

Shlach Rabbi Yosef Serebryanski

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Natural Choices

People believe that by being vigilant about their own behavior and doing all in their power to insure that others do the same, they are entitled to expect that miracles will occur. They believe that the specific behavior patterns and policing of others to practice likewise will bring a messiah to correct all the ills of the world. This belief has not only become rote and repetitive, but it has also become unproductive and destructive.

We know that we must be sensitive and care for our fellow man/woman. Yet it seems that people forget that priority and become harshly judgmental the moment they see a fellow human being acting in a fashion that is not synonymous with their own. That is not to say that it is proper to give approval to actions that are physically harmful to people. However, we must be just as careful not to damage people in ways that are not overtly violent, but hurtful just the same.

Extreme vigilance has led us down a path that will not help us to hasten any merciful actions on our behalf. As a matter of fact, when we sit around “waiting” for miracles, blaming the behavior of others as to why the Messiah has not arrived, we increase the likelihood that we will be waiting much longer than we would prefer.

There are various reasons that we have waited so long, aside from those that are most obvious. We are supposed to be partners in promoting holiness and pureness in this world. As such, we must do our part to truly WORK on issues here that require correction. We must take serious note of those things that we can fix. When we do take steps to provide solutions that are within our grasp, we merit a “partner” in our works. When we unite globally as partners, we merit attracting the mercy we so crave from the Creator.

We should dedicate ourselves to alleviating suffering without inserting ourselves into personal choices. Doing so may be more hurtful, even when it is done with the intention to help. Where individuals can make the difference, they should. Whether it is caring for the ill, doing errands for the incapacitated or providing sustenance to those who have less than you, it is a human obligation to contribute. When someone is struggling with depression or decisions, try to have patience that is supportive of individual growth, even if that person’s positive development does not mirror what you would pursue for yourself. It is precisely the combination of what issues forth from our differences that may formulate the solutions to many of our ills.

In short, waiting around for miracles is not enough. Being participants in selfless positive actions may be the key to unlocking merciful relief when it is needed the most.

Look all around you. Miracles are constantly occurring. However, this does not mean we should wait for miracles. Instead, we need to do what we are able to do and be grateful for whatever good things occur, be they the results of our actions, or not.

One of the greatest miracles is when people change their outlooks and their actions for the better. One of the reasons we were given choices was so that we could initiate changes within ourselves in order to best impact upon the people, places and things in our world.

(Numbers 13:2) **“Send for you men, and they will check out the land of Canaan which I am giving to the children of Israel, one man, one man, to his father’s tribe you shall send, all princes among them.”** The double expression of **“one man”** can also be read as **“one man (that type of man is) a man who unites the**

whole tribe or **a man who is one** within.” The Hebrew words for **“all princes of them”** can also be read as **“all who carry the loftiness in them.”**

Rabbi Moshe Chaietz writes that the verse can be explained as follows: Each person thinks of himself as being the one person worthy of being sent. Despite that, you must choose one person from each tribe. In this sense the words **“among them”** refers to what they think about themselves. Since they all recognize the power of God that courses within them, they might all think that fact distinguishes them for this job. Thus, each one of them thinks, ‘I am the right guy to go check out the land.’

Moses did not have any personal need to check out the land. One reason that he was given a suggestion to send people first was to teach the proper and natural order of progression to enter a territory or land. It is wonderful when answers and solutions are miraculously produced. However, the main thrust to approaching things is to connect to the Creator through a natural order.

We find the same idea in the book of Joshua regarding conquering the land of Canaan. The first stop was Jericho. The city was miraculously destroyed. The next conflict that arose was that of the war with the inhabitants of the city of Ai. The fact that one person had stolen from the spoils of Jericho caused the initial approach to Ai to result in the deaths of many Jews.

That one person who did not listen to the order not to take spoil from Jericho caused the spirit of God not to be with them in Ai. Once that situation was remedied, the status of the Jews in the war changed for the better. However, pursuant to that incident they were forced to fight wars in a natural way and could not rely on miracles (even though many miracles did occur.)

We are all individuals and yet we are all the same. Each person resonates his/her own being. We are here to be conduits of the Creator force that course through us. The food we eat, the words we use, the actions we take are all part of that process. In any given moment a miracle can occur. Then in the next moment the choice of proper course action is totally up to us and the cycle of life continues.

In our lives we seem to be constantly passing through revolving doors that transport us from one occurrence to the next. If we either elect to stay stuck, or

remain statutory for any reason, we do not take proper advantage of new opportunities that present us with important openings as they occur. It is important to note that if we miss one opening it does not necessarily prevent our ability to get back on track when the next opening comes along. We can continue the journey at the next opportunity.

