

# KABBALAH TODAY

ISSUE #22 | A PUBLICATION OF THE BNEI BARUCH ASSOCIATION FOUNDED BY RAV MICHAEL LAITMAN, PHD | [www.kabtoday.com](http://www.kabtoday.com)

**In this issue:**



**p.2 THE KEY TO CHANGE (OF HEART)**



**p.3 NATURE'S STUDENTS**



**p.4 YOUR TICKET TO A NEW WORLD**



**p.5 DISCOVER KABBALAH**



**p.6 THE WAY PASSED THE END**



**p.7 WHAT IS KABBALAH?**



**p.8 KABBALIST ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS**



**Headlines proclaim optimism for the end of the economic crisis. Is it really over? It won't be until we realize its cause is deeper than economic factors, and we learn how to operate in a global, integral system**

by *E Shillington*

The world watches Wall Street and world financial markets nervously as they pin their hopes, dreams, and sense of security on recovery to 2007 levels. After plummeting 54% to a decade low in March of this year, markets have continued with volatile rises and falls. Each bit of optimistic news, “Corporate earnings higher than anticipated,” “Bullish calls from prominent analysts” and “the US Federal Reserve pronounces the end of the recession might be on the horizon,” spurs a rise. Optimism and hope lift the markets, much like a hot air balloon when the air is warmed. But are these rises filled with anything more than hot air?

### IS IT OVER YET?

It would seem that there is denial on Wall Street. The optimistic headlines generated by self-interested parties seem to be ignoring other economic news, like the 9.5% unemployment rate in the US, which doesn't capture the magnitude of joblessness. The uncounted include many who have stopped looking altogether, and 1 in 6 Americans who want full-time employment, but are settling for part-time work. The US Labor Department's broader measure pegs unemployment at a much higher rate nearing

24% in Oregon. 7.2 million Americans have lost their jobs since the start of the recession and 15 million Europeans are out of work. So far this year, 1.5 million homes have received foreclosure notices or have been seized by banks. Bank failures in the US have reached 77 in 2009. Not all headlines or economists are pointing to recovery as, “Global Deflation Pandemic is Brewing” reports. (*Wall Street Journal* 7/24/09) In fact, by many counts the crisis is far from over.

### WHAT CAUSED THE CRISIS?

The US federal government recently appointed a panel of experts to find out just what caused the economic crisis. It would be easy to point to the likes of Goldman Sachs executives who seemingly grabbed the billions handed to them by the government's bail out efforts and slipped them into their own pockets. Just how did they manage to make the surprising earnings, which they assert justifies compensation levels rivaling 2007 highs, if not at the expense of taxpayers? Or is the crisis due to the financial products pedaled, whose complexity defied regulation? Or are the regulatory systems, which failed to safeguard us, to blame?

### THE REAL CAUSE

None of them are the cause. Our economy, our world economy, is a reflection of our natural desire to get more and more. All of us together created the global economy. We collectively created the global economics of hoped-for-perpetual-growth to fuel our ever growing desire for more. As soon as we get what we want, with a brief pause of momentary gratification, we move on to wanting something else.

This is according to Nature, Kabbalah explains. We are merely acting according to Nature's force of receiving. But now we see there is a problem with this. Oh yes, we are in the midst of a crisis, and in spite of Wall Street's grasping at straws for recovery, most of us pretty well see we've already broken the camel's back. And there is no way back to the era of super-growth-consumption economics. The crisis is impacting virtually everyone and everything on the planet.

### THE MESSAGE THE CRISIS BRINGS

Indeed, there is a big problem. We've successfully grown with this force of Nature, the receiving force, and it has caused us to realize we are all interconnected. This is precisely the purpose of the crisis. Really this is it. The global financial crisis is illuminating our interconnected nature. It is shining brightly and powerfully, like a spotlight, to make sure we can't miss it. The message in bright lights reads: We are globally financially and economically interdependent, linked, and inexorably entwined—the whole world and everyone in it, including you.

And the message doesn't stop here. This is just the glaringly obvious part. Our interconnection is even deeper, more encompassing than the global economy, finances, or the internet. The writing of the rest of the message is a bit dimmer, we are just beginning to see it.

It reads: We are an interconnected humanity on all levels. We are beginning to see that the world is a single, integral system. We are beginning to realize and feel it as more than mere words. We need to recognize that just like the financial crisis is allowing us to see this global interconnection on the economic level, all other crises besieging the world are aiming to help us appreciate our complete human interconnection and interdependency. For indeed that is their purpose.

*continued on page 2*

“When you’re finished changing, you’re finished.”

Benjamin Franklin

▶ continued from page 1

## WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

This seems very deep. But in reality, it is also very simple. We are all in everything together. All of our actions impact everything else on the planet. And conversely, the entire world influences each of us.

Having recognized that we are a globally integral system, we need to learn the way this system of interconnection works, how it operates, so we can thrive in it. It is a law of Nature, and like Newton studying the apple’s fall, we need to examine and explore the properties of this law.

