

מִשִּׁיחַ

Moshiach

Live it now!





Moshiach

Some people think Judaism is all about tradition. It's not. It's about making a whole new world.

Sure, our tradition is important.

It starts with Abraham smashing the idols in his father's house. Moses liberates a people from slavery. Isaiah lectures a war-hungry civilization on world peace.

It's a long one and it's all about one thing: Changing the world, getting it in tune with its real purpose, with what it really is. We've been doing that for four thousand years, with the conviction that it's really going to happen. The time will come.

Our mothers and fathers prayed for that time. Every book of Torah is filled with the idea. Every mitzvah we do is meant to create that world. For all our history, we lived and sacrificed our lives with that hope in our hearts and on our lips.

Until today, we discover that most of humanity has bought into our dream. That the pieces needed for this new world have been neatly falling in place. That the rays of a new dawn have already begun to filter through the horizon's clouds.



Call Home

Nowadays you can call anywhere from anywhere. How about this:

“Hi, great-grandma, great-grandpa! This is your great-grandchild calling from a hundred years later!”

“So wonderful to hear from you! How is life in the 21st century? Do you have enough to eat?”

“Well, when I want to eat, I go to my refrigerator. It keeps all the food cold.”

“You only eat cold? Poor thing!”

“No, I stick it in my microwave for a minute and it comes out warm and cooked.”

You go on to describe your menu, including produce and packages from every part of the world. You can take a cute little device out of your pocket and have a conversation with someone anywhere in the world, anytime. And if you need a piece of information, or to study any subject, you have access to libraries and helpful people around the world— without even stepping out the door.

Your home is warm in the winter and cool in the summer. No Cossacks come to burn it down. In fact, the government guarantees freedom of religion. In Moscow, the government helps build places of wor-

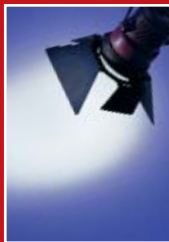


ship for Jews, as they do for all those who wish to worship in their own way. The people around you teach their children tolerance and love of peace—because, for the first time in history, war is despised and world peace is a value. The world produces enough food to feed each of its six billion citizens. Scientists, rather than challenging faith, point out the mysterious wonders of the universe and its essential oneness.

To them, you are describing a miraculous world. A world more distant from theirs than theirs was from the ancients. They could only reach one conclusion: You must be calling them from the Time of Moshiach.

Yes, you left out a few details. For example, that you still owe the bank for that house. That the food produced is not reaching those who need it. That the information superhighway is often used for trash rather than for the wisdom it is destined for. That the world is still struggling with evil and suffering.

But the point is: The stage is set, all is in place. Never before has the world been anywhere near this position. All that's left is for the curtains to be drawn and the lights to shine on the scene.



Moshiach Bytes:

A Goal

Time began. As impossible as it is to imagine, all we know of—space, time, the very nature of things—all has a beginning.

And it has a goal, an ultimate state. Every era, every event, every moment that it passes through is a step along that way. Every star in every galaxy, every cell of life on our planet, every particle and every charge of energy is brought into being as part of that plan.

What is that plan? It is a drama, the ultimate masterpiece of beauty. A marriage of opposites, the fusion of finite and infinite, light and darkness, heaven and earth. The drama of a lowly world becoming the home of an infinite G-d.

We are the players in that drama. With our every action, we have the power to reveal the Infinite in our mundane world. With acts of wisdom and of beauty, with the guidance of Torah and its light.

This is the mission of every soul that comes to walk upon this earth: Not to escape to the heavens, but to grapple with the challenges of this world. Until each one of us has uncovered our own sparks of heaven here on earth. And when all those sparks are



gathered, the masterpiece is complete.

Plant Now

True, we have faith that Moshiach will be here tomorrow, because he will come today in the very next moment. And if so, why build a house? Why plant a tree? Why teach a child?

But this is the journey that builds the world to come. At each encampment, we do all this place demands of us—even if we are only there for the moment.

For each moment is an entire world.

