

Nourishment for the Neshama

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Living as though the revealed world is here to help bring Moshiach

Imagine that the Moshiach arrives. Hashem's presence in the world is revealed. There is no more true free willed choice – when we go to daven or do a mitzvah, the emotions that might otherwise have distracted us, such as fears about money, pain about insults or other bruises to our sense of self, challenges about children, parents, spouses, work and more, will be in a far different perspective, if not totally irrelevant. Why? Once Moshiach comes, the higher world and its purposes will be comprehensible and visible to us. The outcomes of all our actions will be forseen by us and we will be able to choose to do what is ultimately good and right in Gd's eyes and also most pleasant for us (as a result of being good and right in Gd's eyes, for that is where all pleasure lies.)

Moshiach is not yet here. Free choice is an amazing invention that blinds us to the higher world, which is at this very moment affecting our lives to the tiniest detail. With our daily challenges, our emotions become our focus – how can I live with this, how can I effect things so as to bring about a more emotionally happy result? It seems the farther we go into our demands for more and more emotional happiness and comfort, and the farther we go at respecting such demands as legitimate, the farther we go from being able to perceive whether or not the emotions are connected to even a grain of Torah, avoda or chesed, the three pillars upon which the world stands. At what point did we come to respect emotion disconnected from Torah, avoda or chesed? Is this distance attributable to assimilated values, to secularized ethics? And even if we hold onto a grain of Torah avoda or chesed, when we apply it in our lives, do those in our lives apply it or have we swapped it out for secularized standards of practice, thereby rendering our own sense of morality and choice to esoteric unreality – very far from what is practical and viewed as normal? How long as this been going on? Most importantly, how has it affected our primary purpose to be here, which is to love and fear and serve Hashem?

Moshiach will be able to detect who we are essentially. Let's imagine that we are standing in line to greet him. How will he perceive our use of consciousness and free will? What has brought us true happiness and a sense of fulfillment? Did we use it to have relationship with Hashem, a relationship that is primary in our lives? Did we use it yearn for Hashem in our lives, for the opportunity to shine His attributes, to bring His Torah and mitzvahs into our day? Are we even aware that our consciousness is from Hashem for that purpose? We stand before the Moshiach and hope that we did! And now, seeing things differently, we go to daven Shema and Shemona Esrai.

Will our davening be different? How will we set aside our distracting emotions? Will we be able to live life where Hashem is revealed and still be happy? We will have complete emunah, but no real free will. Will that bring happiness?

Emunah and free will are ours now. We can choose relationship with Hashem. We can clean out the recesses of our hearts and direct our emotions toward love and fear of Hashem. By so doing, we attach our ruach to emes.

The world today is shifting based on human emotion based on violence and threats to support concepts and actions that are frightening. Emotions are the violin strings of the Soton. Unless attached to someone whose rooted in Torah, avoda and chesed, strong emotions overwhelm, as they are designed to do, for the Soton is an angel of Hashem sent to help us reach perfection – the only perfection is Hashem! How can we attach our hearts in relationship to Hashem, in love and fear and believe that will be enough?

That is all we have to do. Begin talking to Hashem in hisbodidus, verbally introspect on your highest ideals and ask Hashem to help you bring them into your daily life. Hashem will do the rest. He has total control 100% of the time. And when He sees that bringing Moshiach will be good for us because we will benefit from it, then perhaps He will bring it to fruition, for Hashem has no need to bring Moshiach for Himself. The Moshiach is to bring US to the promised utopia. Count me in!