

THE AQUARIAN MINYAN

Spring, 1992

April
May
June

Y'mot Hamashiakh

יְמוֹת הַמָּשִׁיחַ

Messianic Days

Aviv, 5752

Nisan Iyyar
Sivan
Tammuz

The word מָשִׁיחַ, *Mashiakh* is used in common parlance to refer to the special person who will somehow trigger the collective consciousness to deeply awaken. The awareness of the *Mashiakh* person will be so profound that the imagination of masses of humanity will become engaged and even the planet itself will be turned on, as it says, "Knowledge of the Divine Force will fill the earth as water now fills the sea." Although this awakening must happen in all people and in the planet as a holistic unit, it may be symbolized by a single person.

Others say that the concept of *Mashiakh* being represented by a single individual is based on the hierarchical models of the past where the king (or president) was at the top of the pyramidal heap. A more modern model of consciousness is that of the network. In the network view the *Mashiakh* will be symbolized not by one special individual, but by the awakening of the planet through simultaneous changes happening in a connected network of individuals. In the state of the *Mashiakh*, people like Abraham, Buddha, Moses, Mohammed, Rabbi Akiva, Jesus, the Baal Shem Tov will not be considered extraordinary, but rather everyday people, your neighbors, parents and family members.

Judaism's vision is that humanity will evolve. The acronym of the name of the first human, Adam, hints at three stages of humanity: Adam (primitive); David (institutional); and *Mashiakh* (networked). This parallels the teaching found in the *Agada* that the stature of Adam, the first human, was gigantic, spreading from East to West. According to the *Tanya*, the generation now alive is the embodiment of the "feet of Adam's soul". Soon, this great Adam, who is now lying down, will awaken and stand up on us, its feet. This theme of all humanity rising up on us suggests that not only will all humanity awaken, but also the awarenesses of all past souls will be incorporated in this major evolutionary change. The dead will reawaken in us. As we evolve, our ideas about *Mashiakh* must also evolve.

Mashiakh comes from the root word מָשַׁח *m'shakh*, anointing, spreading or smearing. When Moses (who began his trip in a little ark smeared with pitch) initiated the various items of the desert sanctuary (the first movable shul) such as the holy ark, the menorah, and so on, he created a special oil for this purpose. Some say that as Moses dabbed and spread the oil on the sanctuary objects, their inner intelligence was raised to the surface and they took on an ethereal and responsive glow.

מָשִׁיחַ *Mashiakh* can refer to any officially installed leader. Priests and kings were initiated by having spread on their foreheads a small amount of the special oil used for this purpose. If you were the one to initiate a king, for example, you would dip your finger in the anointing oil and draw the image of a crown on the forehead of the person being installed. Then that person would be the *Mashiakh*, the anointed one. Nowadays we just cover them with media attention, sometimes using smear tactics. In the old days, the crown was the symbol of supreme power. We have to reframe the image of the crown to represent the symbol of the networked web, of power-with rather than power-over.

Besides spreading and smearing, מָשַׁח *m'shakh* also means to draw, measure and survey. In those days to draw something was to spread oily ink so as to connect the outline of its points together. Perhaps the *Mashiakh* consciousness can connect bits of creative thought together in a way that previously no one could, spreading about and filling

in the gaps between ideas which birth creative miracles to the whole planet. According to Hasidic thought, the age of the *Mashiakh* will be characterized by the opening up of the spirit wisdom hidden in the Torah more profoundly than to the primitive humans (Adam and Havah) or Moses.

Can you find where the term *Y'mot Hamashiakh*, the days of the *Mashiakh*, or the Messianic epoch, is mentioned in the *Haggadah*? According to the Sages, in the coming new world order we will still be talking about leaving oppression and advancing towards liberation.