An important part of the journey is through our children. We expect and want children to fit into a system. Yet that does not “work” for many children. We respond to issues with a superficial knowledge of life and are generally not the experts we purport ourselves to be. The act of expertise from people who are not truly experts at anything usually create further problems. Systems are limited. Children are not. When we try to fit a child into a system, the adults are so out of synch with their inner self that they block not only themselves, but the child’s intuition and perception as well.

When we see rebellion, do not rush to judge. Let us NOT pay more attention to the opinions of outsiders than we do to the needs and desires of our children. Instead, let us approach each situation with understanding, love and the type of respect we wish to cultivate in our children’s responses to us.

If we have been mistaken in some issues we teach our children to admit their failings when we acknowledge our own. When we discover that those who we held in high self-esteem have tampered with the safety of those placed in our trust, let us be quick to take whatever steps are necessary to insure protection and healing.

When people unite in these actions and cease to defend others based upon popularity, they take a big step towards representing honesty and ethics in the population at large. These moves will heavily impact on our young who will know that they can always count on us for their well-being. They will no longer be afraid of repercussions for telling the truth. They will know beyond a doubt that we understand that they are keys to our salvation and our future.

We are unable to predict where, when or how the Creator will dispatch salvation. However, we are able to be responsible for our actions as well as taking the steps necessary to insure that we are doing our utmost to extend our safest possible existence until that day arrives.

Rabbi Chaim Sofer (1822-1886) was once travelling in a coach with his students. Another traveler in that same coach was a Jewish man who no relationship to the religion. As he sat there eating ham, which is forbidden to eat, Rabbi Chaim's students rebuked him.

Rabbi Chaim stopped his students and said, "Do you know where this man is from? Do you know his history? How can you rebuke a person without knowing what brought him to this situation?"

The man told them that he was from the city of Orod. In that city there was a wicked Rabbi who sinned and caused others to sin, including feeding Jews non-kosher meat.

To this Rabbi Chaim responded, "Now the words of King David are clear to me. (Psalms 37:10) **"Just a little (longer) and there will be no wicked one; you will contemplate his place and he will not be."** When you contemplate about the place the man came from, you will come to understand that he is not wicked. He himself is an upright man but the place (and its teachings) that he lived in caused him to sin."

Judgment is often destructive and misguided. Yet judgment that sees the balance in each situation helps us in our journey.

Love brings life, Fear brings death

Moses was told that before bringing the nation into the land (Numbers 13:2) **"Send for yourself men."** In Hebrew it is **"shlasch lecho anoshim,"** the acronym is eshel which refers to eating drinking and sleeping. The verse continues "and they will move around, in Hebrew **"veyosuru,"** the land." (The Noam Elimelech associates the Hebrew word "veyosuru" with "tor" a turtledove, being a **faithful partner in creation.**)

The verse states **"send men"** which is plural referring to at least two men. The verse then repeats **"you shall send"** referring to one man from each tribe. An explanation for stating the word **"send"** twice is that from the perspective of the Creator, the two, Yehoshua (Joshua) and Colev (Caleb) were sufficient, but Moses was permitted to send whomever he wished. Moses wished to send one from each tribe so that they all feel equally important and he was given permission to do so.

The messengers whom Moses chose to spy out the land were religiously focused on the Creator in all aspects of their life, whether they were eating, drinking or sleeping. Yet when they came back from the land, ten of them said words causing the Israelites to be afraid to enter the land. This is because their behavior was motivated by fear of heaven and so they expressed themselves through physical fear bringing out fear in others. It distanced them from the desires of the Creator and resulted in death.

Joshua and Caleb led lives based in love of the Creator. Love connects and bonds. Going into the land they wanted to do what the Creator wanted and thus came back with love and connection to the land and Creator. Nevertheless people were not willing to listen to the message of these two loving messengers because of their own fears.

People had love but it was love of the life style they had. All their physical needs were taken care of and they could focus on their spiritual without disturbance. Going into the land they would have to deal with the physical and they were afraid it would separate them from their spiritual connection. Thus instead of listening to what the Creator wants they only heard their own voices.

Many in the religious community of today are also very comfortable where they are in the spiritual life. They live a life where there is love for what they have and fear for what they don't have and don't know. They pray for the messiah and future but are unwilling to let go of the matters in life that are based in fear. Communities support leaders who say the right words. They support words that allow them to live life without being disturbed by knowing the truth.

In the daily prayers we say a prayer with focus in order to bond with the Creator in oneness, it is called the shma. The Talmud (Shabbos 119a) states that Jerusalem was destroyed because they did not bond, say the shma, with the oneness in the morning and evening. Since there was no bonding, the faults of the people became more pronounced and they could not remain in the Holy land.

