

Privacy and a Soulful Life

- I. The cloud
 - a. שמות י"ט:ט' בעב הענן
 - b. ויקרא ט"ז:ב' בענן אראה על הכפורת
- II. הסתר = קדושה
 - i. Rav Soloveitchik, cited in "Tzeniut: A Universal Concept", Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm
 - 1. שמות ג':ו' ויסתר משה פניו
 - 2. משלי כ"ה:ב' כבוד אלוקים הסתר דבר
 - 3. קדש הקדשים
 - 4. משנה מידות – פרצות היונים
 - ii. Transcendent, cannot be measured, bound by this world
- III. What does this have to do with me?
 - a. Self worth, self awareness: Dr. Twerski- Introduction, *Life's Too Short*
 - i. Being comfortable with myself
 - ii. How do I define myself?
 - b. נשמה.

"The soul is like a wild animal—tough, resilient, savvy, self-sufficient and yet exceedingly shy. If we want to see a wild animal, the last thing we should do is to go crashing through the woods, shouting for the creature to come out. But if we are willing to walk quietly into the woods and sit silently for an hour or two at the base of a tree, the creature we are waiting for may well emerge, and out of the corner of an eye we will catch a glimpse of the precious wildness we seek."

— Parker J. Palmer, *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life*

Two dimensions of privacy: personal and interpersonal

IV. Personal

Hidden - as an extension of Hashem

- a. We are like a ת"ו. Marvin Fox, *The Rav as Maspid* (Tradition 30:4), quoting Hillel Seidman's Yiddish article from the Rav.



Hidden Like Hashem Is

- b. Rabbi Dr. Lamm, *Faith and Doubt*, pp. 297-298
 respect for the integrity of the self. Man is fundamentally inscrutable in that, according to Judaism, he is more than just *natura* but also *persona*: he is possessed of a mysterious, vital center of personality which transcends the sum of his natural physiological and psychological properties. But not only *is* he mysterious, he also *should* be, and the extension of this free and undetermined center of personality constitutes the boundaries of his selfhood and hence his privacy. It is this privacy which we are called
- c. The Rav's Hesped for Rav Zev Gold 1956 ובגלוי p.174

Hidden With Hashem

- d. רש"י פירוש שני see מיכה ו:ח והצנע לכת עם אלוקיך
- e. תפילת חנה. Rabbi Shalom Carmy, Introduction to Tradition 43:2

V. Interpersonal

- a. Intimacy, ידיעה
 - i. To create intimacy we need privacy
 - 1. https://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/05/sunday-review/we-want-privacy-but-cant-stop-sharing.html?_r=0
 - ii. We need doors to create deep bonds
 - 1. גמ' ב"ב ס. & מה טובו אהליך יעקב
 - 2. כרובים מעורים זב"ז- פרוכת
 - 3. אהל מועד The cloud over the
- b. Halacha creates safeguards for these bonds
 - i. שו"ת רשב"א ב"רס"ח היזק ראייה- בנין כותל walls between properties
 - ii. ק"ס page שו"ת מהר"ם ב"ב cited in חרד"ג not opening others' mail
 - iii. גמ' יומא ד: not sharing others' information