

In this issue:



**p.2 THE KABBALISTIC
NEW YEAR**



**p.3 CLIMATE CRISIS:
WHO CAN SAVE THE PLANET?**



**p.4 MAJOR TOM, DO YOU
HEAR ME?**



p.5 DISCOVER KABBALAH



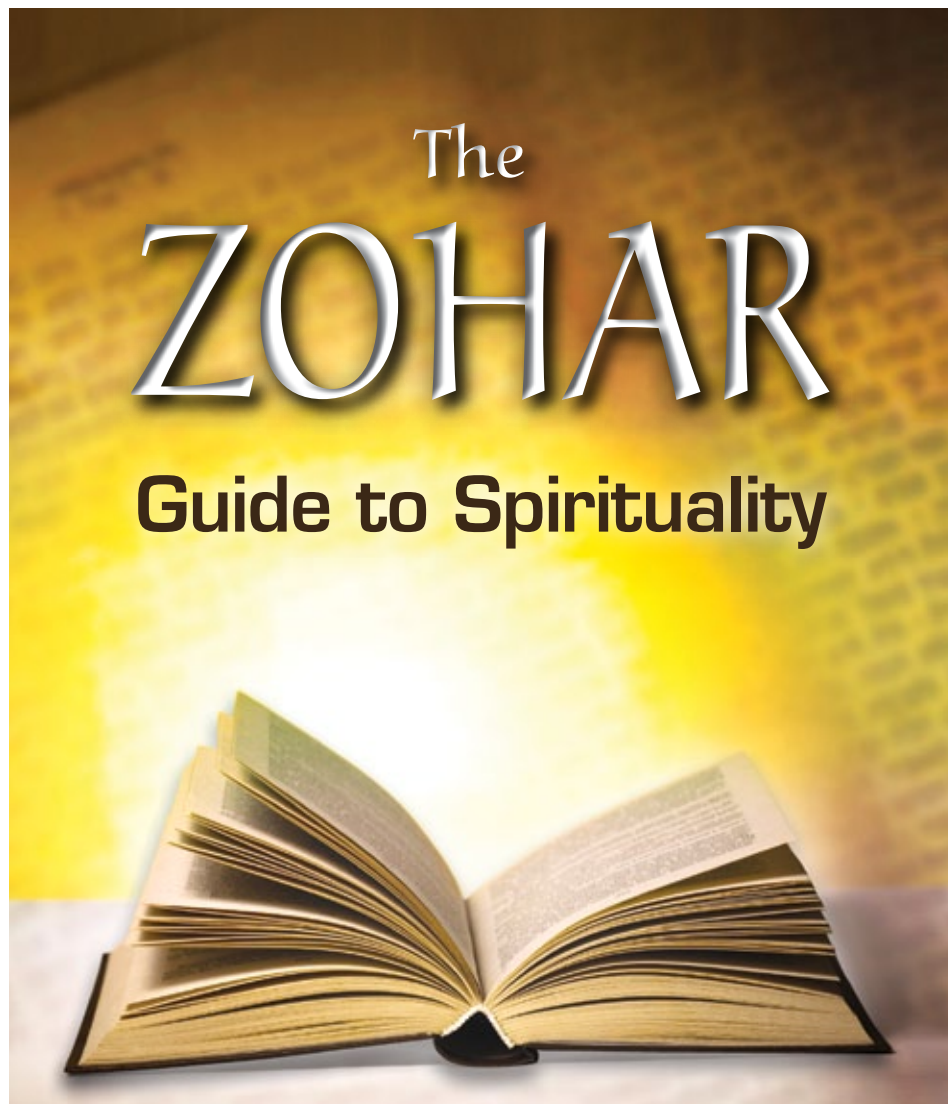
**p.6 MEN AND SHOES WON'T
MAKE YOU HAPPY**



**p.7 THE BEST GIFT FOR
YOUR LITTLE ONES**



**p.8 KABBALIST ANSWERS
YOUR QUESTIONS**



by **Dr. Gene Shklover**

Mother Nature has prepared a unique path for our development. Just like parents help a baby develop in this world, The Book of Zohar teaches us how to develop in the spiritual world

A baby is born into this world *tabula rasa* (Latin for blank slate), without any knowledge aside from its ingrained genetic predisposition. Then he begins to instinctively acquire impressions from his surroundings and to distinguish between warm and cold, dark and light, and to recognize different sounds: mom and dad's voices, footsteps approaching, silence, and so on. Gradually, he begins reacting to stimuli such as ambiance, sounds, colors, and light; and eventually he starts reacting to its mother's actions with laughs or cries.

Soon, a baby begins to actively explore the world, and then he is unstoppable. He grabs everything and tastes it

in his little mouth, crawls everywhere, demands to touch and feel everything, and opens his small, curious eyes trying to grasp whatever his mother tells him. A baby doesn't understand these things, but he gazes at his mother and radiates happiness.

