

EXPLORING JEWISH VIEWS OF THE AFTERLIFE: HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES

HIBBUT HAKEVER - PANGS OF THE GRAVE

Rabbi Yehuda said: "for **seven days** the soul goes to and fro from the house to the grave from the grave to the house, mourning for the body" (Zohar, I, 218b).

NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES -LIFE REVIEW:

When one departs to their eternal home *all their deeds are enumerated before them and they are told: "Such and such a thing have you done, in such and such a place on that day."* Admitting to the justice of the verdict the individual then signs the record shown saying, "Rightly have You judged me" (Taan. 11a) when God desires to take back a person's spirit, all the days they have lived in this world **pass in review**. (Zohar, I, 221b)

ANCESTRAL GUIDES - FAMILIAL BEINGS

Rabbi Shimon said: 'Have you seen today the image of your father or mother? For so we have learnt, that at the hour of a one's departure from the world, their father, mother and other **relatives gather round**, and they see them and recognizes them, and likewise all with whom they associated in this world, and they **accompany their soul to the place where it is to abide**. (Zohar, I, 218a).

ANCESTRAL GUIDES - MYTHIC BEINGS

When one departs this world... **they see many strange things on their way and meet Adam, the first human, sitting at the gates of Gan Eden**, ready to welcome all who have observed the commands of their Master. (Zohar, I 65b) **No person dies before seeing the Shechinah**, and because of its deep yearning for the Shechinah the soul departs in order to see her. (Zohar III, 88a)... And **with the Shechinah there come three ministering angels** to receive the soul of the righteous (Zohar I, 98a).

GEHENNA/REALM OF PURGATION AND PURIFICATION

There are **five kinds of punishments in Gehenna**, and Isaiah saw them all.... He entered the **second compartment**, and he saw two men hanging by their tongues; and he said, "O You who unveils the hidden, reveal to me the secret of this." He answered, "These are the men who slandered, therefore they are thus punished." He entered the **third compartment**, and he saw there men hanging by their organs. He said, "O You who unveils the hidden, reveal to me the secret of this." And He answered, "These are the men who neglected their own wives, and committed adultery with the daughters of Israel." [Keitzad Din Ha-Kever, 1-3).

GAN EDEN/HEAVENLY GARDEN OF EDEN

Gan Eden has two gates of carbuncle, and sixty myriads of ministering angels keep watch. Each of these angels shine like the radiance of heaven. When the righteous person approaches, angels remove from him the clothes in which he had been buried, clothe him with eight robes of the clouds of glory, and place upon his head two crowns, one of precious stones and pearls, and the other of gold, (Maskhet Gan Eden, 1-2)





TZROR HAHAYYIM/SOURCE OF LIFE

...in the same way as the soul has to be clothed in a bodily garment in order to exist in this world, so is she given an ethereal supernal garment to exist in the other world, and to be enabled to gaze at the effulgence of life radiating from that "land of the living" (Zohar, I, 66a).

GILGUL - REASONS FOR REINCARNATION

Rabbi Shimon said: ...The time has come to reveal some **mysteries concerning transmigration of souls**. When the soul is required to reincarnate, either because of sins, or because it had not completely fulfilled obligations in Torah and mitzvot while alive in this world. It is forced to come back to this world and don a body, that is be born again and finish what was imposed on it for the seventy years of the life in this world. (Zohar II, 94b)

JEWISH VIEWS OF THE AFTERLIFE

DIMENSION OF HUMAN BEING	AFTERLIFE STATE	PROCESS OF AFTERLIFE	RITUAL
 SPIRIT	TZROR HA-HAYYIM SOURCE OF LIFE	SPIRITUAL UNIFICATION	YIZKOR
 MIND	GAN EDEN HEAVENLY BLISS	INTELLECTUAL CONTEMPLATION	Yahrzeit
 EMOTION	GEHENNA EMOTIONAL PURIFICATION	EMOTIONAL PURGATION	KADDISH
 BODY	HIBBUT HA-KEVER PANGS OF THE GRAVE ANCESTRAL GUIDES MYTHIC BEINGS LIFE REVIEW DISSOLUTION OF ELEMENTS	PHYSICAL SEPARATION	SHIVA

