

WHO IS ADONAI?

AN EXPLORATION IN PERSONAL THEOLOGY

מַחֲיֵה הַכּוֹל

Author of Life & Death (from *Gevurot*)

- God is responsible for all that happens in the world.
- Reward and punishment are given out in the afterlife.
- God has reasons for doing things that we will never understand.
- I cannot argue with God.

מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם

Ruler of the Universe (from our *tefillot*)

- God plays an active role in our lives.
- God protects and cares.
- God rewards good people and punishes bad people.
- God hears my prayers.
- God works miracles.
- God gives order.
- God is just.
- God holds us up in times of trouble.

קוֹל דְּמַמָּה דְּקָה

A Still, Small Voice (from I Kings 19:12)
"Jiminy Cricket"

- God is my conscience.
- God is inside of everyone.
- God talks to me.
- God lets me know what is right and wrong.
- God helps me to be just.

אֵין סוֹף

Infinite One (from the *Zohar*)

- God is the only reason I exist.
- God is the ocean; I am a wave.
- God is everything.
- God is the cause of causes.
- God is the constant breath of the universe.

יוֹצֵר אֹרֶךְ מְעַרְיב עֲרָבִים

Creator of Light / One Who Makes Evening Fall
(from our *tefillot*) "The Force"

- God is everywhere.
- The beauty of nature represents God.
- The patterns in the world are evidence of God.
- God does not deal with me personally.
- God is in all scientific truths.
- God is order.

שׁוֹתֵף בְּמַעֲשֵׂה בְּרֵאשִׁית

Partner in Creation (from Talmud *Shabbat* 10a)

- God gave human beings free will.
- We are made in the image of God.
- God re-creates the world continually.
- I am God's partner; we are fulfilling an agreement.
- I can argue with God.
- God helps us to hold ourselves up in times of trouble.

יַעֲטֹף וְלֹא אֶרְאֶה

The Hidden God I Cannot See (from Job 23:9)
"The Watchmaker"

- God created the world.
- God is not involved in our lives today.
- God allows bad things to happen to good people.
- God is there, but God is silent.

הַטּוֹב וְהַמְּרַחֵם

Goodness & Compassion (from *Modim*)
"Goodness, Love, Dreams and Ideals"

- God represents potential.
- God is a role model for perfection.
- God acts through me.
- God is the best I can possibly be.
- God is our dream for a united humanity.