As the growth continues, the baby begins to differentiate various feelings in each of his senses. Although he does not have full awareness of what is happening, his naturally embedded instincts make him continually more familiar with the world. Through all these experiences a baby begins to think and to build connections between bits and pieces. He begins to understand and have greater demands.

In our world, children develop through the impressions they receive from outside influences, initially from their parents and older siblings, and then from the models of behavior that

adults demonstrate and explain. Adults have always created various means of development for their children, such as games, toys, playgrounds, music, and books. Children naturally explore their small worlds by taking apart and reassembling their toys in an attempt to understand them. By engaging in these activities, the world begins to take form and make sense.

Mother Nature created an innate program for parents and society to ensure that each new generation will grow up prepared for the demands of the world we live in. We are instinctively driven to teach our children everything that we have learned.

However, unlike animals, we cannot give our children, right after birth, all the necessary information, education, and knowledge for living in our world. We cannot help them develop the entire spectrum of feelings and reactions all at once. It can only occur gradually, through a step-by-step process. Our children accumulate greater feelings, impressions, and knowledge as they slowly go through their maturation. Through the course of 20 years or longer, children develop into adults.

SPIRITUAL BIRTH

A similar process happens when we are born *tabula rasa* into a different dimension of our reality—the spiritual world. We cannot comprehend anything beyond our routine physical reality, and thus, we need the spiritual father and mother, surroundings, games, toys, teachers, education, and explanations to help us become acquainted with and develop in the spiritual world.

The great 20th century Kabbalist Baal HaSulam writes in the article "Body and Soul," that as no person can exist without information about the world he lives in, so a soul cannot exist in the spiritual world without receiving information about it. Our spiritual advancement cannot occur without receiving various new impressions. Initially, we may not understand them; thus we may feel as an infant, yet these sensations will "fill us up" and cause us to grow.

continued on page 2 ▶

“If the Creator plants a point in the heart...a person begins to awaken toward the spiritual goal and seeks the root of his soul.”

Baal HaSulam

THE KABBALISTIC NEW YEAR



by Asaf Ohayon

Tired of always breaking those New Year's resolutions? Kabbalah explains how to create true and lasting change

At the beginning of every year most of us are making resolutions to improve ourselves and our world. But somehow, in spite of our good intentions, most of our resolutions either are quickly forgotten or yield only short term change.

In Kabbalah, the New Year can occur at any time of the year. The New Year is a sign of lasting change within us that brings us a sense of joy, peace, and enduring fulfillment.

We can find through the wisdom of Kabbalah, a guide, an instruction manual intended expressly to show us the path to reaching complete joy and fulfillment. This path begins with a desire to search for meaning in our lives; it is the beginning of the spiritual journey.

PREPARATIONS

The journey along the path to spirituality develops our perception of reality. It is when we learn something new about our very essence. So, let us start with a few fundamentals that every traveler should know:

1. The Wisdom of Kabbalah speaks to every person who feels a need to find new meaning in his or her life, no matter what their religion, race, gender, or age. It's about discovering a new world that operates according to clear rules that are beyond time and space.

2. Our five senses are not enough to navigate the spiritual world. Therefore, Kabbalah enables us to develop a sixth sense through which we can feel the whole of reality. Kabbalists are those who have already developed this "sixth sense," and from their experience of the spiritual reality, they chose to call it "the world of roots" or "the world of causes."

3. Kabbalists wrote about the results of their research in a picturesque, symbolic language, "the language of branches." Similar to scientists who summarize their conclusions in formulas, Kabbalists described and documented their discoveries in special words and names. These words and names were taken from the same vocabulary that we are familiar with. As it happens, they are usually connected to the yearly cycle, the months, seasons, and nature.

4. In the spiritual world, time has a different meaning than the one we know in our world. "Spiritual time" means a series of changing conditions or states. In other words, when a person changes, we can say that a certain amount of time has passed. Therefore, people who research the spiritual world go through different stages in their spiritual evolution, meaning the holidays, with no connection to the calendar that we are familiar with. When we discuss the spiritual yearly calendar, the New Year can take place at any given corporeal moment. The spiritual reality has definite, strict rules, and it is free of any fantasies or personal theories. Every Kabbalist discovers through his personal research the same discoveries made by the Kabbalists before him.

Now that we have some of the basics, we can embark on the journey.

THE SPIRITUAL NEW YEAR

The Kabbalists who ascend to the top of the spiritual pyramid describe a reality in which we are all united and act harmoniously like the cells in a body. This state is referred to as the "common soul," and it signifies the feeling that the collection of all our souls is united into one soul.