The concept of dwelling in the land of Israel, the Holy land is to be connected with the Creator without any intermediary. Thus a person who has this bond anywhere in the world is in essence living in the Holy land. The word for the physical earth is

adamah. Eretz which translated as land also refers to spiritual worlds. The term “Eretz hoelyona” refers to spiritual worlds.

Anyone living in the physical land Israel but worships other powers or is connected through other powers is not living in the Holy land. The name Israel in Hebrew is Yisroel. It can be read as “yoshor el” meaning “direct (connection to the) power,” meaning that there are no intermediaries between us and Creator. The word oretz also means desire to do the will of the Creator. Thus the term eretz yisroel (land of Israel) also means the desire to do the Creators will in having a direct connection with the Creator.

Regarding the future we are told that the whole world will become the land of Israel and what is now Israel will be Jerusalem. The simple meaning is that the whole world will be filled with the knowledge of our Creator. Thus all existence will see how it is directly connected with the Creator.

We need to listen carefully to this. It will allow us to love all people and creations equally, something which the religious world is afraid of. It means that the borders and boundaries of religion that have been an essential part of our way of life but have become corrupted will no longer exist. It also means that all the other corrupt structures will no longer exist.

In the prayers we say “because of our sins we were exiled from our land.” The word used for “sin” is “chatoeinu” which also means “our imbalances.” The Pri Megodim writes that “we have created imbalance in our spiritual source and therefore there is no purpose for the soul to be in the physical world. We have been separated from the Holy land in the physical realm due to our spiritual disconnection.”

The purpose for sending only Joshua and Caleb to move through the land is because then the love they had would have permeated the land. The Israelites coming in after would have followed their energy of love and bonding and been protected by it.

The people were not ready to receive such a pure love. They were not prepared. Maybe Moses knew that and thought that by sending in the others who did relate to fear it would allow people to enter the land. When they came back corrupted by

their fear, Moses may have understood why he was not able to achieve bringing the people into the land.

We need to live with the love and bonding that sees the Creator in everything. Then we will no longer linger in a corrupted world as the energy around our personal being will be the Holy land. When many individuals do this, the world will transform allowing others to create the Holy land in their space as well.

Living Longer

Many people try to figure out how to live longer. Yet everyone will die when the allotted time for their departure arrives. Fear of death has caused many to try to go against the will of the Creator and to pretend that they are in control of their end of life. Rather than to waste time worrying about this, one should simply accept eventual death as a fact of life.

Of course one has a responsibility to take care of the life with which he/she has been gifted. However, obsessive fear blocks a person from fully living in the present and appreciating the gift of life.

Although we die and it cannot be prevented, it may be delayed. Living longer does not necessarily allow a person to move with the shifts and changes that occur daily. As you live longer you eventually become a representation of the past as the world moves past you.

Moshe is told (Numbers 13:2) **“send for yourself men and they will spy out the land of Canaan that I am giving to the children of Israel, one man, one man to the tribe of his father’s send, all princes among them.”** (13:3) **“And Moshe sent them from the wilderness of Poron according to the mouth (word) of Hashem.”**

Why does the verse say that he did it according to what he was told by Hashem rather than say he did it according to his understanding - “yourself”? It may be to teach us that although we are given choices our actions must be with a pure heart without hesitation.

Ten of the twelve spies completed their mission with hesitation, convincing the people not to enter the land at that moment in time. The spies wanted to do what

Moshe told them. Yet they hesitated as they looked to the future and wished to attempt to change it by their actions in the present. That hesitation cost them their lives but gave Moshe another forty years to live. (Had the Israelites gone into the land sooner, Moses would have died sooner as he was denied entry to the land.)

What did they see and know? A few verses before (Numbers 12:26) we read that Eldod and Moidod were prophesizing in the camp. What did they prophesize? One issue that they prophesized was that (Talmud Sanhedrin 17b) Moshe would die and that it would be Yehoshua who would bring the people into the land. Thus they knew that Moshe would die before they would enter the land.

The other matter was (Zohar 158a) they knew they would not be princes in the land of Israel and by delaying their entry they would maintain their current standing for a longer period of time. The commentaries on Zohar explain how the land of Israel has a different energy than the wilderness and therefore they could not be leaders there.

In Exodus 2:10 he is called Moshe because **“key min hamayim meshisihoo”** – **“he was drawn from the water.”** The verse could say ‘mimayim’ **“from water”** but uses two extra letters the noon and hey. When the letters noon and hey are removed the word reads ‘mimayim’ an acronym for Moshe mes yehoshua machnis – Moshe dies, Yehoshua enters them (brings them in.)

