

## THE PLACE OF LOVE

Paper at the symposium with the theme 'The hidden word in Islam, Christianity and Judaism' that took place on May 6, 2006 in Bilthoven, Netherlands, by Rabbi, Kabbalist Michael Portnaar, Ph. D.

### **Love and 'The hidden word'**

I think it is wise to have first a close look at the core of our interest: 'the hidden word', so that we will have as much as possible a common understanding during our meeting and mark the outlines of this field. That will save us from unwanted confusion of tongues by which our best intentions can be overshadowed.

The term 'hidden word' itself consists of two components: 'hidden' and 'word'. What is 'word' in this context and what is 'hidden'? And why should the word 'hidden' be hidden? 'Word' in this context is the total of coverings in which the creative forces of the operational system of the universe are hidden after their 'descending' in our world. It carries the message in it how man here on earth can and will come to the ultimate fulfillment and perfection.

The 'word' which we are discussing here, is the bearer of the eternal, unchanging, Instruction which was hand down to man. As such, the 'word' requires the predicate 'hidden', because the eternal nature indicates the fact that it is not subject to material changes; changes like place, time, space, imaginary conceptions, etc. The 'word' is also the High light that systematically leads man to his final goal.

So, man is called to open up himself for this 'hidden word', to make himself accessible, receptive, by which he will be able to receive al the good that is destined for him from above. And it is 'hidden' to indicate that it is not something you just can take. From below there must be desire by man and he must put effort to be able to receive it. These two movements in man should lead to bring him in conformity with the laws of the universe, from which the principal law is the law of absolute selflessness.

If man regularly pursue this trait, both inwardly as outwardly, then the 'hidden' of the word will be increasingly dissolved for him, 'the hidden word' is then increasingly 'revealed' for him.. In earthly life, this law is translated by the requirement from above that individual creations here on earth, should love each other unconditional.

### **Love**

Here on earth there is absolutely no love in the true sense of the word. The law of the earth is clear: maximize self-advantage with minimal effort. That is the early

law of our life here on earth, and in itself it has no connection with the higher world. So if someone here is not (yet) connected with the higher world, he is subject to this one all-covering law, while all other laws are derived from this. So with minimal effort obtaining as much as possible benefit for oneself, self-interest. And even it seems to us that we are able to give, that is only seemingly so. It always comes down to: 'I scratch your back so you will scratch mine'.

If a man has reached a certain age and need a partner or so, then that is absolutely because of self-interest. If an 'adolescent' is in love, then that is just a childish and underdeveloped feeling, for he projects among other things his own sexuality on an other. And everyone must get through this to come to his personal spiritual maturity.

So on earth there is no love. Where then is love? And what is 'love'? And why the 'secret word' instructs us to love each other? And why do we experience a certain feeling of 'loving'? This all comes to us as a metaphorical force, which force we indirectly receive from above and about which we think that it is love.

But true love begins when I get the first signs whereby I see that I am at a big distance from the Creator. This is the beginning of true love. Strange, isn't it, because that is different than we traditionally think. So when I get the feeling that I come in darkness, that the Creator - the operational system of the Universe - is so enormous high, and at the same time I feel I am all alone - that is the beginning of the radiance, on a distance, of the High light on me, and the shining of that light gives love. You see? And not that man gets fucked up by attaching himself to other things, because that is no love, that is one's own crazyness... and everyone should go through that.

You can't love your people, your family or your country in the true, higher reality. Of course you need to do things for your country. Let's say that, G'd forbid, there will be a war, then you have to join the army and do what is necessary for your country, but you don't do that out of 'love' for your country, because that does not exist. You can feel affection, but love is only when you begin to experience some conformity with the laws of the universe. That is love. It is not yours, but it is what you experience because of your receptivity for the eternal laws of the universe.

