

תפארת ישראל The Splendor of Israel Chapter 16 Introduction

This profound philosophical discourse by the Maharal of Prague seeks to provide irrefutable proofs that the **Torah is from Heaven (תּוֹרֶה** מִּן הַשְּׁמִיבּ). The Maharal, living in 16th-century Prague and widely regarded as one of Judaism's most profound thinkers, presents a sweeping argument built on metaphysics, human nature, Divine order, and rational necessity. Through a twelve-stage development of man (drawn from Sanhedrin 38b), followed by philosophical demonstration and theological reasoning, the Maharal shows that Torah must be Divine and not human invention. This ISPC unpacks that journey — from the creation of man, to the origin of the Torah, to the implications of Divine wisdom entering our world.

הוֹכָחוֹת שֶׁהַתּוֹרָה מִן הַשָּׁמֵיִם	
Proofs that the Torah is from It.  Men of investigative intellect, who follow their own reason— and these are the sages of the nations called philosophers— seek to be clever about reality and its structure, imagining they have grasped the truth.	Heaven אֲנָשִׁים חָקְרֵי לֵב, הַהוֹלְכִים אַחַר שִׁכְלָם מֵעַצְמָם, וְהֵם חַכְמֵי הָאָמּוֹת הַנִּקְרָאִים פִּילוֹסוֹפִים, רוֹצִים לְהָתְחַכֵּם עַל הַמְצִיאוּת וּבַסֵדֶר שָׁלוֹ, שֶׁיִדַמּוּ שֶׁעָמְדוּ עַל הָאֱמֶת
But they erred and strayed far; they did not know and did not understand, they walk in darkness.	וְהֵם סָכְלוּ רָחֲקוּ, לֹא יָדְעוּ וְלֹא יָבִינוּ, בַּחֲשֵׁכָה יִתְהַלָּכוּ
For had they given heart to know, they would have acknowledged this root — the foundation that the Torah is from Heaven — and they would have emerged from their darkness and obscurity.	שָׁאָם הָיוּ נוֹתְנִים לֵב לָדַעַת, הָיוּ נוֹתְנִים הוֹדָאָה לְשׁרֶשׁ זֶה – יְסוֹד תּוֹרָה מִן הַשָּׁמֵיִם, וְהָיוּ יוֹצְאִים מֵאֲפַלָּתָם וּמֵחָשְׁכָתָם
For this essence — that the Torah is from Heaven — when a person removes the filthy, soiled garments and purifies his thought, he will then arrive at clarity with demonstrative proof that it is impossible except that the Torah is from Heaven.	פִּי עֵקֶר זֶה שֶׁהוּא תּוֹרָה מִן הַשֶּׁמַיִם, כַּאֲשֶׁר הָאָדָם יַפְשִׁיט בְּגָדִים הַצוֹאִים הָרָעוֹת, וִיטַהֵר רַעְיוֹנוֹ, אֲזַי יַצְמֹד עַל הַבֵּרוּר בְּמוֹפֵת חוֹתֵךְ, כִּי אִי אֶפְשָׁר רַק שֶׁהַתּוֹרָה מִן הַשָּׁמִיִם.
And behold, these very people — when they would investigate the existence of the First Cause — would bring demonstrative proof for the existence of the First Cause who arranges all things, based on the visible existence of the creations, their good order, and the uprightness of their function.	ְהָנֵּה אֵלוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים בְּעַצְמָם, כַּאֲשֶׁר הָיוּ חוֹקְרִים עַל מְצִיאוּת הַסְבָּה הָרִאשׁוֹנָה, הָיוּ מְבִיאִים מוֹפֵת חוֹתֵךְ עַל מְצִיאוּת הַמִּבָּה הָרָאשׁוֹנָה מְסַדָּר מִשֶּנוּ הַכּּל, בַּמָּה שָׁנְרְאָה בַּנִּמְצָאִים טוּב סְדָרָם וְישֶׁר פָּעֲלָם.
And all things that are visible to the eye — all are in wondrous wisdom, and such a thing cannot be by chance, for chance does not persist nor is it abundant.	וְכָל הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר נִרְאוּ לָעֵיִן, הַכּּל בְּחָכְמָה נִפְלָאָה. וְדָבָר זֶה אִי אֶפְשֶׁר שֶׁיִהְיֶה בְּמִקְרָה, כִּי הַמִּקְרָה לֹא זַתְמִיד וְאֵינוֹ הַרְבֵּה.

### תפארת ישראל The Splendor of Israel Chapter 16

But when we see in all of existence such order and wisdom, they concluded by demonstrative proof that it is impossible except that it be from an Organizer who brings everything into being — He is the God who arranged everything with His wisdom and created everything with His understanding.

אֲבָל כַּאֲשֶׁר נִרְאֶה בְּכָל הַנְּמְצָאִים כַּלָּם הַסֵּדֶר וְהַחָּכְמָה, נָּזְרוּ בְּמוