

# KABBALAH TODAY

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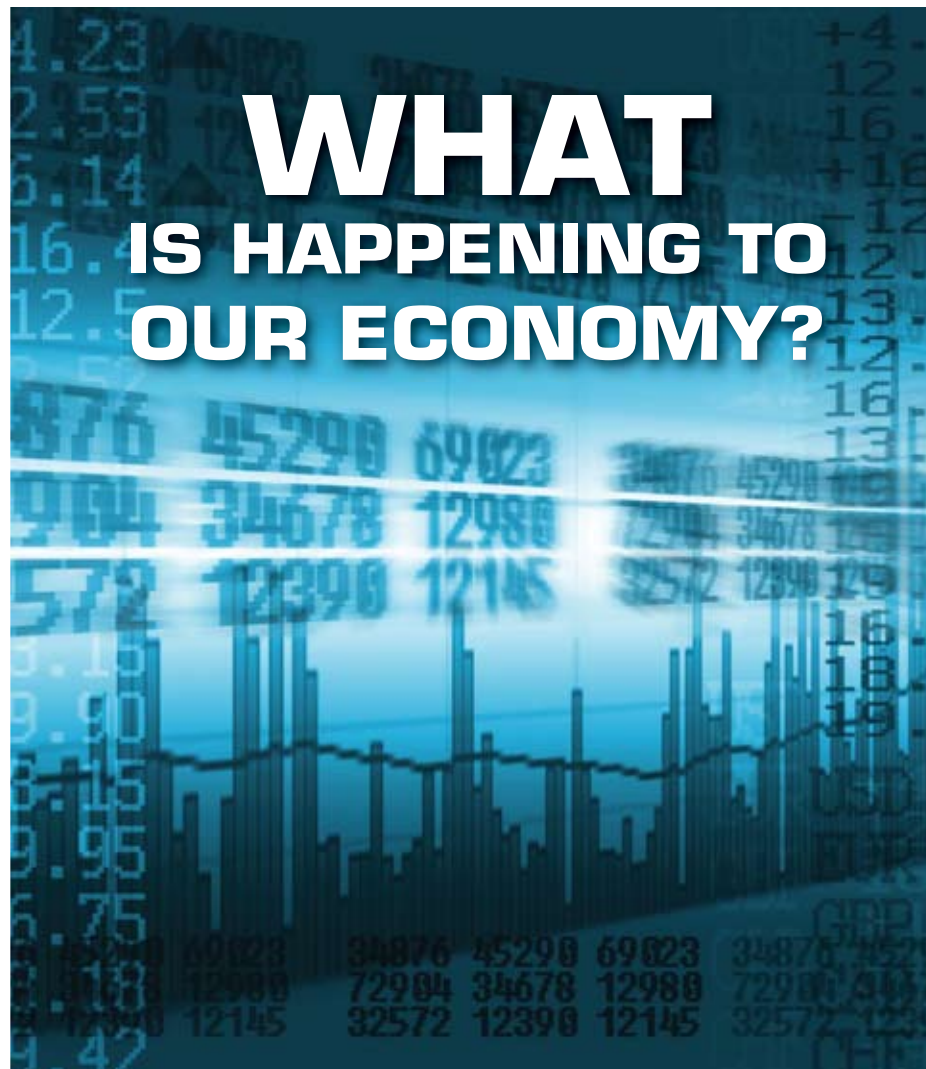
## WHO'S THE REAL ENEMY IN THE RUSSIAN - GEORGIAN WAR?

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## The recent Wall Street plunge has left everyone in shock. It's time to change our systems at the root if we are to climb out of this economic crisis

by Chaim Ratz

The events surrounding the American and global economy prove that this time it's serious – the global economy is in a deep crisis. Today, the million (or should we say billion) dollar question is, "How do we establish a truly viable and stable global economic system?"

We don't have to be brilliant economists to figure out the answer, says the wisdom of Kabbalah. We only have to understand that Nature's plan is to bring all its parts to work in perfect unison, and in human society, this means that the work of each individual must benefit the whole of society.

The best example of such behavior is a living organism, whose cells interconnect and work to benefit the body as a whole. In his article, "Building the Future Society," Kabbalist Yehuda Ashlag writes, "...each member is obligated by Nature to receive one's needs from

society, and to benefit society through one's work."

So in the economic system, just as with any social system, interdependency is the name of the game. The problem is that the foundation of human behavior, driving all economic and social systems, is the ego, which always prefers the narrow personal interests of investors and stockholders over the common good of the public. The pursuit of wealth, honor and control at the expense of others is the top priority for company owners.

Clearly, this does not match Nature's plan to bring its parts to unity and mutual bestowal, and hence the existence of our present economic systems isn't supported by Nature. In fact, the systems we have established in human society stand in complete contrast to Nature's system.

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### Editor's Note

#### KABBALAH EXPLAINS THE CURRENT EVENTS - FROM THE INSIDE OUT

So many unprecedented and astonishing things have recently taken place that it was a real challenge to select just several to cover in this issue.

In "What Is Happening to Our Economy?" you will find the Kabbalistic interpretation of the stunning Wall Street plunge, and three steps we can take as a global society to stabilize our economy.

In "The Hurricane Within," Kabbalah reveals why so many natural disasters have just erupted around the world and how we can achieve harmony with Nature.