So, we take another look at its component, the force of receiving. The

development of the force of receiving, we noted, is what led to this financial crisis. This immense preoccupation of always wanting more for ourselves allowed us to develop a blind eye toward how this taking for ourselves affects any and everyone else. This actually shines some insight onto another component of the law of Nature, the force of giving. And we see we’ve overgrown one side—receiving, at the expense of the other—giving.

## OUR INTERCONNECTION IS NOT IN BALANCE

These forces are not in balance. It is the imbalance that is causing the crisis, not Wall Street. It is the imbalance in each of us, and as we recognize that we

are all interconnected, we realize that our individual aspirations for having more impacts everyone else with whom we are interconnected. The crisis is revealing both the interconnection between all of humanity and the imbalance in the interconnection. The crisis is aiming to reveal to us that no individual will prosper unless the whole world prospers.

## REAL SOLUTION: LEARNING TO BALANCE OUR INTERCONNECTED NATURE

As we realize our completely interconnected state of humanity, and become educated through the wisdom of

Kabbalah about the forces of Nature—receiving and giving—we can naturally understand the optimal role of each member of humanity within these forces, and we will achieve real prosperity and perfection. Both the cause and solution to the crises lies within each of us, separately and collectively. What we all need to end the crises, is to stop pointing fingers at others, and to start looking within and see our crucial role in fixing it, by adjusting our attitude to the world with the giving and receiving forces of Nature. Not only will this end the crises, but it will bring us to abundance, prosperity, and real fulfillment. ■



## THE KEY TO CHANGE (OF HEART)

The world demands change, politicians promise it. But, what is the change we really need? It is a change of heart to operate in accordance with Nature in a state of wholeness. Kabbalah holds the key to connecting to abundance and prosperity

by C Medansky

The popularity of slogan, dictum, motto, and maxim as a form of persuasive argument has long been a part of political campaigns in order to gain favorable reaction from the public. It is not surprising that today, as the global crisis escalates, public enthusiasm is immense for politicians around the globe chanting the dictum of change. Everyone agrees that we need change; so, what is the problem?

## WHAT IS THE CHANGE WE NEED?

At first glance, it appears to be a problem of nuance. However, when we analyze the political argument for the change we need, we discover that the

argument itself is defective. According to Aristotle, a potentially persuasive argument, where the premise gives no rational grounds for accepting the conclusion, is defective. These defective forms of argument are called fallacies, in this case, the fallacy of circular argument, as the premise for change presumes too much. It simply begs the question: What is the change we need?

## CRISIS: THE REVELATION OF THE CONNECTION BETWEEN US

All of the methods that we are applying to the current crisis view change as something we can do on our own.

However, today, for the first time in history, the current state of the world is not simply a crisis; it is a revelation of the connection between us. This connection is being revealed in the economy, trade, and in all social and political relationships. And grim news from the World Bank: A stimulus won’t save us—we are fresh out of money to jump start the global economy.

## CORRECTING THE CONNECTION: THE WAY TO ABUNDANCE AND PROSPERITY

The Kabbalists see this as the starting point for humanity’s correction and the end of all of our misfortunes. The current crisis shows us how connected we are. Therefore, the means of solving the problem is correcting our connection, meaning that we should not just build the proper economic model; in this global world, we should make heart to heart connections. The science of Kabbalah, which is becoming more widely recognized in recent years, is the key to the solution.

All of the great Kabbalists throughout history, from Abraham to Yehuda Ashlag, dreamed of our time, when all humanity could discover the wonders that they had. They searched and found the answers to the very questions humanity is now asking. What is the

structure of reality? What forces govern the world? How can a person affect his or her own fate and that of humanity? They wrote about what they discovered in their books, describing a single system that incorporates all people and paves the way to a future of abundance and prosperity.

*The Book of Zohar*, written approximately 2,000 years ago, says that toward the end of the 20th century humanity will reach its maximum imbalance with Nature. The book says that at that time, humanity will need the method of survival and of fulfillment. Then, says *The Book of Zohar*, the time will come to disclose Kabbalah to all humankind, as a method for reaching similarity to Nature.

Our generation stands at the threshold of a dramatic change of heart. Just as all other parts of nature exist harmoniously, we can consciously and willingly rise to a new level of harmonious connection. The science of Kabbalah, the same knowledge that was passed on from Abraham through all the generations, is precisely a method for correcting our connection. It explains the system of laws that enable us to operate in accordance with Nature in a state of wholeness. The Kabbalists have given us the key, which, if used correctly, will allow us to change our heart and reality instantaneously. ■

“ Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better. ”

Albert Einstein



## NATURE'S STUDENTS

**The result of our collective discontent is an increasing tendency to ask: What is the purpose of my life? Kabbalah is a spiritual science that reaches out from its ancient roots to answer this very current and pressing demand. Students explore this science online, at the Bnei Baruch Kabbalah Learning Center**

by Annabelle Fogerty-Scahill

### WHY STUDY KABBALAH?

In the decades leading up to the first part of the 21st century, society became increasingly dissatisfied with what life has to offer. The wars, revolutions, and social movements of the 20th century have left us wondering: What is next? Is this all there is?

