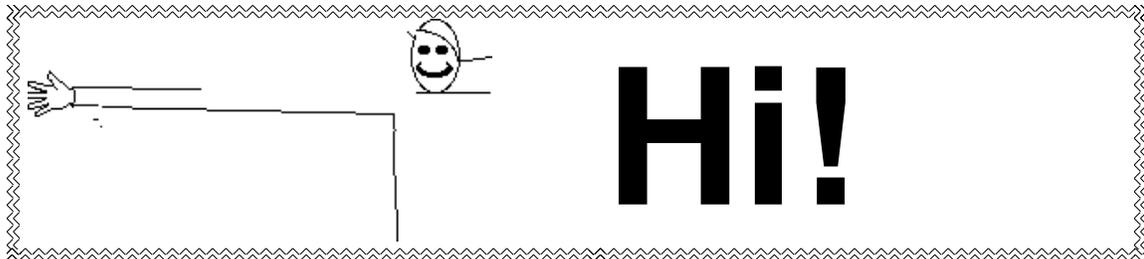


Yogi Wolf's comment on bar-Lev's lecture.



**My name is Vrkas Yogin.**

**That's Sanskrit for "Yogi Wolf."** I'm smarter than the average wolf (at least I think so, and I'm very smart, so I can't be wrong, right?) And healthier, too: I hardly ever even have any boo-boos!

I'm smarter than the average wolf, mostly because I meditate! Once I meditated for 5 months straight! It was very healthy for me. I lost 60 pounds, and really organized my thoughts. I even improved my memory.

**stop! and THINK!**

Professor bar-Lev's lecture is a philosophical defense of Judaism, suitable for anyone who agonizes incessantly about whether God exists and what "The Truth" is (as if there is such a thing). These 3-4 people will ultimately find (and again lose) their way with or without bar-Lev. The truth is...

There is only one reason for anyone ever to do or even study anything Jewish ...

**IF it is FUN!**

Judaism does have the best jokes and the best comedians. All of Judaism is one big joke! (Seriously!) See *Fiddler on the Roof* if you don't believe me, OR get a book of Jewish jokes. Or listen to a TV or radio program or pod-cast of jokes. If the comedians themselves aren't Jewish (they may not be: You don't have to be Jewish to use...or abuse...anything Jewish, including humor)...IF (as I began) the comedians aren't Jewish themselves, then they are the "spiritual descendants" of the Jewish comedians (in the Catskills and Poconos, where the events portrayed in *Dirty Dancing* took place) who created American comedy (while black people were busy creating jazz).

<b>Judaism is nothing</b> but applied common sense.
Its whole content is just one piece of advice:
<b>Don't Worry! Be .....Happy!</b>
<b>If you aren't going to love Judaism as children love balloons and bubbles. then there's no point in it. Why just find a new place to sleepwalk in?</b>
<b>So let's start with finding out what your "balloons and bubbles " are. Where do you go without sleepwalking?</b>
<b>List 3-5 activities or subjects that you are passionate, ecstatic about.</b>
<b>1.</b>
<b>2.</b>
<b>3.</b>
<b>4.</b>
<b>5.</b>

If you can't think of any, don't continue here. This handout cannot fix this. If you are not passionate or ecstatic about anything in your life, you definitely won't be passionate about anything that *Yogi Wolf* can offer. So go away and get passionate about something...anything as long as it isn't harmful to you or others.

Just to be safe, write down 3-5 passions that might well be harmful to you or others.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

**Who needs an icky book of commandments (ugh!)**

Who would ever want to follow an icky old book of commandments. rather than one's own heart? Today's heart is surely wiser than an ancient book! Maybe what we need is just to be *spiritual*, without any books at all, ancient or modern. Who knows what's best for you than you do? (Meanwhile we don't notice people praising spiritual leaders as being uniquely successful in leading people to happiness.