At some stage that common soul broke and split into many individual souls, which lost the sense of connection with each other. Over many generations, Kabbalists spoke of the moment when a faint memory would awaken within each of the souls, a memory of that true state where they were connected to all the other souls. This is the moment when that inner drive awakens within us to set out and search for meaning in our lives.

This drive is also called "the point in the heart." The awakening of the point in the heart is usually characterized by a feeling of restlessness and dissatisfaction, which pushes a person to search until he or she finds the answer. This feeling can be compared to the feeling of someone who lost his memory but still has a faint recollection of the past, which doesn't let him rest until he discovers what it is.

This time of searching and inner spiritual transformation is referred to as a new beginning, or the "Kabbalistic

New Year."

For those whose point in the heart has already awakened, the Kabbalists recommend developing and nurturing it. That way, with every step you take, another piece of the great puzzle that is our life will be revealed. When all the pieces of the puzzle are put together, a new "picture" of reality is revealed where you see how all the souls are united in a mutual connection by bonds of eternal, unconditional love. The beginning of this change is the beginning of the "New Spiritual Year."

► continued from page 1

The Book of Zohar affects us exactly like a baby is affected by external influences; that is why this book is very special. When a person reads *The Zohar*, it fills him with different impressions from the unknown spiritual world regardless of his understanding it. As we study *The Zohar*, we gradually receive impressions from it, which permeate us and ensure our advancement. This influence happens so naturally that while reading *The Zohar*, all we have to do is follow the text and imagine ourselves traveling inside our inner world that the book is describing.

We can even read *The Zohar* without explanations, but just with a desire to attain new feelings and knowledge contained therein, like babies trying to explore the world with their wide open eyes. If we open up our feelings, hearts, and minds with the intention to absorb what the book tells us, then we will advance regardless of any mental, intellectual, or physical abilities.

Zohar is translated as "Brilliance" or "Radiance." We only need to let its radiant Light influence us. We thus become witnesses to the exciting process of our own inner transformation.

“Man is everywhere a disturbing agent. Wherever he plants his foot, the harmonies of nature are turned to discord.”

George Perkins

by Beth Shillington

The failure of the Copenhagen Climate Conference leaves the world wondering how to resolve the environmental crisis. Nature has the remedy

The Copenhagen Climate Conference failed at its mission to save the planet from global warming. The sole result of this two week global summit was a weak accord that has no teeth to stave off greenhouse gases; voting members merely conceded “to take note” of the recommendations. Danish Prime Minister Lars Rasmussen, designated to lead the summit after the conference president resigned on the opening day, implored the delegation to action by pointing out, “People around the world [are] actually expecting something to be done from us.”

Rasmussen’s plea, far from eliciting the desired outcome, smacks of an all-too-tragic comedy that the proceedings proved to be. The conference which was billed as the “last, best chance to save the environment” was criticized, among other things, for the 1200, high-carbon footprint limousines brought in from as far as Germany and Sweden to transport the climate-conscious delegates to and from the conference.

Comparisons to efforts made to save the global financial system were noted in the French newspaper *Libération*, “We must make the bitter observation: when it comes to rescuing the banking system, the dialog has been far more effective and determined.” Hugo Chavez, Venezuela’s president, succinctly summed it up, “If the climate was a bank they would have saved it.”

The world’s oldest scientific institution, the Royal Society professes that the summit’s failure has brought the world “one step closer to a humanitarian crisis.” If those designated to save the planet have failed, and the ecological crisis,

as it is widely observed, is only getting worse, it begs the question: Who can save the planet?

THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM

To find the answer, we can look to nature and the true cause of the problem. Taking a broad view, we must first recognize that nature is not the sum of all the minerals, plants, and animals on the planet. Nature, rather, is a principle of mutual balance that defines the detailed relationships of everything in existence.

An illustration of the natural relationship of mutual balance is the complex of biological systems within us. 10 trillion cells work together for the purpose of sustaining the aggregate of the cells, our bodies.

Nature cannot help but act in a mutual and harmonized balance.

Creatures in nature take from the environment only what they need for survival, and they work together for the benefit of the herd, flock, pride, or school. Why are humans the only species on the planet who disrupt this balance? The human being is the only creature who enjoys accumulating more than others and more than he needs, who uses the environment for excessive gain, and desires to dominate nature. This attitude permeates all of man’s desires, not only for basic, bodily needs such as food, shelter, and family, but also for the self-gratification he is able to receive from society in the form of wealth, power, fame, and honor.

This egoistic attitude to use everything around him for self-benefit is exclusively in the domain of man, and it is what produced the imbalance with and in nature. When we look behind all the systems created by man, we see

one force: the ego. Humans are driven by their personal self-interest rather than the consideration of what is best for all. This is the breakdown in the relationship with nature and what causes problems for us and the environment.

