

The New Writings of Rav Ashlag: Article on World Peace Part 5

Topics of Class #4

1. **Pain and suffering is a propelling force**
2. **Unfortunately, we move to the next level only when chaos is too much to bare in the present level**
3. individual cannot exist, had he been isolated to himself . We need others to fulfill our needs.
4. Humans were created to live a life of society. We are like cogwheel tied together to a number of other cogs
5. Individual cog has no freedom of motion in and of itself
6. The cog's value is its service to the whole machine.

Evil or Goodness of an individual is measured by how much damage or service he provides to the community as a whole;

Chapter 5

And these things are as obvious as the sun at noon, both with regards to the Truth inherent in them, as well as with regards to the Goodness inherent in them.

The collective has only what is there in the individuals and the good of society means the good of each and every individual of that society. And an individual who harms the society ends up taking his share of that harm.

Likewise, an individual who benefits the society ends up having his share of that goodness. This is because individuals are only parts of the collective and the collective has no additional value or an added importance beyond being the sum total of individuals that compose it.

The collective and the individual are one and the same

For this reason we need to understand, that the collective and the individuals are one and the same, and that no harm is caused to the individual because of his great subservience to the collective.

That is because even the freedom of the collective and the freedom of the individual are also one and the same, because just as much as they share the good between them, so also they share freedom between them.

Thus, good qualities and bad qualities, and good deeds and bad deeds, are measured as such only with reference to the good of the whole.

Naturally, these things are true if all the individuals in the community perform their duties towards the collective perfectly, and also get compensated according to what they really deserve; in other words, no one takes a portion that belongs to his friend.

Indeed, if a small portion of a community does not behave in this manner, the end result is not only that they harm the community, but they also harm themselves.

While there is no need to discuss at length something that is familiar and known, we have discussed this at length in order to draw attention to the weak spot, that is, the place that needs to be corrected.

In other words, we wanted to show that the only thing lacking in this world is for each individual to understand that his own good depends on the just service that he renders to the collective, as well as the just allocation [of resources] to every individual member of the collective.

Certainly we have a world of plenty, but we need to know how to enjoy it.

The Means for Correcting the World: Mercy, Truth, Righteousness and Peace

Now, having properly verified the level of goodness that is in store for us, which is in His image—that is to say,

- 1) that all the individuals in society fulfill their role perfectly, each according to what was assigned to him; and
- 2) that each individual would take his share of the available resources, at a just rate, in a way that one would not touch his friend's share...

From now on we must see and observe the actual ways and means that are at our disposal, in order to hasten for ourselves that goodness and happiness