

## **Nourishment for the Neshama**

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### **Friday, August 05, 2011**

#### **Yearning for the Geula - Comprehending the purpose of Free Will**

Human beings are intended to be able to experience in this world the greatest pleasure that there is, which is a sense of oneness with the Creator's perfection. Angels experience connection with the Creator's perfection, but for angels, it is unearned because the Creator is not hidden from them and therefore not the greatest pleasure. The greatest pleasure possible is to earn the pleasure.

While we are on earth, we are in a system designed for that purpose. In order for us to experience it as an earned pleasure, the Creator had to give us a choice. For this reason, He gave us free will and made a rule – that He would lead us in the path we wish to go. Human desire and unified will against the Creator's will are permitted.

When we use our free will to recognize the reality that we are here temporarily to build our eternity, and that we do so by loving the Creator with all our heart, and all our soul, and all our might no matter what the challenge, we succeed in imprinting upon our eternal soul the experience in this world which will lead to the sense of reward for all eternity.

Should we use our free will to place our own desires and needs and goals as our primary concern, then even though we take the Creator's concerns into account and obey at some level, we have made a miscalculation in the use of our free will, believing that something we can enjoy and take for ourselves here can provide us with a pleasure greater than what the Creator can give us both here and for all eternity. We need to sharpen our pencils!

The Creator is waiting for us to comprehend the spiritual ecosystem that we are in. He is very patient but He cannot send us emails or place an ad in the newspaper to get our attention and bring us into belief and trust and devotion. Instead, He uses the negative indeterminate forces that we create when we speak or think destructively or choose to put ourselves at the center instead of the Creator. The Creator thus sustains the world in the manner of our own choosing, which showers upon our own heads suffering, disease, financial troubles, natural disasters and more.

It is urgent to keep in mind that the Creator loves us so much! He is patient and tolerant, forbearing and overlooking, forgiving and emotionally attached to us. What He is hoping is that we will develop a sense of His continual existence in our lives and in the world and that we will use the intelligence that He gave us and the creation of the free will which He gave us to figure out why we are here!

The generation that lived and tried to build the Tower of Babel wished to wrench from the heavens this world and use it for the apparent good that seems obvious – life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness – in a just and united society. They wanted the world but without the part about having to put the Creator in the center. The Creator dispersed them all throughout the world with different languages because the power of people coming together to accomplish something is a spiritual occurrence which the Creator allows, the success of which depends on whether it is consistent with the ultimate purpose for which the Creator made this world (remember, that the ultimate purpose for which the Creator made this world is to give us the ultimate pleasure, the experience of being part of the Creator's perfection and nothing less.)

Why would people choose something less? It is because people do not naturally seek to put the Creator in the center and therefore do not naturally grasp the pleasure that is attainable in this world and the next. It is only by doing and then understanding that the Jewish people came to become a nation to shine light – the light of being a people to make the Creator's name known in this world. How? By rising above what is natural and choosing to do the ethical thing or loving thing that the Torah tells us is

the Creator's will, we use our bodies to serve our minds to serve our soul, which is constantly being animated by the Creator. And the more we do, the more of a sense of the Creator's presence we can have in our lives and our homes and our communities and in the world.

It is not natural. It requires that we work on developing emunah, trust in the Creator, to the point where we have complete certainty that He is real, that He is active in every moment, in every place, in every thought, word, and deed. It requires that we realize that we are constantly creating or destroying, based on what we say, think and do. Every person has a huge amount of energy and we must comprehend the power that the Creator has given us to form indeterminate forces with our thoughts, words and deeds.

Every time we succumb to a negative thought or speak a negative word or take a harmful or hurtful action, we are forgetting the basic floor plan of the world we are in. We miss the chance to use the time here to engrave upon our soul using our free will a passion to be like the Creator. The reward will be to experience being part of the Creator and if we did nothing here to seek to be like the Creator, it simply will not feel like a reward, but worse, it will be shamefully embarrassing and we will be in great pain for all eternity.

What is the solution? To come to our senses, to wake up to the reality of the spiritual ecosystem that we were brought into for the express purpose of the Creator. Let's use our intelligence, the intelligence that the Creator gave us, to let Him know we comprehend and that we love Him and that we accept to be here on His terms to fulfill His purpose in creating the world and placing us here.

After 120 years here on earth, we will be very glad we did! And who knows? If we wake up and comprehend and make good choices with our free will, perhaps we will be zocheh to see the world brought to its ultimate purpose with the ushering in of the Moshaich Tzidkeinu, may it be speedily, and the beautiful utopia that we long for, a time when we will know the will of the Creator with clarity as great as the prophets and live in peace and harmony with true simchas Hashem.

May we yearn and yearn for the arrival of the time when we will know the Creator with greatest clarity any person can have while alive!