Particularly in developed countries, people are overwhelmed by unshakable feelings of emptiness and despair. This sense of deep unrest has grown to a peak in our generation. Like never before this generation suffers. It suffers from depression and anxiety, an unstable economy, an unprecedented breakdown in the family structure, impending environmental catastrophe, and a general lack of motivation and sense of apathy for the future.

The result of our collective discontent is an increasing tendency to ask: What is the purpose of my life? Kabbalah is a spiritual science that reaches out from its ancient roots to answer this very current and pressing demand.

### WHAT DOES KABBALAH ANSWER?

Kabbalah answers that basic demand for the answer to the purpose of life.

It shows us the limits of our perception and introduces us to true reality. In the past only a handful of philosophers, holy men, and scientists asked about the laws of Nature, the meaning of life, and the perception of reality. Now this demand is commonplace.

Throughout human history we have functioned on autopilot, moving from desire to desire like puppets on a string. We have developed our cultures, civilizations, and technologies through the all encompassing desire for pleasure that is called the human ego.

In our times we can no longer be satisfied with our basic animal and human desires. The compelling drive of our egoistic development seems to have worn itself out. There seems to be nowhere else to go. We want more; we need more. In our times we have awakened the desire for spirituality.

Kabbalah fulfills the desire for spirituality and illustrates the true laws of Nature, beyond our limited perception, and shows how to live according to those laws. We can see through our own experience how different human nature is from the rest of Nature. Every other species on the planet only takes as much from nature as it absolutely

needs: nothing more and nothing less. Human egoism knows no bounds to how much it will take from others and from nature. This egoism is the sole reason for all of the destruction we see in the world.

Once humanity lived in balance with Nature, but through the increasing development of our egoistic desire we evolved to a point of total imbalance with the natural system. The understanding of our connection to this system has been lost in the mists of history. While we cannot devolve into prehistoric desires, we can look to the future and find the way into balance from our fully evolved perspective. None of us wants to go back to the Stone Age, but we do want to live in harmony with each other and with Nature. Kabbalah teaches us how we can use our development to equalize with the natural system within our modern society. Nature operates on the principle of love and giving. In order for humanity to come to balance with the system, we need not give up our technologies; we need to learn to give.

Humanity is beginning to wake up to its own nature. We know we can no longer function according to our egoism. We know that there must be a change or our entire race will face dire consequences. Collectively we have no idea where to turn with our demand for change and for answers to our questions. More people than ever are asking why they live, and it is precisely this time and this demand that Kabbalah was meant to answer.

### HOW TO FIND ANSWERS THROUGH KABBALAH

The Bnei Baruch Learning Center is a platform that answers the question of the meaning of life, the nature of reality, and the method to transform human egoism, thereby assuring humanity a bountiful future. The Learning Center's interactive classes start with very basic principles of Kabbalah and progress to the technical aspects of the structure of reality. These classes show how to connect with the laws of Nature and how to implement these laws in our daily lives for the benefit of all of humanity.

The Learning Center offers an extensive program of live Kabbalah instruction on both an American and European schedule with live translation into Spanish. Experienced teachers interact and instruct in real time and are able to answer individual student questions. All of the materials, authentic Kabbalistic texts, and instruction are offered free of charge. Lessons are broadcast live, twice weekly, and are archived to accommodate every student's schedule. Students are free to be as involved as they have the desire and ability to be.

The Learning Center also provides students an online forum to post questions and share their impressions with instructors and fellow students. These forums are monitored by trained moderators who answer questions and offer personal guidance. Students benefit from reading each other's questions, interacting with each other, and sharing mutual encouragement.

Kabbalah is a discipline that must be practiced in a specific way to gain its intended benefits. Kabbalah is best studied in a group, with teachers, and authentic texts. The Learning Center is a real environment for the study of Kabbalah, which provides all the necessary tools and allows a student to practice and experiment with what they are learning. The Learning Center gives students the support and environment to experience and practice what Kabbalah teaches.

Through interaction during the live lessons and student forum, students create a sense of community that goes beyond what one might feel in other learning environments. Through the Learning Center environment the force of Nature is evoked on students and they begin to experience the change they desire. Not only does learning Kabbalah fulfill the desire for the answer to the meaning of life, in a correct learning environment students will find themselves becoming more equivalent to the laws of Nature. Every aspect of students' lives gains greater clarity and they begin to perceive true reality. In the words of a Learning Center alumnus, "It is truly life changing."

“If I discover within myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.”

CS Lewis

by **Veronica Mengana**

It was August 2008. I did not know what Kabbalah was nor did I have any idea why the word intrigued me as it did. In regards to Kabbalah, I was pretty much a blank slate. There was something that I did know, however. I sensed that there was a hidden message in the word “Kabbalah.” The feeling came from the very depth of my heart, from a small, tiny point.