This is a way that we find a hint in Torah as to what they were prophesizing. The verse states they were prophesizing in the camp, The Hebrew word for camp is ‘machaneh.’ When splitting the word it reads mach noon hey meaning erase the letters of noon and hey.

The spies also knew what would happen because they were well versed in the understanding astrological signs. Abraham was a renowned star gazer and interpreter. In those days there was no separation between astrology and astronomy. We find in many instances in history where the soldiers sent into battle or people sent on a mission were chosen based on the stars’ reflecting that they would not die during that day or time period.

They knew that Moshe would die before the people entered the land. Loving him, they wanted his life to be longer (and not to have him die so soon.) Therefore they

conspired how to do what he asked them to do in a way that would not result in his dying. The only way to accomplish that was to prolong the time spent in the wilderness.

We find as well this idea in the Talmud (Berochos 64a) that a person can delay the time of death if it is tied to an action they must do before death. Delaying the action delays the time of death. See details in the article posted June 17, 2011.

Rav Yeve explains the words (Numbers 13:2) “**send for yourself**” as meaning to send such men that would allow you to live for another forty years. Only the princes had a personal reason not to go straight into the land, no-one else would have hesitated.

Did Moshe know that he would die before they went into the land? I do not know but the Creator did know. What I do know is that whether or not Moses knew, either way he did what was asked of him by the Creator without hesitation.

(Numbers 13:20) The time they were sent was when the first ripe grapes were picked. There is a discussion in commentaries as to why this is mentioned. The Hebrew word for grapes is anovim. It is spelled with the letter yood but in Deuteronomy chapter 32 it is without the letter yood. In Nitzutzei Shimon and Bnei Yissoschor (Tamuz Ov 2:11) this is discussed.

One point is that it does not need a letter yood since the dot – chirik under the letter bais serves as a yood. The other matter is the difference between the mesivta derokiah – the heavenly academy and the earth academy. In the heavens where there is no negative they do not need the letter yood in the word but in the physical realm the letter yood is needed for protection.

The spies left on the 29th of Sivan. The angel of death has power in the months of Tammuz and Av at least till after the Ninth of Av and the month of Teves. The verse saying bikurei anovim can be understood as the letters that precede each one of the letters of the word anovim.

Those letters are samol (samech, mem, alef, lamed) which is the angel of death. Thus although the spies left at a protected time they executed their mission during a time when death was more powerful. This may have caused them to think or feel (that) what they did was creating hesitation and thus eventual death.

Our focus needs to be on what the Creator wants --- and not to allow our personal desires to compromise that goal. Most people do not know what the Creator wants and give lip service or believe in energies and matter that takes them away from the focus creating the energy of imbalance. Let us work on finding the truth of this issue so that we all accomplish our true goals here and thus hasten our ultimate Redemption.

Appreciation and humbleness

(Numbers ch. 13-15)

How is it that we can have a relationship with a person, who does not appreciate us even though we do so many things for that person?

Apparently, it is ancient history, a human trait that has been passed down since the beginning of time.

God has taken the Jews out of Egypt in order to bring them to Israel. In the wilderness they complain. God then speaks to Moses and tells him that it is okay to send spies into the land before they enter therein. God has the power to take them into the land instantly. Yet God creates a hesitation knowing that the people are not ready (nor do they understand how) to enter the land or to truly appreciate what is occurring.

Moses sees how the people have responded to God. He is bothered by the mentality of a people who do not appreciate the constant miracles that are done for them. Thus he decides that they should send spies into the land. Perhaps after that they might understand some of the miracles that are being done for them.

Moses sends the heads of the tribes to spy in the land of Canaan. Moses prays for Hoshea and changes his name to Yehoshua. This is explained as Moses praying for Yehoshua to be protected against the intentions of the other spies.

Hoshea was the head of the tribe of Efrayim. Efrayim a son of Yosef who was a ruler in Egypt was blessed with the right hand of Jacob. This meant that Hoshea was a major leader of the Jewish people in Egypt. When

Moses came along Hoshea instantly humbled himself to Moses. It was this action that caused many people to have faith in, and follow, Moses. Just as Hoshea was totally open to and supported Moses (through having humbled himself) Moses now is similarly open to and prays for Hoshea. Moses does so with all of the power and feeling of his heart.

God gave Moses a choice. Moses gave the leaders a choice. What happened next is that the leaders acted irresponsibly, telling the people negative things about the land. They say that it is a land that eats/destroys its inhabitants. They cause the people to become so terrified that they do not want to enter the land.