## **spirituality**

But a lot of spirituality is “plastic,” commercialized, whether the red strings that you can buy for a few dollars from a Qabalah (Kabala) center (you can get a whole red ball of yarn for a lot less, and it will work just as well). or “plastic” books that tell you how to achieve happiness and spiritual ... well, spiritual...what?

## **love vs. fatuation.**

Love is cool, and leads to instant happiness, right? Well, actually, it depends on who you love...and how you love. You can easily supply details from your knowledge or imagination. (As an exercise you might tell one story of a good love, and one story of a bad love (each real or imagined). Young people talk a lot about “true love” and “being in love” vs. “loving.” There are more terms for different kinds of love than you can find egos and ids at a psychologist convention (and few psychologists who can tell you how to make love work with any reliability.) Most theories contain some warnings about what I call “fatuation”: becoming foolish (fatuous) over some foolishness person (especially political figures)...or ideas. It's very important to distinguish people from ideas, good people from bad people, and good ideas from bad ideas. (You don't have to read many books on these topics, if you **STOP AND THINK** at crucial points, especially if you have a clear overview of the Universe...and Other Things.) I CALL IT “FATUATION” to emphasize the fatuousness of this word. Say it 13 times to let its meaning sink in deep.

The search for ecstasy can lead to fatuation, Or it can take you by surprise, in the form of a really cool guy with a really hot bike, or a really hot girl with cool tats,. The problem is that the fatuation wears off, and leaves you disappointed (and hung over). It's especially common with political figures.

## **messiahs and redeemers.**

Judaism is famous for its messiahs, but most people don't know that the Jewish people has been afflicted with many “false messiahs.” You don't even have to deny the Jesus was the messiah, in order to see that his advent brought much misery upon the Jewish people,

through the Inquisition and Nazism. Anti-Semitism didn't begin with Christianity, but Christians (including Martin Luther) brought it to a NEW high degree of sophistication.

But the more general point is the problem with the whole concept of a messiah : a utopian, world-historic figure who shoots up wide-scale popular fatuation, with goals than cannot be achieved in this "imperfect" world of ours.

*Messiah* (Hebrew *mashiaH*) means "anointed": the king was anointed (oil was poured on his head, as a symbolic grooming). But the Hebrew Bible warns against kings even before raising up David as the archetypical king, the model for the future messiah (who, by the way, is supposed to bring world peace, bringing the Jews back to Israel)

**What about the Torah? Isn't it guilty of saddling us with the whole evil notion of a king?** Not if you read it carefully. Even Joseph in the Torah, great a hero as he is in Judaism, ends up putting his own people in ultimate slavery.

### **is God a messiah?**

In Christianity, Jesus is not only the messiah, but also God. But God in Judaism is never called "messiah." God is called "Redeemer."

### **redeemers.**

Judaism prefers the "redeemer" to the messiah. The classic redeemer was Boaz, who rescues Ruth in the biblical book named after her. The redeemer is a family hero, not a world figure, who steps in and provides the means for a productive but ordinary family life.

### **How could Jews help create Stalin's<sup>1</sup> Russia?**

I have often wondered how Jews could have helped create Stalin's Russia. They could not predict that he would be a genocidal madman (murdering more millions of Jews and other than Hitler later would). But couldn't they see what communism would be like? Maybe they were fooled by reading the Torah superficially. After all, Joseph himself creates a system of state socialism, and this is what results in

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<sup>1</sup> Unlike cartoon villains, Stalin and even Hitler did not wake up every morning and ask themselves what evil they could do. They murdered millions in the name **of their definition** of goodness. So what was wrong with their definition?

ultimate Jewish enslavement. (Joseph even loses leadership of the Jewish people, which passes on to Judah.)

## **TOE & TUOT.**

Albert Einstein envisaged a complete T.O.E. — Theory of the universe. He screwed up even on that, by rejecting quantum mechanics when younger scientists proposed it. But even a complete and accurate TOE would be only a small digit of the much larger body of truth. A complete TOE could tell you what effects coffee or wine or marijuana would have on your body. But it could not tell you what the body...much less life—is actually for. If you do have well-defined life-goals, a complete TOE could tell you what strategies would be most likely to lead to achieving these goals. But it can't tell you much about whether these goals will actually achieve happiness for you. You might think that this is just a matter of psychology. But psychology really knows very little about achieving happiness. (Are psychologists...or their children...happier than other people? If they were, I think we would have heard about it.)