### “I WANTED TO KNOW HOW EXACTLY YOU USE THIS WISDOM”

I started to read more. I devoured a few issues of the newspaper *Kabbalah Today*. Then, I turned my hunger toward the website [Kabbalah.info](http://Kabbalah.info). There, I found an immense amount of information in the form of articles, books, videos and animations.

But as most of my friends will tell you, I am not easily impressed or satisfied. I wanted more. I wanted to know how exactly is it that you use this wisdom, what makes it so special, and why should I be reading about it and not doing something more productive (or fun) with my time. The website said that Kabbalah was a **practical** wisdom that will help me attain spirituality. “Ok,” I said to myself, “I want to attain spirituality.” Who doesn’t, right?

All of us, consciously or not, yearn for connection with the spiritual. I later learned that connecting to the spiritual is actually the purpose of our lives. This is why so many people today are dissatisfied and question the meaning and purpose of their lives.



## YOUR TICKET TO A NEW WORLD

A first person account: Finding Bnei Baruch's Online Kabbalah Learning Center  
“I liken the course to the beginning of a journey to a magnificent new world, to a free ticket onboard an express train!”

### “I REALIZED THAT I WASN'T ALONE. THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE WITH THE SAME QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE”

So, back to my question: How? Where do I start? Then, I noticed a link to a free, live and interactive course starting September 2008. I signed up immediately and began reading preparation materials provided in advance of the course start date. At the first lesson, I realized that I wasn't alone. There were many people with the same questions about life. It was

a very international group with people joining the twice-weekly lessons from places as remote as Japan, Australia, Argentina and Iraq. There were business people, students, lawyers, housewives, professors, scientists, retirees, and more, ordinary people from all walks of life.

### “THEY HAD ANSWERS”

The lessons were presented by two teachers. I don't know what I was expecting, but I was happy to see that they were regular, normal people, like you and me. What did set them apart was that they were able to provide answers

to questions which had been floating in my head unanswered for years. They had answers to questions like: “What is the meaning of my life?” “Who am I?” “What is going on in the world?” You get the picture. Normal people with answers. So far, so good! I continued on and finished the course.

### “IT'S HARD TO DESCRIBE WHAT THE COURSE HAS DONE FOR ME”

It is now August 2009. It is hard to describe what the course has done for me. What I can say is this: Remember that little point in my heart which

I mentioned at the beginning of this article, the one that led me to Kabbalah? Well, the course helped me understand what that point was.

The course described the process by which this point grows and connects to other similar points. Once it reaches full development, it becomes the mechanism by which we can perceive a completely different world. This world is the spiritual world with which we crave to connect. Without connecting to the spiritual, we do not attain the purpose of our lives. Therefore, I liken the course which I signed up for last year to the beginning of a journey to a magnificent new world, to a free ticket onboard an express train!

I have some great news for you, dear reader. There is another train departing September 2009. Consider this your official invitation. See you in the new world. ■



## North American Kabbalah Congress UNITING THE WORLD KLI

October 15-18, 2009

Tel: 800 540-3234 | [KabbalahCongress.org](http://KabbalahCongress.org)

“You cannot teach a man anything; you can only help him discover it in himself.”

Galileo Galilei



Bnei Baruch Learning Center

**kabbalah**courses 



## DISCOVER KABBALAH

FALL SEMESTER 2009

Begins September 9, 2009 at 8pm Eastern Time

**Free, Live, Interactive Internet Courses Based in Authentic Kabbalah** Reveal Kabbalah's intended purpose and use, who you are and your life's true purpose. Kabbalah provides a deep understanding of nature, the world, and ourselves. It's an experience that will change how you perceive your reality.

### DISCOVER

- What Kabbalah really is
- The nature of the force and law that shapes our lives, how to connect with it, and its practical implementation
- How you can correct yourself and help correct the world by studying the wisdom of Kabbalah
- How to study from authentic Kabbalistic texts and sense the unique illumination

### COURSES

- The Learning Center provides a step by step program for those interested in learning more about this wisdom
- Study live twice a week, or at your convenience by downloading archived lessons
- Interactive live lessons: students' questions are answered by proficient instructors during the broadcast

### MATERIALS

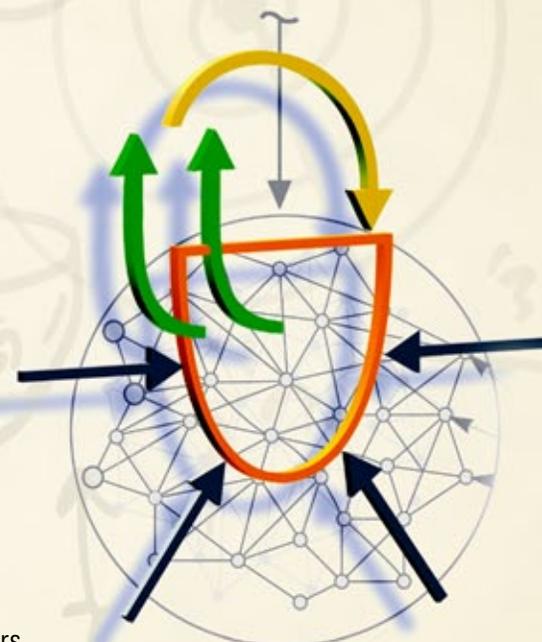
- All course materials are free to download (text, video and audio)