The result is that the people that do not want to enter the land die in the wilderness. All of the people stay in the wilderness for forty years until that generation dies out. Afterwards, God tells Moses that the Jews will enter the land by suggesting some ways for them to show respect when they are in the land.

In Egypt there was a group that attempted to leave before the time of redemption but they were wiped out. Now a group tries to enter the land but they are killed as well. The moment to enter Israel has passed and they have to wait many years until the next opportunity moment comes.

Many experiences of life cause people to respond with fear. It is the fears that guide and control people. Often times the leaders structure laws that are based upon or counting on the people's fears, causing separation. It is time to change the direction and focus on connections based upon love and humility. Those who live with simplicity can survive the extreme situations. Those who are totally humble sometimes need the prayer of Moses/the leader to help them survive.

For thousands of years the people have been pursuing a structure that has become very stringent or rigid with the passage of time. They have done, and continue to do this in the name of a religion that is seeking redemption. It is the Creator who determines the exact time, place and direction for the arrival of a Moshiach or the change from this life to another style of existence.

Perhaps it is time we realize that if we hope to be part of a movement that generates this event, we will have to re-evaluate what it is that we have been doing. We have to think that until now all of our beliefs and actions have not brought Moshiach or an ultimate redemption. No matter how much we have tried to do to make ourselves more deserving, we have not achieved the goal.

We have become so involved with semantics, nuances and fine pinpoints of practice so much that we have ignored the thing that we most need in order to propel us to that proper place. Each of us needs to establish a personal relationship with the Creator. In addition to making a connection, each person needs to determine his/her purpose here and to attempt to fulfill whatever is required of him/her during this lifetime.

If we do not, if we continue on the futile path we are traveling, we will stay stuck where we are. Just as the children of Israel remained stuck in the wilderness until they all died out.

Will people get hurt on the way? Yes, but more will continue getting hurt if we don't begin a journey in a new direction. Many individuals want a change that is based with trust but it is attached to a narrow vision. We need to be constantly aware of the fact that each moment is a new creation. Each moment has new potential. Living in each moment connects us with the Creator.

While we live in the physical we also need to have a focus on the spiritual. The Torah states that a person was found gathering wood on the Sabbath. It does not say that he was melaket – gathering wood rather it says “mekoshesh.”

Etz (wood) reflects the tree of knowledge and life. Here it is written meko-shesh. Shesh is six reflecting six aspects or directions in creation. Meko or mekav is that he was trying to bring comprehension into Shesh. He was attempting was to show a connection with the Creator beyond what the people could exist with. Thus he was removed from being with the people.

Similarly, the word shesh is used in another instance. When Moses did not come down immediately from Mount Sinai it says boshesh meaning he was delayed, bo – on it, shesh –six hours and the people complained. This was another time people did not connect with the God beyond their perception.

As a society we need to establish and re-affirm the base of life. Only then can we build a new land and world together. We have to discard the old fears and build based on new love.

When they were taken out of Egypt it was with severity and kindness. These two opposites are what a person has to be connected to and balance all the time. Living constantly with two opposites is something the people could not do. Nor could they deal with the powerful spiritual energy that they were going to encounter in Israel. They did not have a pure simple trust. They had overwhelming blind acceptance.

Part of our life seems to be about, sending and receiving, distance and connection, love, fear and the effects, humility – humbleness – simplicity, following or disobeying orders and getting hurt. Knowing that we have to make decisions even though it brings out the disconnections and more pain. We do what we know but where does it all leave us?

We focus on the Creator in creation and as this becomes more constant we then become more protected as we energetically create a special space to live in.

In summation:

What has changed in our time? We are still complaining!

We now have political control of the land of Israel. Yet we still do not know how to retain possession of our gift. Many people have spiritual gifts but do not use them out of fear or have simply blocked them because it does not fit into society.

At this point after thousands of years of history we are still clamoring for leaders to direct us and relieve us of our collective and individual responsibilities. Our leaders too have not changed. Many of them still

choose to “guide” us in ways that do not enhance our spiritual growth. They are often too focused on their perspective of material and physical concerns. They do not teach us how to address our issues by balancing them with nature, spirituality and the Creator.

In order to elevate ourselves and improve our chance for redemption each individual has to attempt to take personal responsibility for the business of his/her own soul. It is important that we allow our leadership to know that we will authorize them to fulfill their true mission here.

Once we understand and take responsibility for our own connection with the Creator, we will begin the most important segment of our journey. By establishing our personal connection, each of us will humble ourselves to the Creator, giving ourselves up to His will. It is at that point that we will be open, without need for further hesitation, to receive our immediate and speedy redemption!

