

Fascinating INSIGHTS

יד' אדר א' תשפ"ד
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The newly released book "Remarkable Insights about Death and the Afterlife" is now available (as a paperback, hardcover and digitized version) for purchase and delivery on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0C9NDCMNC> or by sending an email to yalt3285@gmail.com. Alternatively, you can call 054 849 5217 or 917 732 2371. This extensive and thought-provoking book addresses these questions and many more, providing transformative insights. With a collection comprising over 70 meticulously crafted essays, it eloquently articulates the Torah's viewpoint regarding death and the afterlife. This work stands as an invaluable resource, facilitating readers in acquiring a deeper comprehension of this vital subject. It makes a great gift for friends, relatives, business associates and learning partners. Purchase it at <https://amzn.to/3eyh5xP>. Please spread the word about it.

Some of the questions discussed in this book are the following.

What is the ultimate way to elevate the soul of one's parents?

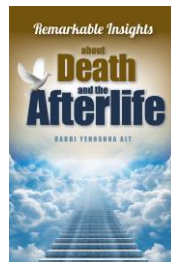
How does the death process rectify a person's soul?

What profound life lessons can we learn from gravestones?

In what ways can the concept of reincarnation help us better understand life?

What is the idea behind davening at gravesites?

What will happen at the Resurrection of the Dead?



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Subliminal Speech

We know that Hashem communicates with each person. The question is if the person hears it. The following are some stories where Hashem communicated with people on Shabbos.

A boy named Dave returned to his native Rochester after learning in Aish Hatorah in Yerushalayim. After spending six weeks there, he was losing his grasp on maintaining a Shabbos observant lifestyle, as he was in

close proximity to his non-religious family and community. One Friday night, he had a dialogue with Hashem: "I am waiting for you to send me some type of sign until 12:00. If nothing happens, I will turn on the television." The clock struck 12, without any sign. Dave then said, "I'll wait until 12:15 for a sign." Once the clock hit 12:15 without any sign,¹ he turned on the television to a show called "The David Letterman Show." In an interview, David Letterman asked an actor, Tom Hanks, who recently visited Israel if he

¹ Someone once said, "Sometimes Hashem lets you hit rock bottom so that you will discover He is the rock at the bottom."

picked up any Hebrew. Tom recounted that on Friday night in Israel, there is something called the Shabbos and they greet each other with Shabbat Shalom. So **Shabbat Shalom Dave!** Dave from Aish Hatorah was astonished and got the message. Dave maintained his religious observance and raised a passionate observant family.²

Here is another story, this one involving a chosson at his *aufruf*. We know that on the Shabbos of a chosson's *aufruf*, he receives an aliya. At the *aufruf* of a chosson named **Moshe**, he was anxious and worried since he had a major stuttering issue. He was afraid to recite the bracha for his aliya. The moment arrived when he was called up to the Torah. The *baal korai* then pointed to where he was up to as is accustomed. Upon seeing the words, Moshe was stunned, as it began *vayomer Hashem el Moshe al tira*, Hashem said to Moshe don't be afraid!³ The chosson took this as a direct message from Hashem telling him not to fear. Moshe related that these words stay with him every day, concerning any issue, not just stuttering.

