

man and nature in a singular Being.

BEing HOLY means acting in accord with this awakened insight. If we know that we are one, we cannot exploit, harm, abuse, or otherwise do violence to our neighbor, and we see that we are all neighbors, all kin, all manifestations of the One Being, YHVH. We would no more think to exploit or exterminate another species of animal, or another species of plant life than we would think to have our right hand take up an ax and chop off our left hand. We would know and care for the One Body in which all of us dwell.

But YHVH did not say to Moshe: Know holiness. YHVH just said BE HOLY. Can we be holy without the insight of holiness to support us?

What Moshe heard when he opened his ears to Reality was the imperative to act as if he knew the Truth. There will always be doubt. There will always be a healthy skepticism. There will always be a sense that I am alone and not a part of a Greater Whole. And we should act from holiness anyway. Regardless of whether or not we have seen Reality and know the One, we are to act as if Unity were Reality. Torah is saying: don't wait to feel the Unity, act as if it were so. And in so acting you will, perhaps, discover the truth of what we are saying for yourself. BEing HOLY will not guarantee awakening to holiness, but it will maximize our opportunities for awakening.

So how shall I BE HOLY? By acting as if every one and every thing is kin. By not exploiting, lying, cheating and murdering. By not robbing others of their possessions, their emotions, their dreams and their futures. By taking care that our speech heal not harm. By doing the many many things that Torah and her sages describe when they deal with the right way one human being should act toward another.

For I, YHVH, your God, am holy. Why bother to BE HOLY? Because YHVH is HOLY. What is a norm for YHVH must become a norm for humanity. And, since we are apart of YHVH, or rather, YHVH manifests us as an ocean manifests waves, we know that holiness is our divine nature. Holiness is not alien to us, it is our deepest essence. What Torah asks is not that we change what we are, only that we discover what we are and act accordingly.

Sh'aylot/Questions:

It isn't difficult to intellectually understand the image of ocean and wave that we use to illustrate our relation to YHVH, but this is not yet the knowing of which I am capable.

Can I sense the Reality of my oceanic self?

Can I sense the YHVH that is me?

Can I awaken to holiness?

Can I BE HOLY even if my answers to these other questions is "NO"?