



JUDAISM AND THE MYSTERIES OF LIFE, DEATH AND THE WORLD BEYOND

A Scholar-in-Residence Shabbaton with Reb Simcha Raphael

FRIDAY NITE:

“Do Not Go Gentle Into the Night”: Moses’ Death in Torah and Midrash

An exploration of descriptions of Moses’ response to his immanent death as found in both Torah and Midrash. It is clear that Moses did not “go gentle into the night” but did “rage, rage against the dying of the light”, arguing with God, as he often did in his lifetime. We shall see how Moses himself went through the stages of dying, depicted by Dr. Kubler-Ross, eventually accepting his own death with spiritual wisdom and equanimity.

SHABBAT MORNING:

Jacob's Cave at *Machpelah*: Guidelines from Genesis for Living and Dying

This morning’s *dvar Torah* will investigate deathbed tales at the end of Genesis, which provide profound wisdom for dealing with end-of-life issues in our times. We shall see how the Cave of *Machpelah*, for our Biblical ancestors, was understood to be the realm of connection between this world and the world beyond.

SHABBAT AFTERNOON LUNCH & LEARN:

Afterlife Journey of the Soul in Jewish Mysticism

Does Judaism believe in the afterlife? Unequivocally, the answer is yes! However, today many are unaware of traditional Jewish wisdom on life after death. Through textual study and discussion, we shall explore Judaism’s afterlife teachings, particularly in Jewish mysticism, and discover the practical relevance of these teachings in dealing with the human encounter with death.

HAVADALAH/MOTZEI SHABBAT:

Jewish Ghost Stories:

Tales of Ancient Ancestors, Wandering Spirits and Reincarnating Souls

In the story-telling traditions of Jewish folk religion and mysticism are to be found extensive teachings on the afterlife journey of the soul. Through an evening of animated story-telling and open discussion, we shall learn about Jewish views of the afterlife by entering the invisible worlds populated by ghosts, lost souls, haunting spirits, dybbukim, and heavenly angelic guides.

Reb Simcha Raphael, Ph.D. is Founding Director of DA’AT INSTITUTE for Death Awareness, Advocacy and Training, Adjunct Professor in Psychology at Bryn Athyn College, and in private practice as a psychotherapist and spiritual director in Philadelphia. Ordained by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi as a Rabbinic Pastor, he is a member of Rabbis Without Borders Network, and author of the ground-breaking *Jewish Views of the Afterlife*. His website is www.daatinstitute.net.

