong I was. How deadly wrong I was!

With great privilege comes great responsibility. Focus, care, a love for life and the need to fight to protect it; these are lessons that we all need to learn. All this dawned upon me, as if spoken directly into my mind as I stood before the Great Judge and Throne of Heaven. The Judge smiled and said to me, "now, go and teach this to your fellows."

And that is what I am doing right now.