The word self-love refers, according to the dictionary, to selfishness, it assumes that people are able to love themselves and that is absolutely impossible. How great would it be if every man will truly love himself. It would be really great! It is a holy man who experiences love in himself and love himself, because to love yourself means that you bring yourself in conformity with the laws of the universe. Actually you don't love yourself then, but you experience love in yourself. From the Father, the only creative force in the higher, one can receive and experience love, whereby man on earth brings himself in conformity with it.

The experience of the Light in the Father is the true love, which is embedded in the 'hidden word'. For man alone is as a black box, with no light and no love. It is impossible to love one another if you don't yet experience love in yourself. Therefore it is also said that man only can marry from the age of 20. It is assumed

that than he already can experience some love in himself. What does exist is self-interest, or the desire to receive pleasure '. Man in our world is born with that and he absolutely has no place yet to feel love.

At some point man suddenly start to experience the point in his heart, a little spot of giving. Then he will bring up prayer to the Creator, because we experience the Creator by His 'hidden word' and only within ourselves. You can not talk about how the Creator is in essence, that is not given to us, otherwise it will be pure speculations. Either you experience the Creator, or you don't speak about Him and hope that you will experience Him.

One of the main principles of the system of the laws of the universe is: nothing comes from above if not aroused from below. So love can not come into you if you do not first ask for it! You must bring up prayer, and then from above comes light in the same degree that you have aroused the higher forces from below. So love is the result of the desire and effort of man and mankind to come in conformity with the attributes of the universe. The first move comes always from man himself.

People ask: 'Nobody loves me, why am I alone? Why don't I have a partner? 'The answer is that everything is up to you, also here on earth, if you don't make a move to someone else, then that means you still want to have just for yourself. Therefore 'you are alone'. And that applies to an individual as well as for humanity as a whole. Then comes the desire to receive love and to know what love is, to experience it. And that light what you receive from the Creator by the 'hidden word', means that you experience love in the Creator; in and not for the Creator.

So, man cannot have love for one another. You must first seek and find love in the Creator. Love comes from the Creator and not from a man. If you already experience that a little bit, then you start from the point in the heart in yourself, to build up love in yourself. We image that as a movement to the left in your own inner. You are going to experience that love, but it doesn't belong to you. It is an experience and not something what has existence on its own and belongs to you. Why than do you experience that as a movement to the left? In yourself you have left versus right and your spiritual work is the range of your inner between these two extremes. As a result of that work you obtain the middle-line, which you experience in yourself as love. In yourself, but you can't yet love anyone.

Once you have build up enough power in your experience of love *in* yourself -not self-love, but love in yourself and for that you obviously had to work very hard on yourself - then you get a place in yourself where you can experience love. And so when we talk about selfishness, then we actually always talk about self-interest. Also one cannot speak about love for the Creator, because it is not given to man to look in other people's soul to see what is happening there. You can only experience inside your own perception, therefore it is always love in yourself and in the Creator. Love is in the Creator: He is in you, because within us radiates the light of the 'hidden word', the light of Infinity.

When you have build up those forces that are on the left within your inner, you than can make a shift to the right. 'Right' in your inner means experience of love in the other. Everyone in every state has its own left and right, and the middle-line is love *in* yourself. But a man who is looking to another, must do that only from his right side, the side of mercy, from his own rightside to the general rightside of the other. You may not look at another from the perspective of your leftside, so from your own inner work on yourself. You may only look to another from your rightside and not from your leftside, because in your leftside is your self-interest, your own misery and problems until you will be fully corrected in order to give.

But when you experience love, then you have already the middle-line in yourself. Without this middle-line you are doing wrong. Why? Because everything outside of you is the Creator. It does not matter who is in front of you, whether that is a Jew, a Christian or a Muslim. Everything outside your skin is the Only Creative Force, whose main attribute, absolute selflessness, is poured out among the whole universe.

That is the core of the instruction which is passed from above to man: the correction along three lines. All three worldreligions really speak from that instruction, about the 'hidden word'. The three religions are also reflections of these three lines in the correction of mankind. Only the 'carrier' of this middle-line, this love, seems somewhat different in every religion. But also that being 'different' is only in the perception of the followers of that and of other religions.