Obviously, we couldn't write the October issue without covering the gripping Presidential race in the U.S. But as you'll find in "The U.S. Elections: Changing the World?" the real change in our world can only be made by us – the people.

On the other side of the globe, the aftermath of the Russian-Georgian war is still raising many questions. "Who's the Real Enemy in the Russian-Georgian War?" offers Kabbalah's unexpected answers.

For some lighter reading, "Cheat Codes to Reality" will let you in on what our lives and our video games have in common.

"The One Link Google Can't Reach" will tell you about something that even the unsurpassed Google Search Engine can't find – but Kabbalah's Search Engine can!

"Woman: the (Spiritual) Source of Life" sheds light on the age old dilemma: Why do women always want something, and what can be done to fulfill their insatiable desire?

Finally, you'll find out what Noah's Ark has to do with your life, and have a chance to read an enticing excerpt from *The Book of Zohar* – fresh from the press!



“...even if one is an important businessperson and is occupied with many negotiations, he is not exempted from engaging in this wisdom.”

The Rav of Ziditshov, *Depart from Evil and Do Good*

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In order for the economic system to survive, it must be aligned with Nature's model. And for that to happen, a number of initial steps need to be taken:

- All the existing media channels should be utilized to make people aware that we all constitute one multi-cellular body in which we are all connected to one another. Each and every cell (person) in this universal system must understand that the most profitable economic model for the individual is the one that brings happiness to others.

- The public must become aware of the real reasons for the crisis. People must understand that Nature has a plan for us, and that the turbulence we are now experiencing is a result of us acting against this plan.

- Decision makers will need to learn how the general system of Nature works, and what implications this carries for necessary changes in the human systems, including the economic system. Based on this knowledge, they should implement the corresponding changes in order to bring our social systems into balance with Nature's plan.



Only when we begin to think and operate in this direction, will we succeed in getting the world out of the mud that it is stuck in today, and lead it to safe ground.



by Mike Kellogg

## HISTORY IN THE MAKING

**O**n November 4, Americans will flock to local community centers, fire stations and other venues to participate in a rite as old as the country itself: the opportunity to select the next President of the United States. History will be made this year. For the first time, there will either be an African-American or a woman in the White House.

The election will be tightly contested, but what are the real differences between the candidates? The key issues that they address are the same: the war in Iraq, dependence on foreign oil, and a troubled economy. And of course, there are always issues related to employment, health care and the environment.

While their solutions to these issues differ, each candidate honestly believes that he is the one who can bring the country back to a position of prosperity, power, and global respect. Both agree that the policies of the past decade have severely injured America's standing in the world court of opinion. As a result, each proclaims himself the "agent of change" that can unite the country and the entire world.

## A TRADITION OF CHANGE

An old adage says that the only thing that is constant is change, and despite current rhetoric, change is nothing new in American politics. The founding fathers were probably the most radical proponents of change when they created a country dedi-

cated to "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness," one where "All men are created equal." Yet even with all the change that has taken place since that time, today we still face many of the same problems that we faced then: conflicts abroad, economic troubles at home, discrimination, and oppression of minorities.

If two hundred years of history have shown us that various policy changes do not create a happy, united country, and if keeping the status quo means a growing sense of polarization between citizens and an economy that continues its downward spiral, then isn't it time to do something *fundamentally* different? We must look for new, genuine solutions to the same old problems.

All of the changes that have occurred thus far in history have had a common thread: they've all tried to "fix" something in the external world. Discrimination? We will force desegregation upon the populace. Poverty? We will institute social security programs and elaborate systems of taxation. Environmental crises? We will legislate clean air, protection of endangered species, and resource utilization. The list could go on and on. We have a "fix" for every problem. But for some reason, each "fix" only seems to generate new and greater problems.

## WHAT REALLY NEEDS FIXING?

Kabbalah says it point blank: it is impossible for any world leader to make a lasting improvement by "fixing" something

in the external world. Any change that's made by intellectual, moral or physical power will not result in lasting improvement. Moreover, the leaders themselves are the products of their society; thus, it is unrealistic to expect a leader to know how to fix our problems. Change must start from the masses, rather than from the leaders. In other words, it is ourselves that we need to "fix," not our leaders or anything else out there in the world.

Kabbalah explains that Nature itself is the model with which to align ourselves. The world was designed to operate in balance and harmony, with each element working for the well-being of the whole. Everything in Nature operates in accordance with this principle – everything except us. Man is the only creature that consciously works for his own benefit and at the expense of others. It is this egoistic attitude toward reality that is the root of all our world problems.

However, changing our egoistic attitude is not at all a psychological matter. It is an actual development of a new sense within us, a sense that will lift us above our egoistic perception. We will then reveal our connection with each other within one integral system – one living and breathing human organism.

The methodology for this inner transformation is rooted within Nature itself, and it was discovered by people just like us. From their perspective, it is evident that all people will have to discover that they are interdependent parts of one whole, and therefore change their egoistic attitudes toward each other.

## AGENTS OF CHANGE

All of our current crises will vanish as humanity begins working as one body and comes into harmony with the rest of Nature. While it may still sound utopian to us, Kabbalists tell us that it is a foregone conclusion, and if we don't realize this, then social, environmental and political catastrophes will force us to realize how destructive our egoism is. At that point, we will start working together simply to avoid the incredible suffering.

