

[2] "You should know that one who comes in contact with a prophet will experience a spiritual renewal when he hears the prophet's Divine words. It is then that the individual departs from the normal level of mankind, due to the soul's aspiration to reach these angelic levels and its attachment to humility and purity.

[3] "Contact with a prophet also serves as demonstrable proof of the rewards of the World to Come. For the aspiration of this higher type of human is that the soul return to its source, separate from its physical senses, and be able to envision the elevated spiritual realm.¹⁶¹ The soul then benefits from seeing and hearing this realm's angelic light and Divine speech. [This superior individual is therefore unafraid of what comes after death, for] his type of soul is assured of being spared from death [and will live eternally] once its physical vestiges have passed away. When you find a set of teachings that contains both wisdom and practices which bring the individual to such a lofty state (when these teachings are utilized in the designated place¹⁶² and are applied using the designated methods), then this set of teachings will undoubtedly also preserve the soul after the body has passed away."

161. For a full discussion of the prophetic experience, see *Derech HaShem (The Way of God)* by Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto (New York: Feldheim, 1982), 3:3-5.

162. That is, Eretz-Yisrael.

people, namely, when the Divine Presence was among them."¹⁵⁹

102. The Kuzari asked: "But would it not have been better for God to rectify the entire world? That would have been more benevolent and wise."

103. [1] The Rabbi said: "[By that reckoning.] would it not have been better for all living creatures to be sentient humans? From your question I see that you have forgotten what we said before about humankind's history.¹⁶⁰ Recall that Divinity rested only upon the individual who was the heart of his siblings and the elite descendant of his parent. Only he would receive

this light, and all others were like the peel of the fruit and did not receive it. This continued until the arrival of Yaakov's sons, who were all the heart, and elite descendants. They differed from all other peoples in their distinguished Divinity. These distinctions seemed to place them upon a different level of creation — a new species perhaps, that was angelic in nature. They all aspired toward prophecy, and many actually achieved it. Even those who did not could still approach prophetic levels due to their desirable acts, their holiness and purity, and their attachment to other prophets.

159. That is, through the First Temple era, which ended around 420 BCE. See T.B., *Bava Basra* 12b.

160. *Kuzari* 1:47, 95.

ידעו, כי כל אשר יקגע נביא בעת פגועו אותו וישמעו דבריו האליהים. מתחדשת לו רוחניות, וקשר מוטו בנביות הנפש והשתוקקה אל הפורצות העם, והדבקו בענוה ובטהרה. זאת תהיה אצלם הראיה הנראית והאות הנבירי במחול העולם הבאי, כי הקבוצה כמנו אינו אלא שתשוב נפש האדם אליהו, תפטר מחושיו ותראה העולם שהוא העליון, ותהיה בראית האור הפלאותי ושמיעת הדבור האליהי, כי הנפש והיא תהיה בטוהרה מן הפגות פשיכולו בליט הטפיסה. וכאשר תקבצו תורה שמועיה בתקמותיה ופשיטיה אל הפורצה האותי במקום אשר צוטה ועם הענוהים אשר צוטה בהם, היא מפלי פסק התורה שאמקח מה להשאיר הקפיות אחרי בליט הטופות.

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