Only the TUOT (pronounced "toot") —the Theory of the Universe and Other Things. (Don't get picky about my spelling!) can tell you what goals are likely to lead to happiness vs. unhappiness.

<b>The TOE has four dimensions, as Einstein discovered.</b>
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<b>The TUOT has five dimensions.</b>
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## **Traveling in various dimensions. (mathematical detour)**

You may find the thought of traveling in five dimensions scary and confusing. But actually five dimensions allow no end of convenient shortcuts...like "wormholes" through four-dimensional space, but better.
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How's your conceptual math? If you had trouble in three dimensions, Imagine, for example, that a building is in your way. You could just take a detour into the fourth dimension, move a little in space, then return, thus going around the three-dimensional building by using the fourth dimension. Or what if you were late for an appointment on the other side of the country? If you can just stretch the fourth dimension, you could be on time. An easy way to stretch the fourth dimension is to simply defer the appointment till a later time. How
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easy!

In the same way, the fifth dimension gives you detours around problems in four-dimensional space-time. For example, if you were late for an appointment, but knew that the appointment would be, fifth-dimensionally, in a “bad place,” you would know not to defer it, but to cancel it altogether. “Bad place” can be understood physically or metaphorically...but “bad” is a fifth-dimensional concept.

Because of the logical priority of higher dimensions, you can solve spatial-temporal problems with fifth-dimensional solutions, but you cannot solve fifth-dimensional problems with spatial-temporal solutions.

### **Jesus' TUOT.**

Of course the TUOT (even if it existed) would have to be used intelligently: it can't be a set of rules to memorize and then apply mechanically. That could never be good for you!

There is a system that claims to be a TUOT (or rather, *The* TUOT—since there can't logically be more than one TUOT—in the unlikely case that there is even one!

This system can be called *Orayytah* which is an Aramaic form of the word meaning “The Light” It rhymes with “All-Right, Ta-ra. (Tara is the name of a vine. It is also the root of a Greek word that we can understand to mean “creative chaos.”)

.” Orayytah means “Light” in a very abstract sense (think of it with the image or metaphor of the Light” that existed before the Sun ever existed, the Light that shines between atomic particles.. Maybe if you look at Einstein's formula  $e = mc^2$  you can almost see it in the spaces *between* and above and below the letters and numbers If you can focus on the actual content of Zero, you may get a glimpse of this Light.

A very nice Greek philosophical word for this “Light is “Logos. . If Jesus spoke Greek, he knew the word Logos. Whether or not he spoke Greek, Jesus spoke Aramaic, and he used the word Orayytah. In fact, if he used the Greek word Logos, he understood it as a translation of Orayytah.

The New Testament calls Jesus “the Logos.” (If you don’t know much about Jesus, you might “google” him.

Jesus, as a religious Jew, also used a Hebrew word for Orayytah. That word is *Torah*. You may know that it refers literally to the Five Books of Moses, the first “third” of the Hebrew Bible, as well as to the whole of “Judaism” as a religious and philosophical system. Since I’m not Christian, I don’t have to believe (and in fact I don’t) that Jesus was right in everything he says (and I don’t) much less everything that the New Testament says that he said. But we can and should make our best understanding about what Jesus thought, if only for historical interest.

You may think that Torah means “Law.” Some Christian Bibles use this term for the Five Books of Moses. But Jesus would have known better. He would have known that *Torah* means “Teaching.” (It is an abbreviation for *Torat Mosheh* “the Teaching of Moses.” and is related to Hebrew *Moreh* “teacher.” Jesus would have understood the Torah as equivalent to the TUOT, In fact since the expression TUOT was not used back then, Torah would have been Jesus’ term for this concept .