In the summer of 1985, a secular Jew named Steve, who enjoyed traveling on airplanes, decided one day to challenge himself to jump out of a plane and parachute down. He discovered an airport in Lakewood, New Jersey, which was near where he lived, that had a one-day course to learn how to do this which was a necessary prerequisite. Since he planned to do it on Shabbos, Steve's brother, Gary, who became a baal teshuva, convinced him to postpone the adventure until Sunday, which was the only other day the one-day course was offered. Each time Steve went, there was some issue as it was either too windy, cloudy or rainy, which made the activity illegal to perform. Gary called Steve on the Friday before his adventure would take place and told him there is an Aish Hatorah Shabbaton in Lakewood. "Come for the Shabbaton as there will be great inspirational speakers and great food, and then on Sunday, you will have a good time with your adventure." Steve was convinced and came to the Shabbaton. On Friday night after midnight, Steve crept into a side room which he knew was only for the leaders of the Shabbaton. In that room, R' Yaakov Weinberg (R' Noach's brother) addressed the leaders saying, "We have a great responsibility and opportunity because secular Jews are searching and want the answers to meaning in their lives and we have the answers. People who haven't found meaning look for excitement, but once the excitement dissipates, they are left feeling a void. There are even young people that seek thrills such as jumping off an airplane." Steve was shocked as he felt it was a personal message since he wasn't supposed to be at that meeting. Steve later said that from that moment onward, he was soaring and flying but not on an airplane. He soared in an atmosphere of kedusha and committed to attend Yeshiva Kol Yaakov in Monsey. He later attended Ohr Someach where he studied for 13 years.⁴

² Interestingly, among the numerous Shabbos guests we've hosted during their year in Israel was a seminary girl who stayed and ate by us. It turned out, as she revealed to us, that she was Dave's daughter. She filled me in on some of the details of this story.

³ Bamidbar 21:34.

⁴ After the Ten Commandments it says (Devarim 5:19) Hashem spoke all those words to the entire congregation on the mountain, from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick cloud, a great voice never to be



Rashi explains the words *vayishma Yisro* that Yisro heard about the splitting of the Yam Suf and the war with Amaleik. Many are bothered as everyone else also heard. Why does it highlight that only Yisro heard? It is because he heard and internalized it. The same is true for ourselves who may hear many incredible stories that show Hashem's involvement in our lives (and obviously those occurrences that we experienced directly). We must take it to heart and internalize the lessons.

[Astronaut Lesson](#)

It says that Yaakov departed from Beer Sheva and went to Charan.⁵ Although it would have been sufficient to say that he went to Charan, Rashi explains it tells of Yaakov's departure from Beer Sheva to teach that a tzadik's departure from a place leaves a void. As long as he is in the city, he constitutes its glory, splendor and beauty and when he departs, the glory, splendor and beauty depart with him.



The Ohr Gedalyahu offers a novel explanation, beginning with the question of how do you serve Hashem when you leave the walls of Beis Midrash. This can be explained by man surviving on the moon. The astronauts who traveled to the moon had to adapt to the environment there. How did they do this? They survived there because they brought with them objects from earth such as oxygen, food and spacesuits in order to sustain gravity. To survive spiritually in Charan after being surrounded by kedusha in Beer Sheva where he learned and was around his holy parents, Yaakov took the kedusha required. Now that he was going to Lavan and Besuel, he brought the glory, splendor and beauty along with him. This is what is meant in Rashi when he says that when Yaakov departed, the glory, splendor and beauty departed with him, meaning he took it along with him to spiritually survive in his new environment in Charan.

Rabbi Alt merited to learn under the tutelage of R' Mordechai Friedlander ztz"l for close to five years. He received semicha from R' Zalman Nechemia Goldberg ztz"l. Rabbi Alt has written on numerous topics for various websites and publications and is the author of six books including the recently released Dazzling Money Insights. His writings, some of which have been translated into Yiddish, Hebrew, German and French, inspire people across the spectrum of Jewish observance to live with the vibrancy and beauty of Torah. He lives with his wife and family in Kiryat Yearim (where the Aron was for 20 years [Shmuel 1, 7:1,2]) where he studies, writes and teaches. The author is passionate about teaching Jews of all levels of observance.

repeated (*kol gadol v'lo yasaf*). Targum Onkolos on the words *v'lo yasaf* comments *v'la psak*, did not stop. Unlike humans who are unable to speak all their words in one breath, Hashem did not stop for breath (Devarim 5:19, Rashi). Another interpretation given is that the word of Hashem continues throughout the generations. Every generation and each person is different and the word of Hashem talks to each accordingly.

⁵ Breishis 28:10.