This correction method by 'three lines' is a main principle in the whole book Zohar, the secret teachings of Judaism, which was given to all mankind. We see that for example also in Jewish worship, where two people stand on both sides of the reader of the Torah (middle-line). Also Christianity has meant nothing more than this (think for example of the 'trinity'), but by a seemingly different 'cloathing' of the 'hidden word'. But if you only believe in 'the story' and don't let yourself be purified and build up through the 'hidden word', then you will not come to true love. And your believe in whatever name will not redeem you!

So the middle-line has to do with your own corrections, therefore you should not look to someone else throught the middle-line, but only through the rightline, grace. Whether the other is a Christian, Jew, Muslim, atheist or Papua, you must look at them the same way. A 'godless person' is godless in regard to himself, but in regard to the Creator, he is 100% okay, because man is seen from above in his true state. So everything outside yourself is perfect, and that is the true reality. If anyone else thinks and feels different about this, then that is because of he is not corrected in regard to the laws of the universe.

You will see love *in* the other, and not cherish love *for* the other, because that is wishful thinking and the Creator absolutely doesn't want us to do so. If you claim to love others to cherish, then inevitably you deal with your own interest. If you see love *in* the other, then that means that in him you recognize the attributes of the Creator, even if it is a godless man, let alone that it is someone of good will, a person of another faith or another worldview ... because everything outside yourself

is the Creator! Obviously you to generate power to do so, because your own faith can make you proud to hurt the other. And then because of yourself you also will remain from all the good!

So we must see love in the other. If you speak about the other, you really speak about yourself, about your personal perception of the other. And when you can see love in the other, than you will connect the love in him with the Creator. You will see that everything is in the Creator. You make a fast movement up to the Creator. So you connect the love in the other with the love in the Creator. Because of that you don't 'hang on' to another person, but you only 'hang on' to the Only Creative Force. And you connect all humanity and all forms of nature with Him, you draw everything on Him! Then you have reached the perfect love: the love that is not connected at the object of that love. You love the Creator and all creation unconditionally without any detours!

You have made a total of five movements in order to achieve perfect love by the three (see the drawing). A Jew sees in this five emanations of light (sefirot), and in those three lines the way towards the correction and fulfillment. A Christian sees a cross in it. A Muslim prays five times a day to the Creator and sees through those three lines the ascending of a white horse with the Prophet on it. The white horse is the body of man that first needs to be purified, so with pure intentions in prayer ascend to the Creator. The body is as it were sacrificed and made 'white' of sins. If you take a look now at the drawing that goes with this lecture, then you will see an image of what follows here below:

- The first movement (1.) comes from man, goes from below up to the Creator; that is called prayer, request for mercy. It comes from the point in the heart, the desire in man to give. His leaves his self-interest below, behind himself. Through this movement man makes himself receptive and gets in conformity with the attribute of the Creator;
- From above comes the resonance (2.), the answer that is experiences by man as love which is substantially present in the Creator;
- Man acquires the power to spiritually works on himself(2) (3.) and to experience and build up love in himself;
- When he has corrected himself, so that he is able to a certain degree to absorb and to experience love *in* himself, then he makes a move to the right (4.), to the other. He then will see love *in* the other!
- When he experience love *in* the Creator, *in* himself and *in* the other, then he can return to the Creator that all-embracing love, to draw anything upon the Creator (5.).