That's where the wisdom of Kabbalah comes in, allowing us to recognize the true structure of the world and to identify man's role in it. By studying this structure, we will be able to change our society by changing ourselves from within. Then, we will truly be the "agents of change."





What makes nature go out of balance, and what can we do to save the planet?

by Riggan Shilstone

## AN OMINOUS TREND

It has happened again. The Caribbean Islands and United States have taken a triple punch: first Hurricane Gustav, then Hannah, and now Ike. Hurricane Gustav brought fears that Hurricane Katrina's massive devastation and loss of life may happen all over again as millions fled their homes in the New Orleans area. Fortunately, the storm weakened prior to landfall and the anticipated disaster was averted.

New Orleans escaped this time, but Haiti was not as fortunate. The rapid sequence of four hurricanes, beginning with Hurricane Faye in mid-August, resulted in a catastrophic destruction of the island's infrastructure. While the immediate death toll from the storms was relatively low, the ensuing humanitarian disaster is expected to claim possibly hundreds of lives from disease and starvation.

And now, the Texas coastline has been battered by Ike. Galveston was flooded, fires erupted in areas inaccessible to

firefighters, and millions lost power in Houston, possibly for weeks.

It's easy to focus on events close to home, but nature's onslaught has no geographic bias. Thousands are feared dead in India after monsoon floods caused a major river to break through its banks, cascading tons of water onto the villages below. In May, China was hit by a massive 8.0 earthquake that left nearly 70,000 people dead and 20,000 still missing months later.

On the other side of the world, the Chaiten volcano in Chile began erupting after thousands of years of silence. Nearby towns were evacuated as pyroclastic and lava flows threatened to engulf them.

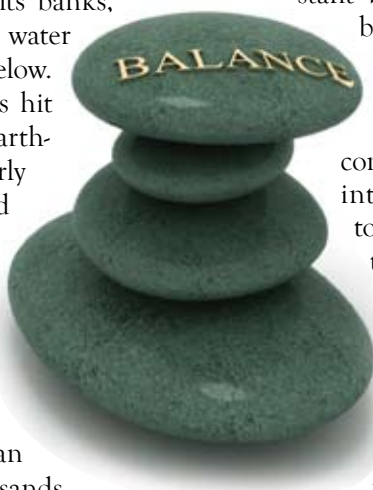
In spite of our tremendous advances in science and technology, Nature continues to remind us how powerless we truly are. But is there anything we can do to prevent the next

catastrophe? As a matter of fact, there's a lot we can do. And it starts by understanding our relationship with Nature.

## THE NATURAL BALANCE

If we take a close look at Nature, we will observe a constant balancing act between all of its parts. All the elements are interconnected and interdependent to the point that changing even one small detail can take the whole system out of balance. The system quickly adjusts, however, in order to restore equilibrium.

This is easiest to see on a small scale. If you take a bucket of ice out on a summer day, the ice will quickly melt while the surrounding air temperature will drop just a bit. The extremes of hot and cold balance



each other until they reach equilibrium. The same phenomenon happens in Nature on a larger scale, although the balancing of temperature and pressure extremes may temporarily result in the violent events that we call hurricanes, typhoons or tornadoes.

The principle of equilibrium also applies to the animal kingdom. Every element in the ecosystem, whether animal or vegetative, operates to ensure the balance and harmony of the system. Don't be misled by the harsh scenes of violence from the last nature documentary you saw. While Nature may seem cruel on the outside, a closer look shows that all the struggles and clashes are actually aimed at increasing its inner balance. Dr. Jane Goodall, the famous chimpanzee researcher who spent many years of her life in the jungle, testifies about it when sharing her experience: "I felt that there is not a single evil force in Nature, but only pure love."

## THE EGOISTIC IMBALANCE

Humans, on the other hand, are the only creatures who consistently disturb Nature's perfect balance. We worry only for our own sake while ignoring the balance and wellbeing of the entire system. That is why we allow ourselves to exploit each other, and even raise ourselves on the ruins of others. In fact, we tend to view Nature as something to be used for our own benefit.

We don't always understand the connections between our actions and Nature's response, but "ignorance of the law is no excuse." And as we try to convince ourselves that elaborate levee systems, high-tech modeling tools, and early warning systems will keep us safe, Nature repeatedly shows us that we are not exempt from its laws.

## HARMONIZING WITH NATURE

The wisdom of Kabbalah tells us that we are an integral part

of Nature's system. Even if we don't realize it, when we relate egoistically to each other and to the environment, we take the whole system out of balance. In turn, Nature inevitably applies "correcting" forces to rebalance its systems. And the more we move toward egoism, the more extreme are the means that Nature applies to push us back to balance. Eventually, we will be forced to recognize that only Nature can win this battle.

But we have a choice. We can choose to align ourselves with the system of Nature, rather than battle it. So if we are to solve the ecological crisis, we must learn how Nature functions and implement its principles in our human society.

To this end, we should first harness the various information systems to bring to public awareness the cause of our ecological crisis - consistent, ongoing violation of Nature's balance. On a parallel track, we should create the broadest possible awareness that all of Nature is a single multi-celled body in which every cell is connected to and dependent upon the other cells. In order for human society to be in balance with Nature, it likewise must begin operating as a single, interconnected and interdependent body.