In Egypt the Jews were in pain and slavery. The leaders needed to be very spiritual to lift them up each day so that they could continue. In the land of Israel, they needed leaders that would help them settle the land. In the wilderness most of the leaders that they had in Egypt had to die before they entered the land of Israel since their being was of a different nature.

God knew that the spies would not listen, but gave Moses the choice. Moses knew that they would not listen but gave them a choice. The hesitation created then still exists today. When the Moshiach will be here there will be no hesitation as to what to do in each moment.

The Jews did not have to do most of the laws until the land was settled. The full land of Israel was never settled and today we still have not finished doing all the commands. The purpose of the commands was to transform the energy of the land and it is still waiting.

There are various types of messengers; most have their own agenda or ideas which get in the way. Yet, people continue to listen to those people not realizing that they are remaining blind.

We need to wake up and listen to the many messengers of light, life and love. We need to unblock our heart and become one with the flow of life in creation. Then we can elect leaders who represent our actions, openness and expansiveness.

Self Determination

To justify why we have to live through (sometimes difficult or painful) occurrences in our lives, we are told that each experience brings out something of importance for the person who lives through it. Some people are unable to deal with the realities that have faced them unless they can justify the reasons that they have happened.

However, rationalizations for past occurrences make no difference, as they cannot fix the consequences of what happened. Additionally, they have no validity if you live in the present. For example, people often discuss whether or not we have free will and, if so, how much free will we actually have. Practically it makes no difference in the action that you take as it is the same either way. The whole discussion becomes superfluous when you live totally in the present reality. Debate or discussion on the subject simply shows that we are not fully connected in the present.

Moses was told, (Numbers 13:2) “Send for yourself men and they will spy out the land of Canaan that I am giving to the children of Israel, one man, one man, for the tribe of his father’s you shall send, all leaders from them.”

We can better understand how this is relevant to us today by analyzing the Hebrew words.

The word “Veyoturu or Veyosuru” (and they will spy out) has the letters TR as its root. It is translated here as “spying.” In Hebrew it also means: follow, turtle dove, explore, seek, inquire, leave over, awaken, walk to and fro, line, row, order, guidance, instruction, gain.

The world was created with wisdom. In the world that we live, people are advised to seek out and follow that wisdom. Doing so will cause an awakening and gain. In this verse, the purpose of individuals going through the land was to awaken the energy therein. When acting with intention it

awakens or creates an energy. That being done, when the Israelites entered the land it would be ready for them.

A more congruent way of understanding the verse would be: '(You, Moses) Send, for yourself (your own purpose), fitting people, so that they shall guide the desire to make the people feel humble, (for that) which I am giving to the children of Israel, as one person, each individually, who is humbled by the responsibility of his father's origin.

The life force comes into this world in an unsettled manner. It does not simply arrive here and remain here. It must be renewed in every moment. As humans, one way we can relate to this fact is by understanding how the life force is returned to us anew to restore our existence to us each time we awaken from our sleep.

Thus, in the understanding of the verse, the word Veyo(s)turu means: going in and out, or back and forth. We receive the light through a filter because no human is capable of handling this infinite energy in its pure form. Therefore, we must be protected even in the act of receiving this gift. We are given the gift at the level in which we are able to accept it. Yet it is connected with its source and therefore is endless or infinite.

So, living in the present is the only way to proceed. Rising to the constant challenges that are sent to us means dealing with the reality of every second, seeing the gift in each minute, and using the resources we are given to the best of our ability. Within our connection to the Creator, everything becomes possible, instantly.

When one goes through an experience in order to obtain something, they feel they have earned the right to it. When one is simply given something as a gift, it would not encompass the same depth of feeling and appreciation.

Experience brings out a deep connection to Creator and creation from within our own being. Sometimes we are aware of what is happening and sometimes we are not. We don't always have to know but we always have to flow.

Society and individuals have gone through centuries of gifts and experiences. Now there is an awakening to a time when both can exist together without the need for additional difficult experiences or suffering. The forces in creation that want their own identity are fighting a losing battle for survival. Their fight is growing as their power is waning, while we sit quietly and watch the shifts and changes. Increasing our strength and determination to live with light in the present diminishes their existence.

Today there are no real world leaders. Each person must take their own initiative and move ahead in their individual growth and journey. We may assist others by being an example of the way life will be. Our leadership lies in giving others confidence in themselves and assuring them that as they open up and move forward, their newly developed strengths and connection will multiply and help them in their journey.

No longer can there be leaders who will be just what others expect them to be. And no longer can there be leaders who accept the task of doing the job of others, while programming their behaviors. Each person is responsible for his or her own behavior, progress, and fulfillment of individual requirement in this existence. A new reality dawns and we must all rise to the challenge.