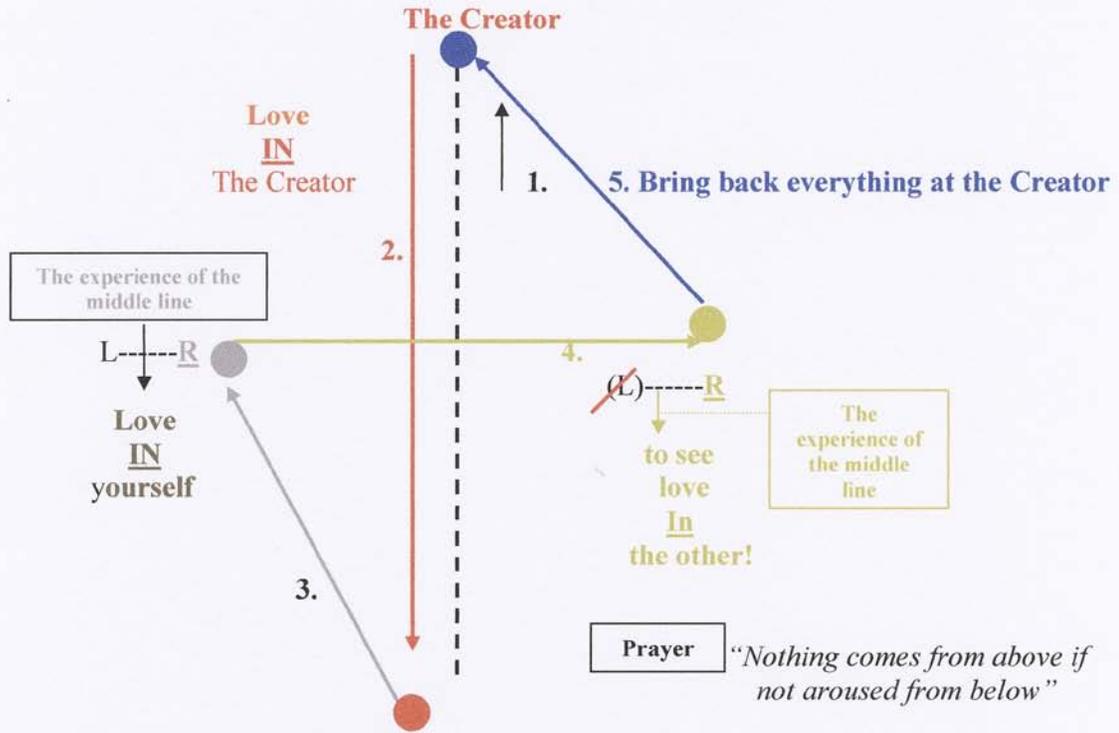
So everything consists of three parts, as in man: head, torso and lower body. Similarly humanity. And it doesn't matter who is head and who is lower body, because the head can't do without torso and without lower body. Similarly, the lower body can't exist without head and torso. Those are the three sons of Noah: Shem, Yafet and Cham, and they all are the carriers of the kaleidoscope of the creative forces of the universe!

In short, if we want to get to the true fulfillment and perfection, we must face indisputable that we structurally need each other and really can't do without each other! We can not appease us by saying: 'but we do tolerate each other'. Tolerance is not enough, no way that it will bring us to the ultimate fulfillment. It is simply not in the Instruction! Because tolerance is nothing else then a form of the attitude of 'ceasefire': I endure you and expect that you also will endure me.

The only way is to see love in each other and to draw that upon the Creator! Even it seems to us absolutely impossible, yet we will reach it by trial and error, absolutely! Only this attitude, inner and outer, will bring us together to the purpose of creation in regard to each of us personally and in regard of all of us. From above we are asked to make our common life ALIVE! From this moment, let us also make this country, the Netherlands, ALIVE. If we do that from our own sense and willingness, then we avoid suffering and misery. And then we as it were keep ahead of last mentioned. If we don't do so, then we put ourselves in contrast with the eternal, perfect laws of the universe resulting in suffering and misery.

And that will in turn help us after bearing suffering, still to observe the eternal Instruction of LOVE. And in the sacred book Zohar is predicted that from the year 1995 from the current era, the great masses of earthlings will come to such development of their souls, that they will be able to see love *in* each other and *in* the entire creation and to act so themselves.

### Drawing: the formula of Love



The higher part in the human being: the point in the heart – a dot of to give.

The lower part in the human being: one piece of undifferentiated feeling – the wish to receive selfish.

### Love is

To experience “the hidden word” as a result of the conformity qua attributes with the laws of the Universe.