“Beauty is absent where order is lacking.”

Philo, *Creation*, 7

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | ﻿עד שלא היה העולם היה הב״ה הוא בשמו בלבד, ועלה במחשבתו לבראות העולם, והיה מחריבו את העולם ולא היה עומד, משלו למה״ד למה הדבר דומה למלך שרוצה לבנות פלטרין שלו, אם אינו מחריבו בארץ יסודותיו ומוצאיו ומובאיו אינו מתחיל לבנות,Before the world was created, the Holy One, blessed be He, with His Name - alone existed, and the thought arose in Him to create the world. He began to trace (the foundations of) the world before Himself, but it would not stand. They told a parable. To what is the matter like? To a king who wishes to build a palace for himself. If he had not traced in the earth its foundations, its exits and its entrances, he does not begin to build.* Pirkei D’Rabbi Eliezer 3
 |
| 2 | מודה אני לפניך מלך חי וקים שהחזרת בי נשמתי בחמלה רבה אמונתך.I am grateful to You, living, enduring King, for restoring my soul to me in compassion. You are faithful beyond measure.  |
| 3 | 1. Now the entire earth was of one language and uniform words. 2. And it came to pass when they traveled from the east, that they found a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3. And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and fire them thoroughly"; so the bricks were to them for stones, and the clay was to them for mortar.4. And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make ourselves a name, lest we be scattered upon the face of the entire earth." 5. And the Lord descended to see the city and the tower that the sons of man had built. 6. And the Lord said, "Lo! [they are] one people, and they all have one language, and this is what they have commenced to do. Now, will it not be withheld from them, all that they have planned to do? 7. Come, let us descend and confuse their language, so that one will not understand the language of his companion." 8. And the Lord scattered them from there upon the face of the entire earth, and they ceased building the city. 9. Therefore, He named it Babel, for there the Lord confused the language of the entire earth, and from there the Lord scattered them upon the face of the entire earth.- Genesis 11:1-9 |
| 4 | ﻿כִּי-לִי בְנֵי-יִשְֹרָאֵל עֲבָדִים עֲבָדַי הֵם אֲשֶׁר-הוֹצֵאתִי אוֹתָם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם אֲנִי ה' אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:For to Me are the Israelites servants, My servants that I have redeemed from Egypt.* Leviticus 25:55
 |
| 5 | Hillel taught … “Do not say, ‘When I have leisure I will study, for you may never have leisure.’”* Pirkei Avot 2:5
 |
| 6 | Rabbi Shlomo Wolbe says in the name of the Alter of Kelm that order can be compared to the clasp on a pearl necklace. The pearls are what make the necklace, and they are definitely more important than the clasp, but without the clasp the pearls will fall off and scatter, and all that will remain of the necklace is the string alone. Similarly, a person contains an abundance of strengths, intellect, character traits, and qualities. But without order, all of these virtues will scatter, and he or she will be left with nothing.* Everyday Holiness pg. 97
 |
| 7 | “Awareness of the divine begins with wonder. It is the result of what man does with his higher incomprehension. The greatest hindrance to such awareness is our adjustment to conventional notions, to mental clichés. Wonder or radical amazement, the state of maladjustment to words and notions, is therefore a prerequisite for an authentic awareness of that which is.”* Abraham Joshua Heschel
 |

1. Even God needed order to create
2. We need order to understand the world – appreciate order
3. Aveirah = straying across a boundary, babel went outside of order 🡪 were punished was disorder
4. What is our place (where are we in the greater order?)
5. Create an order for yourself – a fixed schedule
6. Order is what makes life achievable
7. Radical amazement