With love I give my blessings to you for each moment that you are part of this existence.

Life with light and dark

When people open spiritual light in the world, they do not see the darkness that is caused in order to balance it. This means that when the darkness is growing it causes light to grow somewhere to counter it.

As darkness in this world comes to the fore, light also emerges. The revelation causes an opening in many people – leading to their discomfort at being faced with a starker version of reality than the one they have previously acknowledged. Yet people would likely not be opened to welcoming the light (redemption) unless they experienced discomfort.

The optimum way to reveal the light of the future is in a peaceful manner, devoid of war, hate, etc. However, since all the negative energy causes an increase of light it is also true this light does not trigger opposing darkness to become revealed.

When we understand that the light that will issue forth is a counter to the darkness, the dark becomes less daunting. When we search to find the expression of the Creator in everything, the essence of existence will always be in front of us, shielding us from the blocking clouds, the remaining clouds become those of protection.

It is also a time when we may feel clouded. There are matters that we see clearly as well as those that cloud our vision. Each condition has its benefits. Having joy and sunshine illuminate our lives can give us daily heartening and healing balance within the world. How we handle that balance is a responsibility. While some people seem to have lives that are constantly blessed with happy events, a majority of people seem to have lives that are filled with clouds and sadness. While some see the clouds as a temporary protection or blockage that will shortly disappear, others seem to wade through a constant thickness that rarely sees the penetration of light.

Sharing our joyous gifts with other allows the sun to seep into their lives and grow exponentially. This sharing with love helps remove their clouds or lessen their darkness even when they experience difficult challenges and troubled times. While we must move forward in our personal tasks, we must not fail whenever possible to raise our fellow travelers along the way. The planetary and earth shifts can make a person feel cloudy. In Hebrew Anan is cloud (beyond which a person cannot see) and Ayin is eye (reflective of being able to see). The difference in letters is only a small stroke under the letter yud that makes it into a noon and forms a blockage or take away the small stroke at the bottom and it becomes and ayin. עין ענן

(Numbers 13) When the Jewish people were brought to the land of Canaan (Kenaan) their relationship to it was equivalent to the strangeness we feel when we visit a place for the first time. They found it necessary to first go about familiarizing themselves and thus develop a relationship to the gift they were given. They allowed their fear of the change to block their vision. Had they simply accepted and seen everything as an expression of the Creator, they would have understood that the essence of existence is

everywhere. They would have then avoided the discomfort and immediately been in balance with their new surroundings.

A child who is raised in an environment where all his/her needs are met does not understand what precipitates those things that he/she has. Only when a child is taught about the origins and work necessary to make them can a deeper relationship and appreciation be generated.

Sometime people's relationships to light and darkness are relative to their environment. A person who has never truly experienced the light of awakening may well believe that his/her existence is the epitome of light expression.

What some people see as light is darkness to others. Others who always live in a vibration of light do not comprehend the darkness that exists. It is hard for them to understand how others can continue to accept being clouded or blocked from seeing the truth. There are not often easy solutions that will unite these two diverse points of view. A lot of energy must be spent in education, growth and development of each person. Individuals require much to mature and balance as a result of education and experience.

We need to combine intellect, emotions and compassion in a balanced mode that will allow us to promote simplicity and purity in the world. The absence of any one of these components can result in our resorting to extreme behavior patterns that will cause opposite extremes to occur.

If we strive to make wise choices in these issues we will engender tolerance, respect and love in the world. If we fail, we will breed contempt, hatred and warfare along with its ensuing sadness and tears. It is our choice. While knowledge and compassion give depth, it is the connection beyond the need for expression where we can find our essence and that of all existence.

It is then that the movement of the origin of life which is indefinable can flow through us to transform the world that we live in.

Our Perspective

Each individual is the center of his/her world and universe. It is this focal point that filters each person's view of things. This point is the center of a person's reality. As the center of that person's perception and reality, he/she becomes attached to priorities in accordance with its dictates. The "me" in the individual dictates his/her beliefs and thus self-worship.

There is no questioning that this lens may not generate proper assessment of one's surroundings. Seeing oneself as the "center" does not leave room for other consideration.

Real questions that one should ask are: "What is the base of this center?" "What is the reality of that base?"

Additionally, much of human thought till now is how we see everything including our source of life. It is time to ask how we are seen by the source of life. It is time to be aware of the source of life and allow it to manifest in our perception of everything guiding our reality to be in flow with why we are here.

Society has created theories and fiction to enable people to cope with and survive the physical reality of this world. We generally shape our perspectives in accordance with these theories and stories. As human generated "fixes" dictate people's beliefs, it is no wonder that the world is in its current state of affairs.