Good Signs

Whenever things got worse, Jews would say, “This is a sign! Moshiach is coming!” But in those days, a messianic era would have meant a radical change in the natural order of things. Today, the material world itself is prepared.

UnApocalypse

This world was not created for some apocalyptic finale; its magnificence was not formed to dissipate into ionized gas. Each thing was formed for the glory of its Maker who stands forever.

Only the darkness must wind itself to its end, and it must be robbed of the treasures it holds. For the most



precious things of this world are held in darkness.

The Moshiaich Within

When the world is incomplete, nothing within it is fulfilled. The spirit of each person is locked within, only a trace of its potential actualized.

Yet within each of us is a point of freedom, a point where we all meet. And within that point is a place where we are all one simple essence. That is the soul of the Moshiaich within us.

The Time Now

Our whole catch on the Moshiaich idea today is inspired by Rabbi M. M. Schneerson. He is generally known as “the Rebbe”.

From the beginning of the Rebbe’s leadership, he stood by the conviction that our generation is the generation of the geula—the liberation of the world. He saw technology as the world readying itself for that time. He saw the rebellion of youth in the sixties as an awakening of the spirit of Moshiaich.

But then, in the early 1980s, the Rebbe began to talk much more about the future. He envisioned the collapse of the Soviet empire years before it began. When Russian Jews were suddenly free to return to their roots, his people were already in place



to teach them. He saw the conflict with Iraq as a sign of a miraculous new world order. He spoke with absolute certitude, with a fire in his heart and in his voice, proclaiming that the time has come.

“Moshiach is already on his way,” he said. “We only need to increase in acts of goodness and kindness to make it happen sooner.”

It was a late spring evening in 1991 and the Rebbe had just returned from the gravesite of his father-in-law, the previous Rebbe. He had spent the entire day there, reading letters and reciting psalms. Now he said the evening prayers, then turned to the people to speak. Words such as had never before been heard from his mouth.

He spoke to us about his frustration, how his goals had not been achieved. He had done everything he could to awaken the Jewish people from their slumber and complacency, that we should demand a world the way the world was meant to be, that we should want with all our hearts to break out of our spiritual prisons. But, the Rebbe lamented, it was all to no avail. The world remains within its shell, and us, its captives, still in our chains. The time of which he had always dreamt, the goal to which everything he had ever done was aimed, had not been achieved. And the Rebbe had no explanation why.

“The only thing I can do,” the Rebbe continued, “is hand the matter over to you. Do everything you can—



even if it demands the unconventional, maverick but down-to-earth—do everything you can that people will truly yearn—not because I have told them to yearn, but because they truly yearn from their own hearts and their own understanding—and demand, ‘How much longer!?’”

“If there were only a few souls, even just ten of them, that would be sincere and stubborn and demand from G-d—we would already be there today”.

“So I have done my part. From this point on, you do whatever *you* can.”

What to do now

The making of a whole new world is like any interactive experience: You could just sit back and watch it happen— eventually. Or you could take a proactive role and be one of those who *make* it happen. Being part of it is obviously going to be more rewarding.

Anyone who adds even one more act of kindness to this world is a partner in building the whole new world we are waiting for. A helping hand, a friendly smile...who knows, that one beautiful act may be the final one needed to tip the scales.

It’s hard to yearn for something when you don’t really



know what it is. Organize a seminar. Attend one already in session. Debate with your local Chabad rabbi. Or visit www.Moshiach.com to learn online.

Imagine life in the time of Moshiach—a life untainted by stress and worry, beyond petty jealousies and quarrels, where all human occupations are transformed to spiritual paths towards a deeper wisdom and a higher knowledge. Imagine it and then start to live it now.

As the Rebbe once said, “Everything is here, now. All that’s left is for us to open our eyes.”

Latent Birth

Within each thing we behold, the Moshiach dwells, like the embryo waiting to break out of its egg. In the rhythm of a dandelion shivering in the breeze, in the eyes of the children we raise, in the goals we make in life, in the machines we use and the art we create, in the air we breathe and the blood rushing through our veins.

When the world was made, the sages say, the Moshiach was the wind hovering over all that would be.