THE WAY BACK TO BALANCE

Humans seem to view nature as if we are above it, and not a part of it. But we are an integral part of the global system of nature, which is a single, interconnected system. When man causes a disruption in the natural harmony of the planet, it ripples throughout and throws the entire system off-balance. This is why even if the Copenhagen conference had been successful, it still would fall short of really saving the planet. It still misses the point; instead of dealing with the results of the problem, like attempting to curtail greenhouse gas emissions, we must address the root of the problem: our egoistic attitude.

The way to save the environment is to rebalance nature at the level where the imbalance occurs, at the level of the relationships between people. Nature most broadly is the principle of mutual balance that guides the intricate relationships of everything in existence. If instead of striving to always dominate the environment and other humans, we make ourselves similar to Nature, and we adopt an attitude of consideration for the whole of humanity and the planet; we will save both.

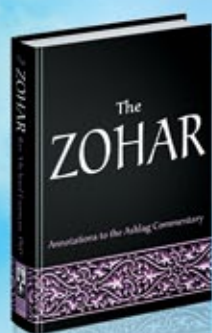
Everything else in nature, besides man, operates by this natural law. When we begin, one by one, to internalize the fact that we truly are interconnected, and we realize the need to tend to that relationship with all; we will create a relationship of mutual interest between us. We will balance ourselves with nature, creating harmony and peace for our planet.

The answer for saving the planet is truly in our hands, or rather, our attitudes.



The text of The ZOHAR is a journey deep into the soul ...

When we delve into this book time after time, trying to unite, the book reveals itself to us and illuminates us with its Light.



 **kabbalahbooks**
Available at www.KabbalahBooks.info

“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.”

Marcel Proust

by Michael R. Kellogg

The final frontier is not somewhere in outer space, but hidden deep inside each one of us

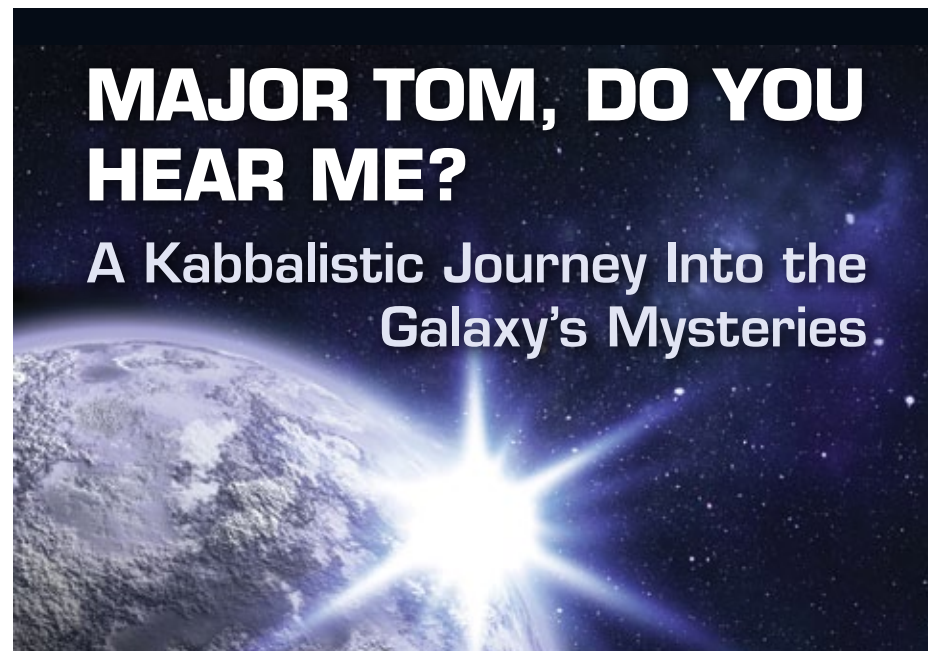
“Space, the last frontier...” There were times when millions would hold their breath as these opening words of the TV series “Star Trek” were heard while in the background, the spaceship *Enterprise* broke forth on its winding journey to discover strange new worlds.

Until the last few years, space research was the greatest hope for the human desire for discovery: an awesome adventure that drew us all. After everything on our planet was conquered, and there was nothing left to discover, new horizons suddenly opened when the space age began in the second half of the 20th century. The first few trips into outer space far overshadowed the legendary voyages of the great discoverers: Marco Polo, Christopher Columbus, Ferdinand Magellan, and others. The moon, which had always seemed an untouchable heavenly crescent, suddenly became a tangible, reachable object, a place one can walk and even plant a flag. The following waves of astronauts, shuttles, and satellites that would fill the sky inspired great artists of the time, like Asimov, Kubrick, David Bowie, and others to create hair-raising fictional fantasies.

