



***Authentic Kabbalah - Sephardic Studies
Benei Noah Studies - Anti-Missionary/Anti-Cult Materials***

Sh'aylat Halom, The Dream Question

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Introduction

"In a dream, in a vision of the night.... Then He opens the ears of men...that He may turn man aside from his conduct" Iyob 33:16,17.

"Hear now my words, if there be a prophet among you, I HaShem make myself known to him in a vision, and speak to him in a dream." Bamidbar 12, 6

One of the techniques used by spiritually minded Torah observant Jews to understand the Will of G-d is the Sh'aylat Halom (Dream Question). Various forms of Dream Questions exist and are to be found in a variety of books used by Sephardim, Ashkenazim, and Hasidim. The Question is asked only for special needs when answers are needed to pressing questions and after all avenues of rational analysis have been exhausted. One must be on a high level of kedusha (holiness) in order to merit an answer. Due to most people not having the necessary level of kedusha, Dream Questions are rarely used other than by individual leading Rabbis of the generation.

What a Dream Question does is to direct the neshama soul, dwelling in the unconscious mind, to ascend above to the Heavenly realms while the body is asleep and to ask the pressing question. One must be aware that ascending to Heaven is not like taking a ride on an elevator. For a neshama soul to ascend to Heaven, and to be able to make a request therein and to consciously remember the answer upon awakening is a heavy task. The holy angels assigned by G-d to guard the way to the Garden of Eden (i.e., Heaven) do not allow passage to just any neshama. The neshama passing through must be of the highest level of purity. Being that most do not meet this criterion, a Dream Question can be a dangerous undertaking for the unprepared.

The Question is addressed to the archangel Metatron, the Prince of the Presence, who as the Talmud teaches (San. 38), "has the same name as his Master". "Master" is a reference to G-d, who is called Shadai, the Almighty, the numerical value of Shadai, and Metatron both being equal to 314. It is Metatron who is the Chief of the Guardian Angels who guard the path of ascent to Heaven.

The Holy Zohar teaches (Tikunei Zohar, 14b) that Metatron is also the garment of the Divine Presence of G-d, the Shekhina. No one, therefore, by Divine order, approaches G-d other than through Metatron. According to Midrash and Kabbalah, Metatron served as the angelic teacher of Moshe Rabbeynu. Metatron is referred to throughout the Bible as the Malakh HaShem, the "Angel of the L-rd." Metatron is also identified to be the angel Raziel (Tikunei Zohar 127a) the revealer of the secrets of the Torah to Adam HaRishon. This is why he is the chosen emissary for the dissemination of G-d's Torah and wisdom. It is for this reason that invoking the assistance of the great Metatron (Raziel) is considered necessary. For one's prayers, all the more so, one's neshama does not receive access to Heaven unless it first is scrutinized and approved by Metatron.

Great preparations are to be performed in order to enable one to properly ascend on high. The following requirements of fasting and cleanliness are to be taken quite seriously; one must be sincere and not take these things lightly. The procedure, when followed according to directions claim to be tried and true, to reveal to the seeker that which is sought. If one is not a Torah observant, G-d fearing Jew, the angel Metatron, who is also the Angel of the Torah will not allow such a neshama to pass. Instead, Metatron might punish such an unworthy soul by giving it terrible and frightening nightmares.

This material is presented here for academic interests only. For those who wish to make use of the actual Question, usage of the original Hebrew version is imperative.

Halakha - As with all prayers using holy names, these names are to be recited silently. Mouth them with your lips, but must never allow sound to proceed from your mouth. Visualize the names, and mentally recite it's sound. Where this is applicable, the Hebrew has been provided.

Sh'aylat Halom
Dream Question, Tried and True
from: The Book of the Raziel HaMalakh

Halakha - Fast for three days in purity, humility and awe. Dress in clean, white garments. Be clean of all impurity. Purify yourself for three days, these being Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Do not eat until Thursday. On Thursday night, light a candle in your home, lie upon the ground in the corner of your room, turn your face towards the light of the candle, and recite your question or request. Do not ever recite any holy Name or angelic name out loud. This can bring down a curse upon one's head. This then is the formula:

"I adjure you by the Ineffable Name by He who sits upon the clouds of Heaven above, that you come to me this night with favor and a pure heart. Come to me only in love and speak to me the answer to my question, whatever it is that I request of you. Interpret for me my question, even as the angel Gavriel interpreted the dream of Pharaoh for Yosef. His words were true, so may you come to me this night in truth.