If we acknowledge that humanity and Nature are one, and work to change the relationship between us from separation to unification, then we will bring balance back to Nature and thereby reach safety.

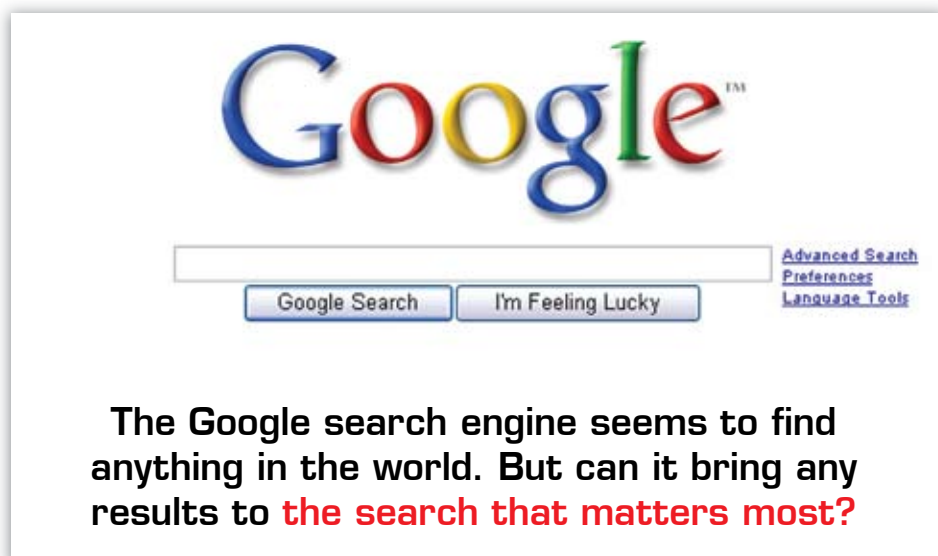




“...it is precisely this generation, which seems so vain and unruly, that is best suited for the Light...”

Rav Kook, Igrot 2 (Letters 2)

# THE ONE LINK GOOGLE CAN'T REACH



by Keren Applebaum

## THE GOOGLE DREAM WORLD

Deep in the synthetic forests of Silicon Valley is an enchanted kingdom called Googleplex. It's not easy to break through the walls surrounding the kingdom, but according to legend, it is a modern paradise. There is a gym, gourmet restaurants, swimming pools, a spa, video arcades and annual ski trips. All this is but a small part of the facilities offered to the subjects of the Google kingdom. A dream come true? Almost.

For those of you who don't know, Googleplex is the headquarters of a corporate giant — Google, best known for its effective search engine and the vari-

ous internet services it has developed over the years. The commodity it deals with is information, the most valuable asset in our day and age, bringing the company 25 billion dollars a year. No doubt, Google is a model of success in the business world, the glittering diamond in the throne of modern hi-tech industry.

## THE SECRET TO VIRTUAL SUCCESS

The secret of Google's success is simple: a little rectangle in the center of a white page. But it isn't just any rectangle. It's a gate to another world, an open invitation to the infinite space of the virtual universe. At any given moment, hundreds of thousands of questions flow

into the empty box and then into the heart of the headquarters in Mountain View, California. The Google squid sends its giant arms throughout the virtual world, finding answers to any request - even the most obscure.

Ask, and the Google oracle responds. Just fill in the box, and before you can say "Web Accelerator," you have the answer in front of you. Google gives us a way to find answers to all our questions and desires. Doesn't it?

## WHAT ARE WE SEARCHING FOR?

The power of Google's high-tech wizardry is astounding, but what's happening on the other end of the connection? What could so many people possibly be searching for to drive this massive beast so hard?

On the surface, there are as many answers to this question as there are people in the world. Some people search for "things" - products ranging from DVDs to multi-million dollar mansions. Just name it, and you can find someone who's selling it.

Others seek a sense of connection with people who have similar interests. A quick search of "Google Groups" shows over 1.5 million communities that you can join, and that's just the English speaking groups! No one needs to feel alone anymore - there are always others who have the same dreams, problems and interests as you.

Other people use Google to fulfill their thirst for knowledge. Using Google, you can be instantly connected to experts in any subject and at any time.

But there's something that all these searches have in common. Every single

person who types something into the Google search engine is trying to fill a need, a sense that something is missing. No matter how trivial, each request begins with a simple desire to be fulfilled.

Yet despite the unlimited fulfillment that Google seems to offer, we constantly come up with more questions and greater desires to feed into its willing jaws. Why are we never satisfied with the answers it has already given us?

## KABBALAH - THE SPIRITUAL SEARCH ENGINE

We are never satisfied because lasting satisfaction can't be found in anything that this world has to offer. The one desire that we have to fulfill in order to be truly satisfied is the desire to find the meaning of our lives - something Google can't find for us. Although it generates over fifty million hits when prompted by the question, "What is the meaning of my life?" Google can't really give us an answer.

In order to find the answer to this all-important question, we need a different kind of search engine - one that can draw us beyond the limited existence of this world and into a new, spiritual dimension of reality.

The wisdom of Kabbalah tells us that true fulfillment can only be found within us, and it provides us with just the "engine" to find it. Its algorithm allows us to search within and find the link to the very source of our lives. When clicking it, we will recognize who we truly are, why we spend most of our lives searching for fulfillment, and ultimately, the meaning of it all.