And while space research remains exciting to this day, it is hard to ignore the fact that the space industry is still far from satisfying the hopes we have harbored. The pool of water recently discovered on the moon is clearly an important discovery. But what about the great dreams we envisioned? Still clinging to those hopes, the latest issue of *National Geographic's* cover proclaims we are still searching for another “Earth” in the heavens. So what about all those worlds and creatures that we hoped to find? Why can't we find forms of life beyond our world? Is it possible that all the exploration has been in vain and there is nothing “out there”? Or maybe we are just not looking in the right place....

A CONTRACTION OF THE HISTORY OF TIME

For millennia, the wisdom of Kabbalah has said that the universe does not contain any intelligent creatures other than man. As disappointing as it may sound, there is no possibility of encountering green creatures from Mars. But there is something



even better for those of us who long to be adventurous explorers: There is an enormous, invisible force that surrounds and fills the universe which we can reach. What is that force?

In the middle of the 16th century, with the appearance of a man named Isaac Luria, known as “the Ari,” in Tsfat, Israel, a window to the understanding of that force was opened. A minute before the astronomer Galileo started astonishing and confounding the world with his amazing discoveries of outer space, the Ari developed a different kind of telescope, one directed inside man, into the mysteries of the human heart. Through the lens of that telescope, the Ari unveiled the spiritual cosmology of the universe. In the poetic language of his time, he begins the revelation this way:

Behold that before the emanations were emanated and the creatures were created,

The Upper Simple Light had filled the whole existence.

And there was no vacancy, such as an empty atmosphere, a hollow, or a pit,

But all was filled with Simple, Boundless Light.

With these opening words to his book, *The Tree of Life*, the Ari describes the initial point of creation. At that point a force called “the Creator” brought forth a force called “the creation,” which constitutes a vessel for receiving unlimited pleasure and love. This vessel was in “wonderful and mysterious” unity with its Creator, with no empty space, gap or border between them.

However, in order to allow the

creation to develop an independent identity, the Creator performed a special act called “restriction.” The purposeful act created a divide between the creature and the abundant pleasure. Using the restriction, the creature separated from the Creator until there was a complete disengagement between them and concealment of one from the other. The restriction determines that from now on, the creation can connect to the Creator only by acquiring the Creator’s quality of bestowal. This is the way that the Creator will be “unveiled” to the creation.

In the Ari’s method, this entire process is described through a structure of ten concentric spheres, with a central point representing the creation, and the spheres around it representing the space between the creation and the Creator. Traversing all the spheres is a “thin line” of Light that originates from the initial created state, Infinity, and penetrates all the way down to the central point. This spark of Light is what ignited the creation of the physical universe known to us. Yet this universe is but a small droplet of the complete reality, where we are only at the initial stage of the exploration process....

SPIRITUAL SPACE ODYSSEY

In order for the creature to regain the knowledge of the Creator that it lost after the restriction, it must embark on a long, adventurous journey designed to expand the small central point back to its original, complete, and unlimited form. Baal HaSulam, the Kabbalist who interpreted the *Tree of Life* for our times, explained that first and foremost we must understand that we are not exploring physical space. The spiritual

space which we reveal is a “space” inside us that separates us from the Creator.

Spiritual movement is a change in qualities. Therefore, the more we change the way we use our created nature—the will to receive, and make it similar to that of the Creator—the will to bestow, the more we reduce that empty space between us and the Creator. Like a space rocket launched from Earth passes through the various layers of the atmosphere, so we cross the layers of concealment separating us from the Creator.

At the last stage called “the End of Correction,” we return to the same state of eternal unity and harmony with the Light as we were in before the restriction, but this time we do so with our full awareness and free will. It is precisely the disengagement and emptiness we had experienced that enable us to build this new, mature relationship with the creative force of the entire universe. We then become a vessel in which the initial pleasure is multiplied a thousand-fold.

So, how is all of this related to the space research of our era? What is the connection between rockets, shuttles, satellites, and extraterrestrial life, and the End of Correction?

A GUIDE FOR THE HITCHHIKER IN SPACE

The intense drive to explore space and to search for new worlds originates from an internal, deep, and justified feeling that we are not alone. However, instead of searching for partners who are aliens in space, we need to embark on the true search: the search for the Creator. Kabbalists are those who have experienced this entire journey and arrived at the final result. Based on their research, they created a map that we can use in order to follow in their footsteps. The books they wrote are structured as a special guide for a person who wants to break forth into the higher dimension of existence.