### ADDITIONAL LEARNING CENTER OFFERINGS

- Student Forum – an online “study hall” where lesson related questions can be asked and are answered by instructors
- Opportunities to study with Bnei Baruch's founder, the world's foremost Kabbalist Rav Michael Laitman, PhD
- Invitations to special events to meet with fellow students, families and instructors, from around the world, to experience the practical application of the study

### ABOUT THE BNEI BARUCH LEARNING CENTER

In 1991, Rav Michael Laitman, PhD, established Bnei Baruch for studying, teaching, and disseminating authentic Kabbalah. Bnei Baruch (Sons of Baruch) is named in memory of his mentor, Kabbalist Rav Baruch Ashlag, son and successor of Kabbalist Yehuda Ashlag, Baal HaSulam, (Owner of the Ladder) author of *The Sulam Commentary on the Book of the Zohar*.



 **Register NOW at [KabbalahLearningCenter.info](http://KabbalahLearningCenter.info)**

“Every problem has in it the seeds of its own solution.”

Norman Vincent Peale



The Doomsday Vault, a seed bank for world use, reflects both our worst case fears of global destruction and the means to prevent it. It exemplifies uniting in order to satisfy the need to care for all

by Sandra Watson

The end. People contemplate “the end” all the time. They wait for their work week to end, they anticipate the end of a cold winter, they dream of the end of twelve years of schooling. Ah, graduation. How nice to reach the end. The end of the perfect book, that satisfied feeling one gets when it feels just right. And there are the scary and sad endings in life: death, divorce, disaster. Ah, disaster, this one, when it’s on a large and national or global scale, is often played to the hilt. Consider for a moment, the amount of time movies and media often give to doomsday scenarios. There seems to be a fascination with “the end.”

### THE DOOMSDAY VAULT

Discovery Magazine’s top 100 science stories of 2008 include, “Doomsday Vault Opens.” It is a kind of Noah’s Ark for the protection of seed types from around the world. “The End!” we

think. The word, “Doomsday,” catches our attention, stops us in our tracks, and makes us think.

The ark—rather, the vault, is built on the largest island in the Svalbard archipelago in Norway. It’s built to protect the seeds in case of natural disasters including pestilence, asteroids and even human induced calamities such as nuclear attack.

The idea of a safety deposit box for seeds is not new. Nations have had their own seed banks in the past and will continue with their reserves, but this structure, which is designed for “world use” in case of catastrophic circumstances, reflects a kind of unification, one that considers the whole world and not just its segmented parts, drawn as political, geographic boundaries. It’s this kind of whole world protectionism that is a clear indicator of our interdependency and it is this state of understanding that paves a way for us in our own personal diffusion, where we extend our miniature focus to include the

care of all. This state is a kind of end, a shift in focus. It is a predetermined goal that existed in the original thought of creation, and it is completely good and benevolent despite our current perceptions to the contrary.

### THE END OF THE PARADIGM OF THE WORLD BROKEN INTO PIECES

Here now, we discuss the end of an old paradigm, where the world is broken into pieces, often working against itself; and instead, we usher in the beginning of cohesion, the same kind seen in nature among bees working together in their hives, or in geese flying together in their “V” formation.

The unified thinking that is exemplified by the construction of The Doomsday Vault is a small glimpse into the unity that the wisdom of Kabbalah teaches. Somehow, many of us know inside that if we are to survive, we must think in terms of “the whole.” And yet, there’s a strange paradox where we feel that we exist in isolation, very much alone, struggling in a system we can’t understand.

### A WAY OF UNITY

To study Kabbalah is to study *The Way to Yourself*, but by paradox, this is a way of unity. Today, we see its beginnings being realized not only in the trade of goods, but in the rapid trade of information through the internet. Beyond information and goods though, we are also sharing emotions, tightening the bonds that exist with one another. Even though we might be at opposite ends of the globe, we feel the virtual connection. Many of us feel the responsibility, the needs that exist around our planet, a suffering planet.