The reality of the base we have converts theory and fiction into fact. For some, reality is a matter of physical relationship to our surroundings. For others, it is the spiritual relationship that presides over all.

The bottom line is that when we attempt to see and/or comprehend our origins, our purpose or guide to behavior in life, all depends on the lens that we use to view the reality of our lives.

It is important for a person to fully understand their base and its shortcomings. That opens each one of us to listening and learning from each person we occasion to meet. It puts us in a better position to glean important lessons of the gifts that people try to impart to us along our path.

When we have a broad view and are able to recognize our limitations, we are better able to recognize them in others. This prevents us from diving head first into things

that are not suited for us. It allows us to take personal responsibility for decisions, no matter that this entails additional work on our part. We are better able to sense when something applies to us or to others, or to nobody.

At that point we realize that while we can only make decisions for ourselves, we can put ourselves into a more prepared stance when it comes to dealing with the needs of others. Then, we will be able to guide them to make decisions that are “right” for them, albeit not necessarily correct for us.

Regarding Moses being told to send spies into the land of Canaan, we read in Numbers (13:1) “**Send for you.**” Why does it say “you” and not “for (the people) them?” God says, since people are not with me, and not connected to my perspective, they need something they can relate to, so send from your perspective.

Another understanding of the words spoken to Moses is the following. Previously we read in Numbers (11:26) it says that Eldad and Maydod were prophesying in the camp that Moses was going to die in the wilderness and that Joshua would lead the people into the land.

All of the people wanted to go into the Holy land. At the same time, they did not want Moses to die. This is why the ten spies gave a bad report (in order to keep Moses alive.) The other two spies acted according to God’s dictates, without question. By the next day, the people and the ten spies regretted their error in judgment. By that time, it was too late. All the people who chose to follow action in order to try to fool God into not ending Moses’ life got their wish. They stayed in the wilderness and died while Moses was living. Afterwards Moses passed on and Joshua led the people into the land.

We see here that the people believed that if they went into the land, Moses would die at this point, eighty years of age. Yet, due to the people not going into the land, the passing of Moses was actually delayed. He lived to be one hundred and twenty years of age.

With regard to Joshua, the Midrash explains that he “took his time” while he was conquering the land of Israel and dividing it among the tribes. He did so because he understood that he was supposed to die after accomplishing this task. Thus, he believed that the result of delaying his work would be that he would live longer.

Instead, his life was shortened because he did not focus on completing the task at hand in the most efficient way.

There is a story that is told in the Talmud (Brochos 64a) about Rav Yosef that deals with the subject of delaying one's time of death. Rav Yosef consulted an astrologer when it was his turn to become the head of the Talmud Academy in Pompedita. The astrologer told him that he would be the head of the yeshiva for two years, and then he would die. He opted to let Rabbah become head and stayed away.

Twenty-two years later, when Rabbah passed away, Rav Yosef accepted the post. Two and a half years after taking the job, Rav Yosef passed away. In this case he delayed the time of his death. In the case of Moses, it was the people who caused the delay. In Joshua's case, the opposite happened, as the decision did not only impact on him but directly affected everyone else.

This may be one reason that the sentence says that God told Moses **“For you.”** God knew that this action would end up extending the life of Moses.

A similar explanation is given as to why we live (or reincarnate) for such a long time in a world of imbalance. It is because the choices that we make are not in accordance (or out of tune) with the flow in the way that the Creator desires in this existence.

There are many differences and variances in these cases. It is interesting to reflect upon them. It takes but a single thought that is not in accordance with the Divine flow to cause separation. At the same time it takes only one person who can flow with their heart (and have no other thought) to enable everything to be in its proper space.

There is nothing new about the fact that human beings do whatever they want to do. We are given choices that we desire. This is so even when a choice may be contrary to our connection with the Divine flow in creation. This may explain why the rebalancing of the world has taken so long (due to people's choices.) Even when a person feels that he/she is ready to “be” in a world of balance, the world may not be of similar mind.

In order to restore ourselves it is not enough to recognize where it is that we are focused. We also need to know the base we come from and our limitations. Then our choice of where to focus our life power will be guided in the proper way.

Although many of us utilize the same verbiage, one may not assume that they are naturally of the same mind and belief. Although they may share similar ideals, there is a wide variance of interpretation and implementation. That is yet another reason that we cannot assign responsibility for our actions, or our personal connection with the Creator.

In the end analysis we have to answer for and accept the results of whatever we have contributed. Having one's mind and heart set in the proper place guarantees the acceptance that relates directly to each individual.