Solve for me my riddle, my request, by the power of your name, for your name is Prince Metatron. By the power of the Ineffable Name, He who sits upon the wheels of the chariot, by the power of He who lives forever, who sits upon Aravot, whose name is YAH. Rejoice before Him.

In the name of G-d who is Great, Powerful, and Awesome, who is Beloved, Pleasant and Faithful. I adjure you, Prince Metatron by the name Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh who revealed himself to Moshe, the son of Amram, within the bush. "Blessed are you, Adonai who teaches me your edicts." (Tehilim 119:12).

By the power of the Name that is interpreted in seventy languages, praised in seventy tongues and praised in seventy names. I adjure you in the name of He who rocks the world. The hosts of above and below tremble before His Name and from His wrath will the earth shake. No nation shall endure His fury. Blessed be the honor of Adonai from His place. Blessed be the Name of His glorious kingdom forever and ever.

I adjure you Prince Metatron in the name of the G-D of Israel, G-D of Avraham, Yitzhak and Ya'aqob and in the names of the eternal angels who stand before the great G-D. These are the seven angels: Mikhael, Gavriel, Rifakel, Anakel, Yitzurikel, Tarikel & Azikel.

By Your Name and by Your truth, for Your Name is Merciful and Gracious. Blessed be the Name of His glorious kingdom forever and ever.

I adjure you, Prince Metatron in the names of the princes who govern the four seasons of the year. Those of the first season are Nurikel and Tzadkikel. Those of the second season are Azikel, Samakel and Anakel. Those of the third season are Zavadikel and Samanikel. Those of the fourth season are Gavriel, Rifakel, Ashbirah, and Hasharon. Their dominion is over every season and every year.

I adjure you Prince Metatron by the blessed Name, by He whose Name is blessed, aloft, above all blessings and praise. For His Name is in yours and yours in Him. For before all is His Name correct, forever and ever will His name stand. Before His Name, will the hosts of heaven and earth tremble.

Praised is Your name Adonai, all the supernal hosts, all praise Your Name. Your Name has not been foreseen, before Your Name shall all tremble. The sea shall fall back in awe of Your Name and its surf and waves shall give glory and praise to Your Name. The earth trembles before Your gaze at her, her pillars melt away and are in fear of Your Name. Upon all is Your Name eternal.

The dwellers of the universe fear and tremble in terror of Your Name. The dwellers of the depths and the netherworld, the wilderness and the great darkness are alarmed before Your Name. The Garden of Eden and all your righteous ones will sing to Your Name. All that has within it the breath of life, with the songs of their mouths, they shall give honor to Your Name.

And I, I am dust and ashes, worthless, of stricken heart and fallen spirit, a shadow that passes like a flower of the field. I come to lay before You my supplications, to request grace from before You and before the throne of Your glory. For You are near to all who call upon You, and present for those who seek You. Grant me, I pray my request with desire. Speedily bring me my answer in your grace. Do my will, for You are my Creator.

"

Halakha - After all this recite your request with your face turned downwards, recite then these verses, all with pure intention and you shall see your desire.

"For He is full of compassion, forgiving iniquity and does not destroy, often He turns His anger, not stirring up all His wrath" (Tehilim 78:38)

"And Adonai came down in a cloud and spoke to him, and took of the spirit that was upon him and gave it to the seventy Elders, and it came to pass that when the spirit rested upon them that they prophesied" (Bamidbar 11:25)

"And Adonai descended in the cloud and stood with him there and proclaimed the Name of Adonai. And Adonai passed by before him and proclaimed Adonai, Adonai Merciful and Gracious, G-d, long-suffering, abundant in mercy and truth, keeping mercy to thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin" (Shemot 4:6-7)"

Adonai hear, Adonai forgive, Adonai hearken and act. Do not delay, for Your own sake, my G-d, for Your city and Your people are called by Your Name" (Dan.9:19).

"And Ya'aqob left Be'ersheva and went towards Haran. In addition, he found a certain place, and rested there all night, for the sun had gone down. And he took of the stones of the place and put them under his head, and he laid down in that place. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up upon the earth,

with its top reaching into Heaven. And behold the angels of G-d went up and down on it. And behold, Adonai stood above him and said: I am Adonai G-d of Avraham your father and the G-d of Yitzhak. The land upon which you lie, to you will I give it and to your descendents. . . And behold, I am with you and will guard you in all the places that you will go" (Bereshit 28:10-13,15)

Conclusion

Answers to Dream Questions are never precise; they never make rational sense. The answer might come in the form of a pasuk, or in a form of many letters, which themselves spell out a pasuk. Great deliberation and insight is needed to understand the wisdom imparted from Heaven.