We realize that our safety and

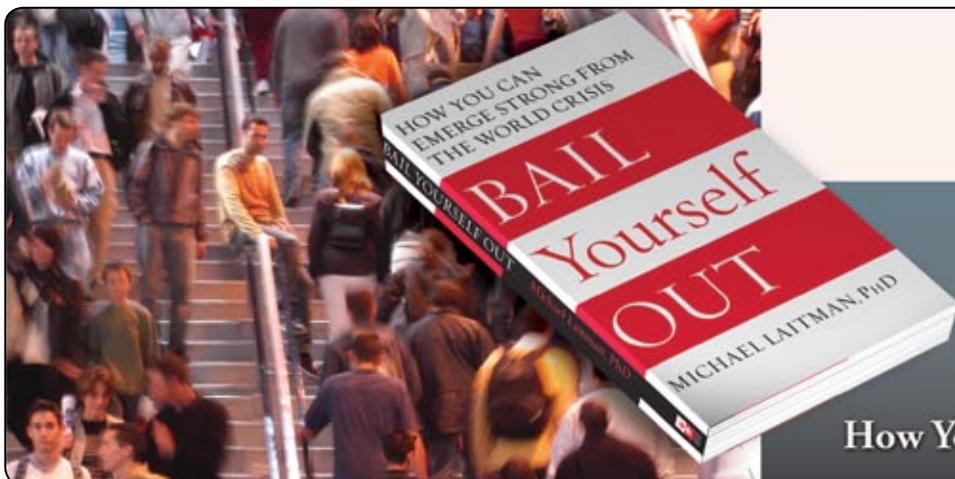
security is completely dependent upon the success and balance of the whole of humanity. The butterfly effect ripples around us even if we can’t see it.

Kabbalah teaches that true unity must be built upon the deepest law within all of nature, the most sublime and the most powerful force of all: the law of bestowal. It is a reciprocally beneficial natural law that replaces the egoistic black hole that sucks everything unto itself and is never satisfied. The ego is a tyrant whose calculations are completely for itself without regard to wholeness. It’s the ego gone wild that is hurting us, but it is also the ego’s mistakes that will teach us, if we pay attention and learn.

The proof of the ego’s destructiveness is in the pudding and that pudding today is tasteless. It’s the impasse that society has reached, the dead end that *The Book of Zohar* spoke of a long time ago. Here it is written, that at the end of the 20th century, humanity will start asking about the meaning of life, and that the answer to this question, hidden in the ancient science of Kabbalah, can only be revealed in our time, precisely because of these challenging circumstances.

### KABBALAH PROVIDES REAL ANSWERS

Kabbalah addresses these questions in a way that is timeless, expansive and yet personal because the nature of all perception is based inside of an individual. Within the individual can be found the system and unity of all the souls, together as one. Kabbalah is available for anyone who sincerely wishes to explore the answers to their questions. It provides real answers from within you, where you wait for the answers you are seeking. When you find the answers yourself, you know that there truly is a way passed the end. ■



 **kabbalahbooks**  
KABBALAHBOOKS.INFO

Michael Laitman, PhD

**BAIL YOURSELF OUT**

How You Can Emerge Strong from the World Crisis

“Facts which at first seem improbable will, even on scant explanation, drop the cloak which has hidden them and stand forth in naked and simple beauty.”

Galileo Galilei

by Tony Kosinec

There has been a lot of confusion, legend, myth and misinterpretation surrounding the true nature of Kabbalah because it has been shrouded in mystery for thousands of years. And it is called the hidden science for a number of reasons.

### WHY THE CONFUSION?

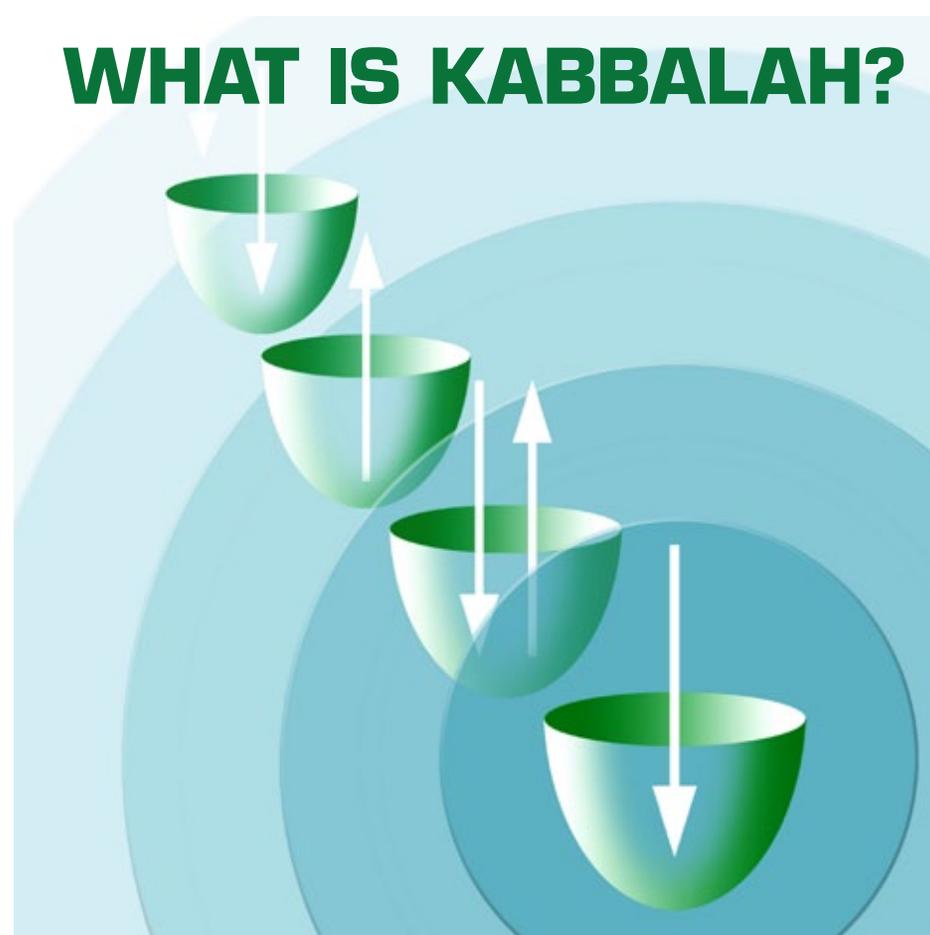
1. In the past Kabbalah was taught to only a few worthy, highly developed people from each generation who already possessed certain inner qualities not developed in humanity as a whole until recently. And these inner qualities allowed them to understand and use it correctly. In the first place it was purposely hidden by the Kabbalists themselves.