This is not science fiction. Using a special language, the Kabbalists tell us about future states that each one of us will feel in the most real and clear way. By reading Kabbalah books with a strong desire to feel what they are describing, we draw a force from our future, more advanced state, which pulls us “upward” toward that state. That force acts on our created nature, the will to receive, and gradually expands it from a small, empty point to a complete vessel for receiving the infinite Upper Light. ■



Bnei Baruch Learning Center

kabbalahcourses 



DISCOVER KABBALAH SPRING SEMESTER

Begins April 14, 2010 at 8 PM Eastern Time
European Broadcast at 9 PM GMT

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

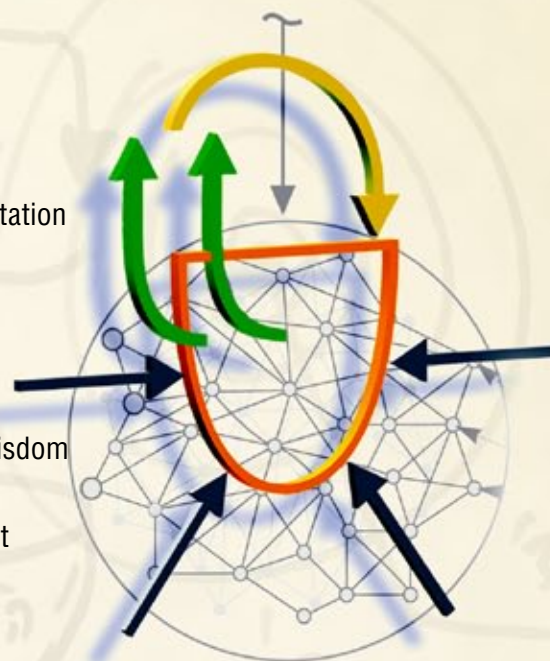
- All course materials are free to download (text, video and audio)

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



Register NOW at KabbalahLearningCenter.info

“Happiness depends, as Nature shows, less on exterior things than most suppose.”

William Cowper



MEN AND SHOES WON'T MAKE YOU HAPPY

by Veronica Mengana

What do women really want? The key to real happiness is at our fingertips

Are you happy? Yes, I am talking to you. Today, I want to speak to you woman to woman, openly and candidly. I want you to really think about it. Are you truly happy? If you are honest with yourself, your response will likely be “no.” Maybe you’ve achieved many of your life goals: a husband, children, an exciting career, financial independence, and a healthy lifestyle; or maybe not, but irrespective of this, many women the world over are asking themselves, “What happened to me?” One recent study of American women, called “Women less happy after 40 years of feminism,” found that we are in fact less happy today than we were thirty years ago despite all sorts of modern advancements (*Times Online*).

Over the last few decades, we seem to have achieved everything we thought we wanted. We wanted to be more independent, so in came women’s rights and all sorts of opportunities for education and employment. Yet, we are becoming more and more disillusioned in this area of life. Another example is our unrealistic expectations of men. We often look at men as a source of our happiness, but most of the time we don’t find that men fit our criteria, and even if we do, we become disappointed over time.

Ok, maybe men and exciting careers don’t make us happy, but shopping most certainly will! However, as most of us know by now, consumerism is a never-ending loop, and we have it turned on “high,” bringing ourselves and those around us to complete exhaustion. So, why is it that we still are not feeling happy? Could it be that we were looking for satisfaction in all the wrong places?

At some point, we started to understand that perhaps we couldn’t find happiness externally in our husbands, careers, or “things.” Our internal instinct instigated a search for “something more,” some greater purpose to life. So we turned our attention to all sorts of spiritual courses, psychologists, psychics, self-help books, and yoga memberships. After many failed attempts, however, we found that we still had a gaping hole in our hearts screaming out for true fulfillment. Is this you?

WHAT ARE WE SEARCHING FOR?

What if I were to tell you that everything that’s happened so far was predetermined in order to lead you right here: this place where you’ve exhausted yourself trying to find fulfillment only to realize that you are still not happy. What if I were to also tell you that a woman’s fulfillment does not lie in shoes, clothes, cosmetics, holidays, men, or meditation; and that all these things

will never bring the spiritual fulfillment that a woman needs most of all?

In our times, we are beginning to see that a woman can only truly be happy when she is in direct contact with a higher force. Call it Nature or the Creator, but it’s something we’ve distanced ourselves from and are desperately seeking. Even with all our modern advancements and the achievement of all our goals, we still have an ever present internal feeling of being unfulfilled. This feeling of lack is inherent in every woman because a woman’s spiritual root is “an absolute desire to receive,” or as Kabbalah explains, the vessel which the Creator created in order to fulfill it with delight. It is our very nature to feel lack, because without a lack, there is nothing to fulfill. Everything that was ever created was for the sole purpose of bringing us, women (the universal will to receive), pleasure.

Our desire for fulfillment is what has compelled all human development from the earliest societies until today. However, because our modern, collective ego, our desire for pleasure, has grown so large, the fulfillments of the past no longer do anything for us. Today, we need spiritual fulfillment or nothing else.

