

Kabbalah on Free Will

Michael Laitman Top 5 Q&A Series
From Michael Laitman's Personal Blog –
www.laitman.com

5)

Question: You talk a lot about upbringing and education. However, nothing was ever accomplished through persuasion.

Answer by Michael Laitman: My organization and I do not want to persuade anyone who does not wish to listen to us. Actually, we don't want to persuade anyone about anything. We are only addressing those who want to learn about the method of Kabbalah. We address those who feel a need to find a new way of life.

In fact, persuasion is contrary to the laws of nature. This is because a person's only freedom of will is to change himself, and it is forbidden to deprive him of this opportunity!

4)

Question: What does a free person feel?

Answer by Michael Laitman: Man's freedom lies in being able to maintain the equilibrium in all of creation, to sustain it and balance it "standing on one foot." On the right side of the scale is the Creator's force of bestowal. On the left side of the scale is the Creator's force of reception. These are direct and opposite sides; the holy and evil forces. And if a person can balance himself in between them, he is given the freedom of will from the influence of both and can thereby express his free choice.

3)

Question: You always say that man is not free and obeys his genes, instincts, and influence of society. At the age of 20 he is fully formed, like a freshly minted

coin, and all his actions are predefined in advance. So is it possible to be a free man, and what does it mean – to be free?

Answer by Michael Laitman: To be free means to feel that you are 100% dependent upon the Creator, but “of your own free will,” meaning that it is your decision to be so.

Man feels free when he decides, on his own, that he wants to remain under the influence and authority of the Creator, instead of being slave to his egoism.

We can't imagine what freedom means, because we think of it as the absence of any influence. However, that is an impossibility, as there is no such thing as an empty void free from any influence whatsoever.

Freedom is a balance of forces, achieved through one's conscious choice and effort.

We can only become free if we rise above our egoistic desire. This does not mean that we involuntarily and completely fall under the dominion of the Creator and the desire to bestow. Instead, it is a choice we make to be governed by the desire to bestow instead of the ego. It is then that we can reside in the balance between the attributes of reception and bestowal. Such a state is called freedom (*Klipat Noga*).

2)

Question: How can you explain the meaning of freedom to a person born into slavery and sitting in a cell? How does it feel to be free?

Answer by Michael Laitman: You can feel freedom only when that you want to bestow, and you are given that opportunity. If someone doesn't let you bestow, it means that he robs you of freedom and oppresses you. Lack of freedom doesn't mean that you can't do anything you want.

It's written, that we will be a “free people in our land.” In our land means “in our desire” (land - *aretz*, from the word *ratzon* – *desire*). Freedom is prepared for us precisely within desire to bestow.

1)

Question: Why can't our human society reach the state of mutual guarantee naturally, while staying on the animate level like cells in a body?

Answer by Michael Laitman: A human being is far too complicated a creature to connect with others this way. Here's why.

Egoism becomes qualitatively bigger on each level of nature, going from the still level, to the vegetative, to the animate, and the human. The bigger an object's

egoism, the more individualistic it is, and the more incapable it is of uniting with others. Therefore, as one develops, one feels more separate from others.

Nowadays, it's not only the psychologists and sociologists, but also the economists and the politicians who are discovering that the world has become interconnected and therefore we - humanity - must unite. However, they believe that they are able to do this using a corporeal method, and that everything will settle down if only we create a world bank, a world government, a world upbringing, and a world-wide connection.




However, after having a few more meetings like the recent G20 summit, they will begin to understand that they lack the method to unite. Unfortunately, before they realize this, people may have to go through great suffering, including a lack of safety, a feeling of disorientation, total powerlessness, and universal grief. People cannot bear to be in a state of uncertainty, since constant alarm is worse than death. Our minds cannot function under such circumstances. Yet all of this may happen in order for us to realize that the only way to achieve unification among us is to rise above our egoistic nature.

This is not so on the still, vegetative, and animate levels, where all of nature and its parts are instinctively, naturally interconnected. They supplement each other and interact with each other harmoniously, without any freedom of choice or any decision-making.

Unification between people, however, can only be achieved when each person does it consciously. Unlike the other levels of nature, the Creator did not just make us unite by giving us instincts for this. Our unification is possible only if we acquire the quality of bestowal and love, where everyone participates and joins with everyone. To do this, we have to rise above ourselves and our egoism, and achieve the Biblical commandment of "love your neighbor as yourself."

This is how the quality of the Creator will be revealed among us, and we will become similar to Him. We will then understand why He acted this way in regard to us.

Related Material:

-  [Freedom of Choice](#) – a short film (15 min.) directed by Semion Vinokur raising questions that the great minds throughout history have struggled to answer
-  [Free Will: Pleasure & Pain](#) – part 1 in an introductory series on free will, explaining the pleasure and pain principle
-  [Free Will: The Four Factors](#) – part 2 in an introductory series on free will, explaining the four factors in relation to a person's free will