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of Life*

“I am glad that I have been born in such a generation when it is already permitted to publicize the wisdom of truth.”

Kabbalist Yehuda Ashlag (Baal HaSulam), “The Teaching of Kabbalah and Its Essence”

by Crystle Medansky

A study published in the July issue of the *Journal of Happiness Studies* reports that while women start out adult life happier than men, they are less happy by the time they reach midlife. The study analyzes two factors of well-being – finances and family, and reveals that men and women form aspirations differently. In other words, our desires are different.

If we look for a pattern, we'll find that men tend to be more easily satisfied with material sources of fulfillment, such as consumer goods, a nice home, a flashy car, travel and sports. While women also desire some of these things, their overall tendency is to long for something more. As women mature, they realize that material things do not bring lasting fulfillment. No matter how much money they make, how good their marriage or how successful their career, they are still more likely to be dissatisfied.

### A WOMAN'S PERCEPTION

Actually, a woman perceives everything differently than a man. She has additional insights because she gives birth to new life. This is obvious in the physical world, but it's equally true in the spiritual world. A woman, being the “source of new life,” also more intuitively feels the desire for new spiritual life. Men, on the other hand, have to work harder

to develop this desire, because it does not come to them as naturally.

The underlying desire women have for spirituality is precisely why they quickly grow dissatisfied with anything they have. Consciously or unconsciously, women begin searching for a deeper source of fulfillment, which results in their persistent feeling of discontent with anything they have in the physical world.

## WOMAN: THE SOURCE OF (SPIRITUAL) LIFE

**We women always want something. Finally, there's an explanation to this phenomenon – recommended reading for men and woman alike**

### MEN, WOMEN AND SPIRITUAL FULFILLMENT

The desire for spirituality comes from the very depth of one's heart. Kabbalists refer to it as “the point in the heart,” which is a tiny “spark” of spirituality. Once it awakens, it continues to grow, leading us higher into the spiritual

world until it fills our entire experience and perception.

Both men and women can feel this desire, but a woman is more likely to seriously pursue it. As soon as she senses the new possibilities offered by this new desire, her focus shifts right to it. She intuitively realizes that it is the only thing that can bring lasting satisfaction, fulfillment and true happiness.

However, a woman cannot develop this desire in isolation. She develops it precisely by sharing her passion for spirituality with everyone around her. She is able to incite a passion in others to reveal and attain the spiritual world, and thereby fulfill her feminine role as the origin of life, cultivating spiritual life in others.

Not surprisingly, one way a man can expand his spiritual desire is by absorbing it from a woman. Unlike women, however, men's nature isn't based on desire, but on the fulfillment of desire. Therefore, when men develop their spiritual spark, they enable the women's desire to be fulfilled. That's because in the spiritual world, there are no bodies, but only desires and properties. By realizing their spiritual nature, women provide a spiritual desire, and men provide the fulfillment for that desire.

This is how men and women complement each other spiritually, and enable one another to reach a state of perfection and boundless fulfillment.



THIS IS NOT  
KABBALAH

## KABBALAH: USER MANUAL

### WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Although we often feel like isolated individuals and see a world of schisms, Kabbalists say that we are all interconnected and interdependent. Much like the cells of a living body, we are all parts of a single entity called “the collective soul.”

Our individual souls are bound together by an Upper Force that can only be described as complete, unconditional love and bestowal. This force not only connects us together, but all other parts of Creation as well—it is Nature's all inclusive force, “the Creator.”

Those who have developed the ability to perceive this force and the collective human soul are called “Kabbalists.” They explain that this ability lies within every one of us, but remains dormant until we develop it. And from their perspective, it is evident that in the coming phase of human evolution, all people will discover that they are united, will connect to the Upper Force that unites them, and will thereby find true happiness.

To help us get there, Kabbalists gave us the wisdom of Kabbalah—a method by which we can develop our ability to perceive humanity's collective soul, and connect to the Creator—the Upper Force that enlivens the whole of Creation.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q:** What is the relationship between Kabbalah, red strings and holy water?

**A:** There is no relation whatsoever. Red strings, holy water and other products are a lucrative commercial invention created in the past two decades.

**Q:** Is Kabbalah a religion?

**A:** No. Kabbalah is a science—the physics of the overall reality. It is a wisdom that reveals the comprehensive reality that is normally hidden from our senses.

**Q:** Is Kabbalah related to tarot cards, astrology and numerology?

**A:** No. Tarot cards, astrology and numerology are mystical practices which were mistakenly associated with Kabbalah during the past one hundred years.

**Q:** What is Kabbalistic meditation?

**A:** There is no Kabbalistic meditation. Kabbalah teaches a person how to transcend egoism and connect to the quality that prevails in Nature—unconditional love and bestowal.

**Q:** Are there any amulets in Kabbalah?

**A:** No. In our world, there are no physical objects that bear any spiritual contents. Amulets can only help a person as a psychological support.



“...it is impossible for one person to attain the whole wisdom if not all the people in the world.”

Rav Moshe Cordovero (RAMAK), *Know the God of Thy Father*

## WHO'S THE REAL ENEMY IN THE RUSSIAN-GEORGIAN WAR?



**We can point fingers in any direction, but we won't find the enemy anywhere "out there," because it's sitting right inside of us. Kabbalah offers a new tactic to counter its offensive**

by Asaf Ohayon

### IT'S NOT JUST GEORGIA'S BUSINESS

The war between Russia and Georgia would seem to be just another regional conflict, considering that most of us have never heard of the territories under debate - South Ossetia and Abkhazia. But just like everything else in the era of globalization, the whole world is taking part in this conflict and everyone is concerned about its consequences.

"It is important that the entire world understands that what is happening in Georgia now will affect the entire world order," said Georgian Cabinet Minister Temur Yakobashvili. "It's not just Georgia's business, but the entire world's business" (TIME Magazine). All the participants of this strategic game have something to lose or something to gain, and accordingly, their own opinions on who's right and who's wrong in this war.

The United States relies on the support of Georgian troops in Iraq. Europe depends on Russia heavily for energy supplies. Israel has long standing ties with Georgia, but also needs Russia as an ally to counter the threat of Iran's nuclear program. Eastern European countries such as Poland are highly dependent on Russia for resources, yet

they are also most susceptible to being bullied by their "older brother."

These are just some of the considerations that nations have when forming their opinions on whom to support in this war - and media coverage reflects this complexity. There is no shortage of opinions on what's really happening in the Caucasus region, how many casualties there are to date, who's right and who's wrong, why this war began in the first place, and what its eventual, long-term outcome will be. But what is really the cause of this war, and who is really to blame?

### KNOW YOUR ENEMY

From Kabbalah's viewpoint, no matter how you interpret the facts and whom you blame, everyone involved are victims of the biggest aggressor of all—our own human egoism.

While political experts, economic analysts, ethnologists and other specialists are hunched over their desks composing intricate reports, they are simply looking in the wrong place. They are judging the external consequences, but ignoring the inner cause.

Human egoism is the invisible, scheming culprit that causes people to fight, nations to collide, and scores of

innocent civilians to become casualties of war. Egoism is a force that's rooted within us by nature, and as long as we are driven by it, we will continue to engage in wars and irreconcilable conflicts.

### THE ROAD TO PEACE

In fact, our egoism itself will make us realize that we have to detach from it. But if we keep waiting for this process to happen by itself, we make room for greater conflicts and wars, which are becoming more and more global as we speak. Continuing on this path, our egoism will corner us with great suffering, and nevertheless force us to acknowledge that we have to rise above it.

Kabbalah offers another path — transformation by choice. Instead of

waiting for suffering to convince us to let go of egoism, we can independently rise above the egoism and start resolving our differences from a higher level of awareness. Taking this path, we will go through a smooth and pleasant development toward a new world of reciprocity and bestowal.

Kabbalah offers the method by which everyone can learn how to transcend egoism and systematically develop a new sense of our reality. Just as the war's outcomes are everyone's business, its cause is everyone's responsibility. Therefore, the Kabbalists' pragmatic approach is to openly disseminate the one method that can lift us above our hostile egoism, and lead us into a peaceful reality.

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“Turning the hearts and occupying the minds with noble thoughts ... has become an utter necessity in the last generation.”

Rav Kook, *Mist of Purity*

by Geoffrey Best

If you've ever played a video game, you're probably familiar with the concept of "cheat codes" - special codes and hints concealed within the game that allow you to advance many levels up, gain super powers, and overcome the obstacles standing in your way to winning the game. Of course, the best cheat code of all is God Mode - making you invincible and paving a smooth, easy way to the finish line.

As someone who's a declared video game addict, I always wondered: is there a "cheat code" for the real world?

Well, it turns out that there is. But just like in a video game, the fact that there's a secret code isn't enough. You have to know how to find it and how to unlock its powers—which is precisely what the Kabbalistic books are for. By reading them, you can obtain hidden information about reality, detailing all the levels of the game, the final goal, and how to get there faster. The Kabbalistic "cheat codes" let you circumvent the regular routine and jump to a much higher level of reality.

### ADVANCING THROUGH THE LEVELS

In fact, reality consists of 125 levels that lead toward the end goal. They are positioned like the rungs of a ladder - one above the other. Your objective is to climb them until reaching the final goal - complete equivalence with the Creator of the game.



### As it happens, our lives and our video games have a lot in common. Here's a Concise Game Manual to Real Life (cheat codes included)

Of course, if you are not aware of the game and you don't even know how to play (not to mention having "cheat codes" or God Mode), then the game isn't very much fun. So the first thing you have to do is take the gamepad into your hands and hit "play." How do you do that? All you need is an honest desire to uncover the purpose of life. In truth, we all have that desire within, but it takes some of us a while to stop ignoring it and start playing the game.

Then, you can definitely accelerate your ascent up the levels and start

flying through them. To do this, you have to take advice from those who have already finished the game - the Kabbalists. They already know all the clues, tricks, and cheat codes to the game of reality, and they have written it all down for us in their books - our player's manual.

### THE CHALLENGE

The whole challenge is to find out how to transform egoism to altruism - inside of you. While you may face various egoistic monsters trying to take over

your character, you are not allowed to kill any of them, but only take control of them and use them in order to bestow. Once you do, they will let you in to a deeper level of reality - closer to the Creator of the game.