FINDING REAL FULFILLMENT

Every time we try to find fulfillment in any pleasure in this world, it is contact with the Upper Force, the Creator that we truly want. The whole purpose of all our development and all of our searching is to bring us to this point of exhaustion, when we simply can no longer try to fill ourselves with things from the outside world. It is at that exact moment that we have the opportunity to look inside ourselves, to begin a journey toward true, perfect, and eternal fulfillment.

The wisdom of Kabbalah is a practical method that can show a woman how to reconnect with her spiritual root in a conscious and proactive way. It can show us how to find eternal fulfillment by doing the one thing we have never tried: receiving pleasure in order to give pleasure to the One who created us. When we switch the intention of our desire from “for ourselves” to “for the other,” and when we find pleasure in the pleasure of someone else, the pleasure we feel increases exponentially and is everlasting. So, why not skip the mall, leave your husband or boyfriend in peace, put down the latest “10 Steps to Happiness,” and take some time to explore your spiritual root, the female desire, through the wisdom of Kabbalah?



“Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty.”

Albert Einstein

THE BEST GIFT FOR YOUR LITTLE ONES



by Keren Applebaum

Is giving our children the “best of everything” really the best way to prepare them for the rapidly changing, interconnected world? The changing world demands a fundamental change in attitude. And that is something we can give our children on any budget

We love our little ones with a passion that is unparalleled. There are few pleasures as satisfying as caressing those chubby, miniature hands, kissing their fluffy, rosy cheeks while they blissfully snore away, and gently running our fingers through that soft, angelic baby hair. We cherish every little Kodak moment, like the time they get their grubby little hands on a piece of cake at their first birthday and joyfully smear it all over their entire face, their first clumsy encounter with Sam, their grandma’s dog, and of course, that first, heroic, wobbly step.

We love them so much, we want them to have the very best of everything, and we would go to any length to get it for them. We want them to have the softest, coziest socks, the healthiest, most delicious food, and the best toys that will give them endless joy and develop them into little geniuses. We would give away everything we have a million times over just to be sure that they will be safe, happy, and well cared-for.

PREPARING OUR CHILDREN FOR THE FUTURE

But beyond the basic physical needs, do we know what these innocent creatures really need to be happy and to succeed in this complicated world of today? Do we know what to give them beyond good clothes, food, games, and entertainment? The world today is clearly not what it used to be, and the conditions for being safe, happy, and successful have changed considerably from the time we were kids. Opening the front page of any newspaper, it is easy to see that we, the adults, are not managing our world very well. We have let things develop to a point where we cannot control the consequences of our actions, and worse yet, we have created a haven for people’s worst egoistic tendencies to roam freely and take advantage of everything and everyone around.

Yet while we ourselves are caught in the midst of this unstable situation, we are still able to create a warm, safe, and loving environment for the little darlings dearest to us—until it is time for them to come out of the nest, that is. But after that, is our only available option to “let be what will be,” as we’ve done with our own lives? Or is there something we can give our kids, some kind of knowledge, attitude, or awareness that will enable them to shape a world that will have very different

headlines gracing the newspaper?

Because our love and passion for them is so absolute, there is only one answer: There *has* to be something we can give them for a better life, and we *have* to find what it is and deliver it to them. So let’s be the adults that we are for a moment, and think soberly: It is definitely no longer an option to “solve” things by isolating them from the whole world, such as by keeping them at home for as long as we can and barring them from the outside world. It is also not an option to let them grow up “like grass” without rules or limits, or to let them think that everything they see in the movies, advertisements, and the internet is the truth and the standard to emulate. True, we cannot control the gigantic, out-of-control advertising industry or mass media, but we can instill in our kids the subconscious understanding of the fact that the selfish, egoistic goals and values so often promoted there are destructive and undesirable.

PARADIGM FOR THEIR NEW WORLD

In our unprecedented, radically new, global world, where all people are starting to find themselves as members of a tightly-knit, interconnected family spanning to every corner of the world, it is no longer, “He who has the most toys wins,” but, “He who is able to share his toys and enjoy watching others playing with them, wins.”

This is the vitally needed new attitude, knowledge, and awareness that

we, as parents, can give to our kids. This will be a present infinitely more valuable than any designer pair of boots, the healthiest baby formula, or the most expensive, battery-operated truck. And this invaluable education can begin at any age, even at birth, because as any mother knows, our kids absorb everything from us starting the moment they’re born. They soak in all the energies, thoughts, and attitudes around them from the very first moment because the soul has no age.

So let us transmit the values of giving and sharing to our children from their very first moments in this world, and let our infinite love for them be a constant reminder never to stop. If we only persevere in this one, all-important task as parents, we will very soon see our beloved darlings living in a truly safe and happy world.



Michael Laitman's Personal Blog

laitman.com

THE BOOK OF ZOHAR CAN BE OPENED BY ALL

Question: Who can read *The Zohar*?

