Three Partners in Creation

THREE PARTNERS IN CREATION

BT Niddah, 31a

Our Rabbis taught: There are three partners in man, the Holy One, blessed be He, his father and his mother. His father supplies the semen of the white substance out of which are formed the child’s bones, sinews, nails, the brain in his head and the white in his eye; his mother supplies the semen of the red substance out of which is formed his skin, flesh, hair, blood and the black of his eye; and the Holy One, blessed be He, gives him the spirit and the breath, beauty of features, eyesight, the power of hearing and the ability to speak and to walk, understanding and discernment.

ON CHILDREN

The Prophet, Kahlil Gibran

Your children are not your children
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.
They come through you but not from you,
And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts.
For they have their own thoughts.
You may house their bodies but not their souls,
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.
You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.
For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.

You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.
The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He bends you with His might that His arrows may go swift and far.
Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness;
For even as He loves the arrow that flies, so He loves also the bow that is stable.
Reflective Writing

1. What qualities do you think your child received from you?

2. What qualities do you think your child received from your partner (or biological parent)?

3. What qualities do you think your child received from God, or the 3rd partner?

4. For one of your children, write down qualities that capture him or her:
   1. 1 quality unique to only him/her
   2. 1 quality you love
   3. 1 quality that drives you crazy

DEVELOPING AWARENESS OF BEING IN GOD’S IMAGE

Ethics of the Fathers 3:14 פְּרָקֵי אֲבֹתֵינוּ פְּרָקֵי
Beloved is man for he was created in the image of God. Still greater was God’s love in that God gave to man the knowledge of his having been so created.

FIND YOURSELF

Rav Kook, Orot HaKodesh II:447 רא״י, עורות הקודש §247
Every person needs to find himself within himself, and afterwards he finds himself in the world that surrounds himself, in his society, his public, and his people.

THE FACES WE WEAR

"Now I Become Myself", May Sarton

Now I become myself. It’s taken
Time, many years and places;
I have been dissolved and shaken,
Worn other people’s faces…
EMBRACE WHO YOU ARE

Brené Brown

Authenticity is the daily practice of letting go of who we think we’re supposed to be and embracing who we are.


**Reflective Writing**

1. Which text resonates most with you?
2. If you were to articulate your God-given qualities, what would you say they are?
3. How do you put them into “practice” in your parenting?
4. What distracts you or gets in the way of expressing those God given qualities?

**Homework**

CHOOSE 1:

1. What advice would you give to yourself to help better recognize and honor the third partner in your child?
2. Become aware of how your unique, God given qualities manifest in your relationship with your child/ren.
3. In your own assessment:
   - When did you get it right?
   - When did you get it wrong? And what happened?
   - If you are partnered, ask your spouse for support.