On each level, you will collect more knowledge, experience and inner discernments that will help you later in your quest. Correspondingly, the Kabbalistic books will take on a new, deeper meaning for you, revealing more intricate codes to overcome egoism.

### TURNING ON GOD MODE

As in any video game, turning on God Mode is the best code ever, and there is a very special way to do it. God Mode can only be activated when you switch to a multiplayer setting - by finding others who have also started playing the game.

By learning how to connect with the other players, you merge your desires to discover life's purpose, and that is when God Mode is turned on - you all become invincible, overcoming any egoistic obstacle on the way, and revealing the Creator.



## ESCAPING THE FLOOD BY BUILDING NOAH'S ARK



If you thought that the Biblical story about Noah and the Flood was about legendary by-gone times, think again. It's talking about us, here and now. Even Hollywood testifies to this - why else would they produce last year's *Evan Almighty* -

the most expensive comedy film ever made?

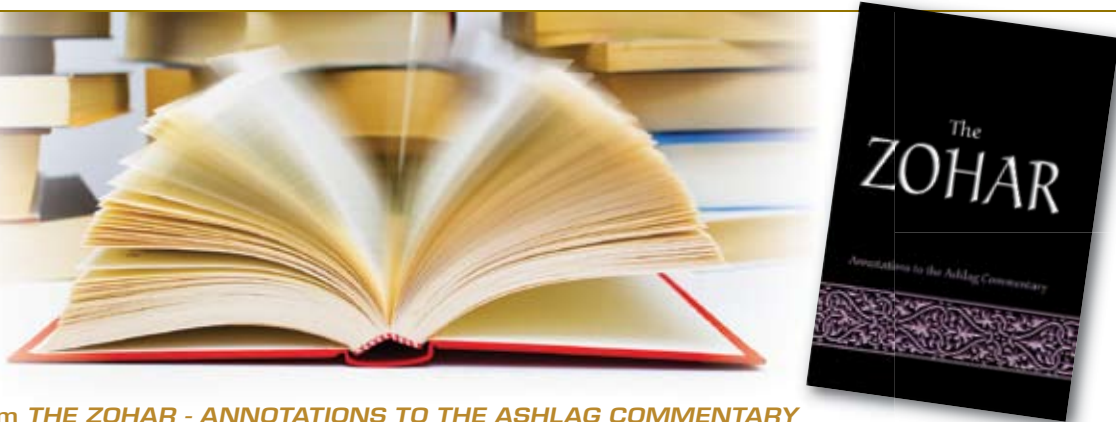
Just like all the Bible's parables, the story of Noah and the Flood symbolizes stages and discernments along our spiritual development. "Noah" represents a spiritual state where a person recognizes an impending increase of his egoism, represented as "the Flood" in the parable. In that state, Noah (or any one of us) realizes that he has to build an "Ark" - a spiritual quality of bestowal within him.

Then, one remains inside the Ark (inside his inner quality of bestowal) to escape the Flood of egoistic desires, threatening to engulf him. When one enters the Ark, the egoistic desires can no longer rule over him, because he fully rises above his preliminary egoistic nature, and enters the spiritual realm of complete, unconditional love and bestowal.

Today, every one of us and the entire world as a whole are beginning to feel that we are about to be engulfed by a flood - both inside and out. This state is exactly what the Bible describes when it talks about Noah's situation before the Flood. We are being threatened by our own, egoistic nature, which we cannot overcome by any external means. The only way to survive the flood is to build the Ark and hide inside it. That is, to learn how to rise above our egoism and acquire the spiritual quality of bestowal.

Then the flood will subside and everything will reach harmony, just like all the different species in the Ark lived in peace and harmony with each other. When we reemerge from the Ark, humanity will make its complete transition to a renewed, spiritual existence.





from *THE ZOHAR - ANNOTATIONS TO THE ASHLAG COMMENTARY*

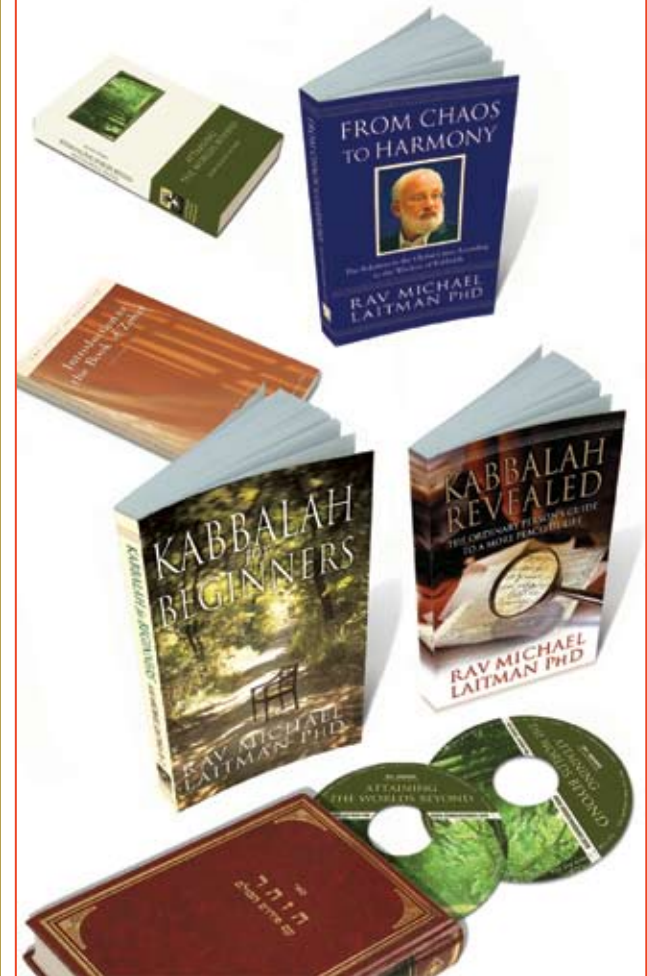
## “THE MOTHER LENDS HER CLOTHES TO HER DAUGHTER”

