

The Daily Bites

February 1, 2010

The most outstanding Q & A, excerpts, examples, illustrations, definitions, and advice from the Daily Kabbalah Lesson of Dr. Michael Laitman and Bnei Baruch

Daily Kabbalah Tip

Advice in the daily Kabbalah lesson is recommended, practical tasks for advancing spiritually

"It's the Intent that Counts"

What is the difference between intent in our world and intent in Spirituality?

We often use the expression, "it's the intention that counts," when we want to encourage someone concerning something that he didn't succeed in. The wisdom of Kabbalah gives great importance to the concept of intention in our lives, and even explains that with the help of finding the "correct intention," we will be able to discover the spiritual life.

Let's say that a person stabs a knife into another person. Is this action good or bad? It is impossible to say since it depends on the intent of the person who stabs the knife. For example, if he is a surgeon and his intent is to help a sick person get well, then his action is good and appropriate. But if we are talking about a crime where his intent is to harm the other, then his action is negative and disgraceful. Despite both situations being similar in the actions carried out, it is the intention, after all, that determines the nature of the action. From this we see that in our world, the actions themselves are not the determining factor, but that the intention is.

The wisdom of Kabbalah explains that what motivates a person in all his actions is his desire to receive pleasure and delight. The desire to receive is actually the "material" from which creation was made. It is neither good nor bad, but simply is the basic tendency that exists in every creature in nature, the tendency to fulfill itself. But in man, the desire to receive is accompanied by an intention that defines the way it is used, and it can be one of two kinds: the intent "for the sake of receiving," for my good no matter what happens to the other, or the intent, "for the sake of bestowing," so that it will be good for the other, and thus also good to me.

The Kabbalists explain that also in spiritual development, the principle is the intention. This is since from the first time we acquire the intention for the sake of bestowal, and completely intend to enjoy only when others enjoy themselves, when their desires are fulfilled, then we

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enter the spiritual world and attain a new attribute of bestowal, the attribute of the Creator. It is specifically when we use our desires to fulfill others, that we ourselves are filled with powerful joy that doesn't end, spiritual pleasure.

-from 3rd part of the daily Kabbalah lesson

Daily Kabbalah Definition

Definitions in the daily Kabbalah lesson guide a precise, spiritual approach to terms, & disqualify materialized corporeal definitions

Sons Of The World (*Bnei Ha-Olam*)

What are the "sons of the world" mentioned in *The Zohar*?

Man has different desires, various qualities which are more or less close to holiness, through which he sees the whole world. In part of them he reveals the power of bestowal, and those parts where he doesn't reveal the power of bestowal, he should minimize, hide, and keep them under *tzimtzum* (restriction). These desires in man that are not yet corrected, not associated nor related to the spiritual process are called "sons of the world."

-from 1st part of the daily Kabbalah lesson

Daily Kabbalah Reality Check

Examples in the daily Kabbalah lesson elucidate spiritual concepts through explanations of situations in this world

Standing Together In Front Of Mount Sinai And Shouting

Question: In the beginning you said that the work with studying *The Zohar* is not complete unless we are included in the common *Kli*. **The congress is the place for revealing the common *Kli*. What do we have to do to get there?**

Dr. Laitman's Answer: We created this pretty picture, as if the whole *Kli* is between us, but in fact we do nothing. It is all the Creator's work; I just need to wait for Him to do it. The meaning is that we need to expect it, want it, and make it happen with all of our might, as much as we can. It is written, "I have expected salvation." This is what I need to do, to expect salvation. We are surrounding Mount Sinai and are shouting. It is written, "and the people of Israel sighed

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from the work.” The accumulation of the common desire invites the Surrounding Light, and when we reach the state of being as one and want the common *Kli* to be revealed, it will.

The congress is exactly the correct place for unification of the desires. Under these conditions, we will be able to congeal our desires to reveal the common desire, and realize that it is being revealed in the whole nation, men and women, as it is described in the accord of Mount Sinai. Just as in the internality of each person, all desires must participate, right and left, large and small, all desires together. So are we expecting that at the common stage of the congress we will reveal a desire that is united enough, that through the law of equivalence of form, the Surrounding Light will influence us; this is how it works.

It's not necessary for each person to try and discover it all inside himself, rather we need to try and reveal it all in our common *Kli*. We hear in the lessons about the different desires and attributes that are in each of us, and the states that exist in us. If we try to locate them within ourselves, all together, it is the best. We all need to exert our efforts together, and not each one working on finding it inside himself. We exert towards revealing it in our common *Kli*, for it is not in me that all the things *The Zohar* talks about are: Nevochadnetser, Pharaoh, Moses, the Kartumes, and everything that is written in *The Zohar*. I don't know what these desires are and I can't identify these attributes. I don't have the ability to appreciate the things in the heights of which *The Zohar* is written. The effort towards trying to see it in one shared body is the important thing. We learn from *The Zohar's* creators that ten friends that united and connected together reached the correction of all the degrees in one whole *Kli*. This is how we need to view our state.

-from 1st part of the daily Kabbalah lesson