2. All Kabbalistic books are written in a way that uses words that seem to talk about people and things, but in fact, not a single word in any Kabbalistic book is talking about the physical world. And if you don't learn how to read these books from a Kabbalist in the authentic teaching lineage, you simply can't understand them. It doesn't matter how bright you are. All you are going to end up with is a product of your imagination and nothing else.

3. Kabbalah reveals the purpose and nature of this system we call life and unless a person has a powerfully real reason to ask this question, they can't hear the answer, even if it is shouted at them. But today, many people all over the world are seeking out Kabbalah.

### KABBALAH IS NOT...

So let's clear up the misunderstanding. Let's look at what Kabbalah is not. It is



**Kabbalah has been clouded in confusion, legend, myth, and misrepresentation because authentic Kabbalah has been hidden for thousands of years... until today**

not and has nothing to do with:

religion, magic, mysticism, witchcraft, divination, cults, healing, meditation, self-help, philosophy, theory, parapsychology, ESP, telepathy, clairvoyance, new age, psycho kinesis, superstition, dream interpretation, phrenology, tarot cards, mantras, yoga, red strings, holy water, blessings, Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sufism, or any "ism," past life regressions, holistic medicine, numerology, faith healing, aromatherapy, secret societies, reiki, hypnosis, channeling, transmutation, astrology, astral travel

or projection, lucid dreaming, spiritualism, communicating with the dead, out of body experiences, magnetism, voodoo, freemasonry, theosophy, reflexology, UFO's, creationism, fanaticism, or any other belief.

Many of the above mentioned, however, have borrowed and misinterpreted the principles of Kabbalah over the years.

### KABBALAH IS...

So now, what is it really? Kabbalist Yehuda Ashlag defines Kabbalah this way:

*The wisdom is no more and no less than a sequence of roots, which hang down by way of cause and effect, in fixed, determined rules, weaving into a single, exalted goal described as:*

*“the revelation of His Godliness to His creatures in this world.”*

Which means that there is an Upper Force and then there are governing forces that descend from this Upper Force and bring about our existence, meaning this world.

### THE GOVERNING FORCE OF NATURE

We are familiar with physical forces, such as gravity, electromagnetism, and even the power of thought. But there are forces of a much higher order that act while still remaining hidden to us. Just like we know the effects of electricity, but we can't see it and we don't know exactly what it is. The ultimate, comprehensive force, the Creator, is the sum of all the world's forces and the highest level in the line of higher governing forces.

This Upper Force gave birth to 5 spiritual worlds and a barrier separating them from our world. The science of Kabbalah doesn't study our world and the people in it, the way traditional science does. It investigates everything that exists beyond that barrier. There is nothing other than the force that descends from above in accordance with these laws. And the laws, as Ashlag writes, are fixed. They are absolute and they are everywhere. And ultimately they are all directed so that we can reveal the governing force of Nature while we still exist in this world. ■

Bnei Baruch Learning Center  
**kabbalahcourses**  
Learn Authentic Kabbalah  
at Your Convenience  
Sign Up Now

FALL 2009 semester

Fall Semester 2009 Begins  
**September 9, 2009**  
at 8pm EST  
**FREE • LIVE • INTERACTIVE**  
**VIDEO COURSES**  
[www.kabbalahlearningcenter.info](http://www.kabbalahlearningcenter.info)

“The most successful way for one who wishes to learn the wisdom is to search for a genuine Kabbalist and follow all his instructions, until one is rewarded with understanding the wisdom in one’s own mind...”

Baal HaSulam



## THE MAIN LESSON TO LEARN FROM THE CRISIS IS THAT WE ARE ALL PART OF NATURE

**A question I received:** Today’s economy, and life in general, seem very chaotic. Things are difficult to regulate, control, and predict. What should people do in this situation?

**My Answer:** Firstly, we should learn from this situation. The crisis and the uncertain state of the world should help us see that we are developing according to certain laws, irrespective of our will. Moreover, we do not know what these laws are.

It would be nice if we could predict things in some way, but all our attempts to predict and change anything do not produce good results. However, if we learned the laws of nature, we would gain strength and wisdom.

