



"Praise Him sun and moon, praise Him all bright stars...
for He commanded, and they were created."

King David: Psalm 148

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Perfect Faith

RABBI MOSHE BEN-CHAIM

Reader: I was thinking that the Torah idea of "emuna" is more accurately described as trust, as opposed to faith.

When you trust someone, they have already established that they come through for you in a relationship in a general way. Since, in the past, they have come through for you, even though in this particular you don't see how, you trust that it will be the same as it was in the past.

If a stranger said to me, "Trust me, it will be fine," I would be foolish to trust him since we have no relationship and he has not established that he is trustworthy. If my husband says, "Trust me, it will be fine," and many other times in the past he has come through, then I can trust that it will work this time. Even if I can't conceive of a way that it will be fine.

Based on all of my knowledge and understanding, I can't understand how a particular situation will be successful. However, if I have established a trusting relationship with someone, and they tell me it will be successful, I can rationally trust them. Even though I don't know how the particular situation can possibly work, I am confident it will work because someone I trust says it will. I don't see the particular, but I trust the general relationship. That gives me confidence about the particular. That is emuna.

If you agree with that, I was wondering if you could explain to me if/how the 13 "Ani Ma'amin"s fit in to that. (Not each individual Ani Ma'amin; rather, the general concept of emuna of the Ani Ma'amins).

I sense that could be true, for example, with regard to Moshiach or T'chiyas Ha'meisim. It's not clear to me that Hashem will revive the dead, but if Hashem says He will, then I trust him because of our prior relationship.



TEACH CHILDREN TO APPRECIATE CREATION

Newborn stars are forming in the Eagle Nebula. This image, taken with the Hubble Space Telescope in 1995, shows evaporating gaseous globules (EGGs) emerging from pillars of molecular hydrogen gas and dust. The giant pillars are light years in length and are so dense that interior gas contracts gravitationally to form stars.

Have your children email us with their questions: questions@mesora.org

SUGGESTED READINGS:

SEE THESE AND OTHER ARTICLES AT OUR SITE

Maimonides' 13 PRINCIPLES

THE BASIC FOUNDATIONS WHICH ALL JEWS MUST KNOW AS TRUE. WE URGE YOU TO READ THEM:
www.mesora.org/13principles.html

God's Existence Belief or Proof?

www.mesora.org/belieforproof.html

God's Land Without God?

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:
www.mesora.org/openletter/openletter2.html

Free Speech vs. Objective Morality

RABBI MOSHE BEN-CHAIM

Reader: Not that my opinion means anything to you, but I, as a Jew and pro Israeli, find your boycott of MSNBC just plain uncalled for. This is the same station that has Chris Matthews on it. You couldn't find a man more pro Israel if you tried! To demand the removal of any oppositional voice is to make Jews look like that there is no way to please us. Plus, you feed into the anti-Semitic perception that Jews run the media. Freedom of the press is an American right. Give the American public a little credit. If they watch MSNBC, they are informed and intelligent. The truth is out there.

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Kiddushes Hayom

RIVKA OLENICK

"You shall observe My Sabbath, and reverence My sanctuary, I am the Lord." Leviticus 19:30

The Jewish people are the one and only people that God in His mercy took out of Egypt and freed. God gave us the Sabbath to proclaim to the world His dominion and it is only through the service of God that we are truly free. We demonstrate to the world that mankind is only free when we subordinate ourselves to the will of God. The observance of the Sabbath symbolizes this freedom to serve God, which is the theme of the Sabbath. By living only according to His will God gave man the gift of dominion over the earth, and so man continuously takes from the earth what is needed to sustain life. He rules the animals and protects the plant life so that he can partake of both and enjoy his existence. However, on the holy Sabbath day, the 'kiddushes hayom', man takes nothing from the earth or the animals. On this holy day man acknowledges that everything on the earth belongs to God that whatever he has taken, he has borrowed. The Sabbath reinforces the idea that since everything belongs to God and comes from God, we realize God's ultimate authority over the universe.

Everything that we buy and use to prepare for the Sabbath and everything we set aside to wear is all for the purpose of sanctifying God's name on the Sabbath. In Synagogue we involve ourselves in tefila and in the worship of God. We mark this day specifically to restore ourselves physically and spiritually and at the same time we claim that God is the Master of the Universe. Through our mind and our heart we immerse ourselves in the holiness of the day that God designated for us and we recognize that He has given us the greatest gift! We recognize that this gift can elevate us when we engage in learning for its own sake and we invest in our own perfection. Reverence to My sanctuary. A sanctuary is a place designated for worship and service of God. The Sabbath is that sanctuary given to us by God and exists within a specific time frame, and that "place" is recreated every seventh day. It is logical to say that a person who does not observe the sanctuary of the Sabbath does not recognize or respect God's position as

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