Whether the Torah is in fact the TUOT is a highly “controversial” question if not totally dubious. Few people alive believe it to be. But Jesus did, right or wrong.
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<b>rubber Torah.</b>
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He may have understood Torah symbolically. In fact, he surely did. How literally did he take its “commandments? That’s a trickier question, that we don’t have time for here. But it is clear from the New Testament that he belonged to a group of “pre-rabbis” (before this term had a formal definition, or required formal study in a seminary) This Torah, as these rabbis demonstrated is “rubbery” enough to stretch over all possible events and issues. It requires interpretation, as Jesus’ predecessor Rabbi Hillel taught.
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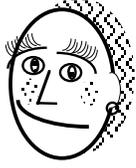
<b>slavery and freedom.</b>
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Let’s consider one modern objection to this idea that the Torah is the TUOT, namely that it “teaches slavery.” The great (and usually right, IMHO) historian and sociologist Rodney Stark says that there isn’t even a word for freedom in the Hebrew Bible.
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Judaism believes in the one theme that it emphasizes in the Five
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Books of Moses: FREEDOM!
<p>☩ You may have seen this dove as a symbol of peace. That symbol comes straight out of Torah, But it means freedom, not peace. (Freedom and peace are very different concepts, often at odds in the real world. In the Torah, freedom comes to the Hebrews only with the help of wars.</p>
<p>Rodney Stark, the great historian and sociologist, has claimed that there is no word for freedom in the Hebrew Bible. Many critics of the Bible claim that it “approves of slavery.”</p>
<p>But the word does occur in the Bible. The Hebrew word is <i>Dror</i>, which literally means a dove, and referred to the symbolic release of doves. It is often translated “liberty,” e.g. on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, which quotes the Torah verse:</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Proclaim liberty (<b><i>dror</i></b>) throughout the land to all its inhabitants.”</p>
<p>“The land” in the original quote was Israel, but the American revolutionaries (like the Pilgrims before them) considered themselves the “New Hebrews,” in their own “Promised Land” of America.</p>

**Hi!**



**My name is  
Amy Sophóteros.**

**I am smarter than most people, as well as wolves. I'm especially smarter than Professor bar-Lev and Yogi Wolf. You know who says so? Socrates himself!**

**You see, Socrates gave me my name, which is spelled ΕΙΜΙ Σοφωτερος in Greek, and means "I am smarter." Why am I smarter? As Socrates explains: *émi sophóteros hoti ouk édos, ouk oiomayy édennayy.* "I am smarter because, when I don't know, I don't think that I know."**

So who thinks that they know something when they don't? Socrates named politicians as specially guilty of this. If he were alive today, I know (and don't just think that I know) that he would include a lot of modern political leaders too. I'm sure he would also include arrogant professors, like bar-Lev. (Most professors are arrogant on some level. Some of the worst of them conceal it with a soft voice. The best test is what they mean by "critical thinking." They all use this phrase, spraying it all over like seeds in a garden. But check them out on a submitted paper. It will be real easy to see whether they mean critical thinking even when it's critical of their ideas, or whether they actually think that critical thinking just happens to coincide with what they themselves think.

**Torah, like Amy, is a hidden lover, flirting from behind the curtain of our "knowledge."**

**The love affair between God and those who love God, is described explicitly in the Song of Songs (Sheer haSheereem.)**

**The "Divine Mooning" is what I call the classic passage in Exodus 32, where God tells us that His "face cannot be seen," but instead shows Moses his backside. The literal image is depicted in the Sistine Chapel. In Judaism, not only are pictures of God forbidden, but the physical image itself is interpreted as meaning that God is non-corporeal, and known not is he essence but only in the results of his actions, as a God of History. Atomic particles also cannot be seen directly, but only by the traces they leave (and even ore indirectly, in the chemical processes that they allow).**

for more about

**see:**

**the TUOT  
& travels in  
the Fifth  
Dimension  
see:**

**contact:**

*Yogi Wolf's guide*

*to Jewish meditation*

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