**Question cont’d:** So what are we to do about the situation?

**My Answer:** All of people’s attempts to fix things have not yielded any positive results. This fact should help people see that all of their mistakes have

been programmed by Nature in order to teach them something. This is Nature’s way of helping people to advance.

**Question cont’d:** Isn’t this fatalism?

**My Answer:** Nature encompasses everything, even all of people’s instincts, behaviors motives, and actions. The basis of all human problems is that we single ourselves out from nature.

Nature’s goal is to teach man that he should not stand out or try to separate from Nature. People have to realize that we are all part of Nature, that we are “built into it,” so to say.

Man’s task in Nature is to integrate all of Nature using his power, control, and desire. In other words, we need to bring the entire system into harmony and balance. Nature pushes man forward and teaches him lessons in the process. A person may feel bad at times, or he may be scared; and all of this is intended for him to understand that right now, all of Nature is disjointed, contradictory, and prone to crisis for just one reason: because human beings are breaching the natural balance.

Man must do everything he can in order to collect all of Nature’s parts into one, and thus to bring them to harmony. This is something that depends on every person.

## PERCEIVING THE WORLD FROM BEGINNING TO END

**A question I received:** When people hear that I study Kabbalah, they ask: “What’s in it for you?” I respond that I attain the meaning of life, feel its taste. “What is the meaning of life?” they ask, wishing to hear a brief answer. How should I respond?

**My Answer:** Because I study Kabbalah, the world becomes transparent for me. Through it, I see the controlling forces, the system that operates our world. Because of this, I perceive our

world throughout, from its beginning to its very end.

I attain the meaning of my life and of life in general, and I see myself in it, from the root of my soul in the common bundle of all the souls, to the end goal, which I must attain. All of this occurs in an endless eternal process, the perception of which is thanks to the science of Kabbalah. It reveals Nature and the Creator to me, and I reveal, attain and control the Nature of all the worlds.

Tell people that they can learn how to use life in the best possible manner and obtain the highest benefit from every passing minute! This is the truth!

But what people need today is to be enlightened, educated about the global world we are now living in, and about the fact that all of our suffering is caused by a faulty global connection among us.



## About Bnei Baruch

Bnei Baruch is a not-for-profit, international organization dedicated to sharing the wisdom of Kabbalah in order to raise humanity’s level of spirituality. Bnei Baruch provides individuals of all faiths, religions, and cultures with the precise tools needed to embark on a fascinating journey of self-discovery of the real purpose of life and its attainment.

Bnei Baruch’s (Sons of Baruch) founder and president, Kabbalist Rav Michael Laitman, PhD, was the disciple and personal assistant of Kabbalist Baruch Ashlag, son and successor of Kabbalist Yehuda Ashlag, Baal HaSulam, author of *The Sulam Commentary on The Book of Zohar*.

Bnei Baruch shares a vast amount of authentic Kabbalah materials [text, video and audio] and study programs, all free of charge.

## Free Interactive Internet Courses Bnei Baruch Kabbalah Learning Center

[www.KabbalahLearningCenter.info](http://www.KabbalahLearningCenter.info)

## Comprehensive Kabbalah Website

[www.kabbalah.info](http://www.kabbalah.info)

## Editorial Staff

**Executive Editor:**  
Seth Bogner

**Editorial Board:**  
Keren Applebaum  
Michael R. Kellogg  
Eugene Levit  
Beth Shillington

**Graphic Design & Layout:**  
Galina Kaplunovich

**Distribution:**  
Dina Shamailov

**Printing:**  
Albert Aminov

**Online Publication:**  
Lisa Pryce  
Robert Scahill

If you wish to share your comments and feedback with us, please write to:  
[info@kabbalah.info](mailto:info@kabbalah.info)  
800 540-3234

## Help Share Kabbalah

Donations to help share *Kabbalah Today* and other worldwide efforts to spread the wisdom of Kabbalah are gratefully accepted by Bnei Baruch. Donations are tax-deductible in the United States and Canada.

**Through Kabbalah we can reveal nature’s complete picture, achieve world peace, eternal life and unbounded fulfillment, all while living in this world. All efforts of Bnei Baruch are aimed solely at achieving these goals.**

[www.arionline.info/support.php](http://www.arionline.info/support.php)

Bnei Baruch Association USA  
85th Street, Suite 51,  
Brooklyn, NY 11214  
Tel: 800 540 3234

Bnei Baruch Association Canada  
3701 Chesswood Drive, Suite  
216, Toronto, Ontario M3J 2P6

## Subscribe to Kabbalah Today

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State (Province): \_\_\_\_\_

Zip (Postal Code): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

For 6 issues, make a check for \$9 and mail it with your completed subscription form to one of the following:

**In the US:** Payable to Bnei Baruch USA  
85th Street, Suite 51,  
Brooklyn, NY 11214

**In Canada:** Payable to Bnei Baruch Toronto  
3701 Chesswood Drive, Suite 216,  
Toronto, Ontario M3J 2P6

Subscription inquiries or address changes:  
[subscribe@kabtoday.com](mailto:subscribe@kabtoday.com)