One can imagine one's path from the lows of our world up to the ultimate spiritual peak—the Creator—as a passage through a suite of rooms. In all, between our state and the Creator there are 125 connected, walkthrough rooms. Each room has its own properties, and only those who possess the same properties can enter it. If, regardless of what his reason tells him, man changes his properties, he is automatically moved as though by an invisible current to a room that corresponds to his new properties.

This is how we can move between these rooms: an infinitesimal inner change in our properties evokes the influence of a spiritual force field upon us, and we immediately move to a new place of equilibrium, where our inner properties completely coincide with the external properties of the spiritual field. Hence, there are no guards at the rooms' entrances/exits; as soon as we change ourselves so as to match the properties of the next, higher room, we are automatically transferred there by the spiritual current or field.

What properties must we change in order to move from one room to another within this spiritual field? We only need to alter the type of pleasure to which we aspire. We cannot help receiving pleasure, for such is the entire material of Creation—it is all that was created. However, we can change the object of our aspirations, what it is that we wish to enjoy: either coarse reception, reception of mere necessities, or the Creator being pleased with us that we bestow to Him, that we receive because such is His wish.

Our “I,” the entity that feels pleasure, is present in all of our desires, which change ceaselessly in both magnitude and the desired object. This “I” never disappears. The only thing of which we must rid ourselves is the sensation that we do something to please this “I.” Instead, we should aspire to sense the desires of the Creator, how He is pleased with us (just as a mother is pleased with her child's achievements).



[www.kabbalahbooks.info](http://www.kabbalahbooks.info)

### About Bnei Baruch

Bnei Baruch is a non-profit organization committed to sharing the wisdom of Kabbalah in order to raise humankind's level of spirituality. Its founder and president, Kabbalist Rav Michael Laitman, PhD, was the disciple and personal assistant to Rabbi Baruch Ashlag, son of Rabbi Yehuda Ashlag [author of the *Sulam* [Ladder] commentary on *The Book of Zohar*].

Bnei Baruch provides individuals of all faiths, religions, and cultures with the precise tools they will need to embark on a fascinating journey of self-discovery and spiritual ascent. Its teaching method focuses primarily on the inner processes that people experience, each at his or her own pace.

In recent years, a massive world-wide search for the answers to life's questions has been gaining momentum. Society has lost its ability to perceive reality as it is, and in its place, superficial and often misleading concepts have appeared. Bnei Baruch reaches out to all those who are seeking awareness beyond the ordinary, who wish to understand their true purpose for being here.

Bnei Baruch's approach to understanding our experience of life on earth is both practical and reliable. By studying Ashlag's method, based on authentic writings, we can overcome the trials of everyday life, and initiate a process by which we will move beyond our present boundaries and limitations.

In addition to *Kabbalah Today*,

Bnei Baruch offers a variety of avenues for further study. Among them are: Kabbalah TV ([www.kab.tv](http://www.kab.tv)), the Online Kabbalah Education Center ([www.arionline.info](http://www.arionline.info)), and [www.kabbalah.info](http://www.kabbalah.info), the largest, most comprehensive Kabbalah site on the Internet.

Bnei Baruch welcomes people of all ages and lifestyles to engage in this rewarding process.

### About Kabbalah Today

In 1940, Kabbalist Rabbi Yehuda Ashlag (Baal HaSulam) published the first and, as it turned out, the last issue of his Kabbalah paper *HaUma* (*The Nation*). Its aim was to introduce the ancient wisdom of Kabbalah in a contemporary style and language. The paper was shut down by the British Mandate authorities after having received malicious (and false) information that the journal propagated communism. Nevertheless, the goals for which *The Nation* was published are even more valid today than ever.

*Kabbalah Today* continues the spirit of *The Nation*. It is a Kabbalah paper that shares the ancient wisdom of Kabbalah in a contemporary style, and aims to reach people from all walks of life. Its sections provide readers with a wide variety of content, presented in different styles and approaches, while guaranteeing that the material is true to authentic Kabbalah texts such as *The Book of Zohar*, *The Tree of Life*, and the writings

of Rabbi Yehuda Ashlag.

No prior knowledge is required to read *Kabbalah Today*.

It is our hope that you will enjoy reading *Kabbalah Today* as much as we enjoy making it.

Sincerely,  
Kabbalah Today editorial staff

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### Published by

Bnei Baruch Association  
PO Box 1552

Ramat Gan 52115, Israel

**E-mail:** [info@kabbalah.info](mailto:info@kabbalah.info)

**Web:** [www.kabbalah.info](http://www.kabbalah.info)

**Telephone:** +972-3-9226723

**Fax:** +972-3-9226741

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