Dr. Laitman's Answer: *The Book of Zohar* was concealed from people for a long time. Since its composition in the 2nd century CE, only a few chosen souls (Kabbalists) used it and passed it from one to another, forming a lineage.

The book was revealed to outsiders when the widow of the Kabbalist Moshe De Leon sold it along with other books belonging to her husband. That is when Kabbalists began to forbid its study and created rigid restrictions to repel people from it. In the meantime, they continued studying this book in order to correct their souls, and they also taught other disciples who had a point in their hearts. The majority of people at that time did not have a point in the heart, meaning they weren't striving for spirituality, and therefore they were banned from opening the book.

Today humanity as a whole has reached a stage of development where *The Book of Zohar* can be opened by anyone. There is no danger in doing

so. First of all, this is due to Baal HaSulam's work: "The Sulam Commentary on *The Zohar*," and secondly, because of the current level of the souls' development.

Without a doubt, this book is the only resource capable of correcting the soul. We still don't fully understand what a wonderful tool it is.

When we understand what kind of system it is, connect to it, and start using it, then we will enter the spiritual world, and we will continue to grow by ascending from one spiritual degree to another until reaching the ultimate purpose of creation, perfect peace and delight. *The Book of Zohar* is a gradual revelation that works in this manner—it is truly a device for revealing the Upper Light!

WHAT IS REVEALED IN THE BOOK OF ZOHAR?

Question: What is revealed in *The Book of Zohar*?

Dr. Laitman's Answer: You reveal what is happening on the higher level, in spirituality. Our reading *The Zohar*

is very much like a little child growing up—every day he understands life a little bit more, gains a greater understanding of what is happening, and reacts to things more consciously.

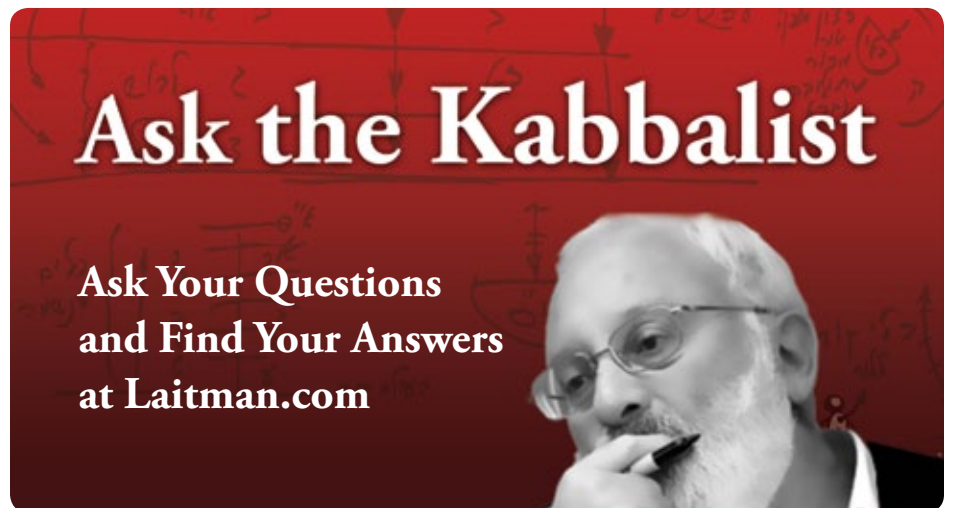
Similarly, when we read *The Zohar*, we gradually reveal a new, spiritual world and gain a greater understanding of it with each passing day. We reveal spiritual qualities inside ourselves on a sensory level and we therefore begin to feel, and then understand what is being said, similar to how we revealed this world when we were growing up.

Spiritual revelation is not rational but sensory, and it happens through a new sense called "the soul," brought about by the Light that *The Zohar* radiates to those who approach it with the right desire. This may not sound serious and you may wonder, "How

is this a science? After all, we are just reading a book." But when we desire very much to be in that picture or that reality about which it is telling us, just like a baby simply feels: "I want it and that's it!" then we suddenly reveal it. Nothing else is required of us except this desire.

Baal HaSulam, the greatest Kabbalist of the 20th century, writes, "Although they do not understand what they are learning, through the yearning and the great desire to understand what they are learning, they awaken upon themselves the Lights that surround their souls."

It works the same way as how a baby wants to know the world he is in. When we desire to reveal the spiritual world, it suddenly becomes revealed to 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 Dr. Michael Laitman, 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

Comprehensive Kabbalah Website

 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
Eugene Nemirovsky

Distribution:
Dina Shamailov

Printing:
Albert Aminov

Online Publication:
William Becker
Lisa Pryce
Robert Scahill

If you wish to share your comments and feedback with us, please write to:
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

Bnei Baruch Association USA
2009 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
2009 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