



Jewish Futures: Holding Hope
Cultivating *Tikvah*/Hope as a *Middah*: Making a Way Out of No Way
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Dr. Martin Luther King. Jr., address to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, August 16, 1967: When our days become dreary with low-hovering clouds of despair, and when our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, let us remember that there is a creative force in this universe, working to pull down the gigantic mountains of evil, a power that is able to make a way out of no way and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. Let us realize the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks: "Future Tense," The Jewish Chronicle, April 1, 2008: To be a Jew is to be an agent of hope in a world serially threatened by despair. Every ritual, every mitzvah, every syllable of the Jewish story, every element of Jewish law, is a protest against escapism, resignation or the blind acceptance of fate. Judaism is a sustained struggle, the greatest ever known, against the world that is, in the name of the world that could be, should be, but is not yet. There is no more challenging vocation. Throughout history, when human beings have sought hope they have found it in the Jewish story. Judaism is the religion, and Israel the home, of hope.

Rabbi Sacks, "Optimism is all very well, but it takes courage to hope," The Times, 4/30/2010: Optimism is the belief that the world is changing for the better; hope is the belief that, together, we can make the world better. Optimism is a passive virtue, hope an active one. It needs no courage, only a certain naiveté, to be an optimist. It needs a great deal of courage to have hope. The prophets of Israel were not optimists. When everyone else felt secure, they saw the coming catastrophe. But every one of them was an agent of hope.

Jeremiah 17:13-14

**מְקוֹה יִשְׂרָאֵל ה' כָּל-עֲזָבֶיךָ יִבְשׁוּ (יִסּוּרִי) בְּאַרְץ יִכְתָּבוּ כִּי עֲזָבוּ מְקוֹר
מִיַּם-חַיִּים אֶת-ה':**

Hope of Israel! Holy One! All who forsake You shall be put to shame, those in the land who turn from You shall be doomed, for they have forsaken YHVH, the Fount of living waters.

רַפְּאֵנִי ה' וְאַרְפָּא הוֹשִׁיעֵנִי וְאִנְשָׁעָה כִּי תִהְלֶתִי אֶתָּה:
Heal me, YHVH, and let me be healed; save me, and let me be saved; for You are my glory.

Psalm 27:14

קוֹה אֱלֹהִי חֲזַק וְיִצְמַח לְבָבְךָ וְקוֹה אֱלֹהִי:

Hope in YHVH; be strong and of good courage! And hope in YHVH!

- What is the significance of this flow: *tikvah*/hope to *ometz lev*/strength/courage to *tikvah*/hope?
- What kind of *tikvah*/hope leads to *ometz lev*/heart-strength?
- What kind of *ometz lev*/heart-strength leads to hope?

Likutei Moharan 31:11 (R. Nachman of Breslav)

וְעַקֵּר הַתְּהוּת הַנֶּפֶשׁ, הוּא עַל-יְדֵי הַשְׁתַּוְּקוּת וְהַפְסוּפִין שֶׁל אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל אַחֵר
הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרֵךְ, כָּל אֶחָד לְפִי מַדְרַגְתּוֹ שֶׁהוּא נִכְסֵף וּמְשֻׁתָּקֵק וּמִתְגַּעְגֵּעַ לְהִגִּיעַ אֶל
מַדְרַגָּה לְמַעַלָּה מִמֶּנָּה, עַל-יְדֵי הַפְסוּפִין אֵלּוּ נַעֲשֶׂה נֶפֶשׁ, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב (תהלים פד):
נִכְסְפָה וְגַם כָּלְתָה נֶפֶשִׁי, הִינוּ מֵה שֶׁאֲנִי נִכְסֵף וְכָלָה אַחֵר הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרֵךְ, מִזֶּה בְּעֶצְמוֹ
נַעֲשֶׂה נֶפֶשִׁי.

Now the soul comes into being primarily through the longing and yearning which a Jew has for God—each person commensurate with their level, that they yearn, long and crave to reach the next level. Through these yearnings a soul is created, as is written, “My soul yearns and pines” (Psalm 84:3). In other words, that which I yearn and pine for God, from this itself “my soul” is created.

What is the world/reality for which you yearn/long?

Kaveh, Daniel Kieval

<https://congregationbethaverim.bandcamp.com/track/kaveh>

*Al titneni b'nefesh tzarai
Kaveh El Adonai
Lach amar libi bakshu fanai
Kaveh El Adonai
Chazak v'yametz libecha
V'kaveh El Adonai*

Don't let me get lost in my soul-suffering
I will trust in the wholeness of everything
My heart says, "I am looking for you!"
I will trust in the truth of the way things
are.
Fill your heart with power and courage
Teach me the way of Presence
Hope then for THE ETERNAL ONE;
strengthen your heart with courage,
and hope in THE ETERNAL