



Tzadi

“Faith is What Is; Faith in What Could Be”

Invocation Verse:

צַדִּיק יְהוָה בְּכָל־דַּרְכָּיו וְחַסִּיד בְּכָל־מַעֲשָׂיו
Tzadik Adonai b'khol d'rakhav v'hasid b'khol ma'asav!
The Divine is just in all Its paths and loving in all Its action!
(Psalm 145:17)

Meaning and Mystical Associations:

Tzadi means “just” and relates to the power of faith. In the *Sefer Yetzirah*, *tzadi* is one of the twelve “simple letters” and represents the sense of taste, the astrological sign of Aquarius, the stomach in the human body, and the month of *Shvat* in time.

Texts

שְׁמַעוֹן הַצַּדִּיק הָיָה מִשְׁנֵי־רֵי כְּנֶסֶת הַגְּדוּלָּה. הוּא הָיָה אוֹמֵר, עַל שְׁלֹשָׁה דְבָרִים הָעוֹלָם עוֹמֵד, עַל הַתּוֹרָה וְעַל הַעֲבוּדָה וְעַל גְּמִילוּת חַסְדִּים

Shimon the Just was from the remnants of the Great Assembly. He would say, “On three things the world stands: on Torah, on Practice and on Acts of Lovingkindness.”

רַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר אִישׁ בְּרִתּוֹתָא אוֹמֵר, תָּן לוֹ מִשְׁלוֹ, שְׂאִתָּהּ וְשִׁלָּהּ שְׁלוֹ. וְכֵן בְּדוֹד הוּא אוֹמֵר כִּי מִמָּה הַכֹּל וּמִיָּדָה נִתְּנָו לָהּ

Rabbi Elazar of Bartota, says: Give Him from what is His, for you and yours are His, and so has David said, “For everything is from You, and from Your hand we have given to You.” (I Chronicles 29:14).

-Pirkei Avot 1:2, 3:8

Kabbalah Commentary (Based on The Aleph Beit by Rabbi Yitzhak Ginsburgh)

Tzadi begins the description of human beings in *Bereisheet* as *Tzelem Elokim* – in the *Divine Image*. It also is the same root as *tzadik*, which means a just person in the normative sense, and a spiritual master or perfected being in the esoteric sense. This hints at the idea that purpose of life is to actualize our potential to be embodiments of the Divine; to become *tzadikim*.

The three parts of the *tzadi* represent the three levels of the soul: *neshamah*, *ruakh* and *nefesh*, which are the mind, heart and body. The *lamed* and *mem* are the higher levels of *hayah* and *yekhidah*, which are faith in the “Divine Light” as the revealed teachings (Torah and Mitzvot) and the “Divine Essence” as Creation. These two correspond to faith in our own power to effect change, on one hand, and faith in the way everything is unfolding, on the other. In other words, *active faith* and *passive faith*. The goal is to

embody both, and that's the quality of the *tzadik* – to be completely *in* and yet totally not *of* this world.

Practice

Tzadi Meditation and Chant

Bring to mind the assertion that everything is happening as it must. Feel into this deep surrender. Next, bring to mind that you are a force of positive transformation, and that you have both power and responsibility to step into this role. Feel into the taking on of this responsibility.

Then, anchor this awareness with the chant:

צַדִּיק יְהוָה בְּכָל-דַּרְגָּתוֹ וְחָסִיד בְּכָל-מַעֲשָׂיו
Tzaddik Adonai b'khol d'rakhav v'hasid b'khol ma'asav!

Daily Practice

1. Practice the *Tzadi* meditation and chant the Invocation Verse.
2. Open meditation with the Ten *Sefirot* and *Sh'ma*, adding the *tzadi* (see the practice sheet).
3. Spend some time in silent meditation. 20 minutes is wonderful, 2 minutes is infinitely better than nothing!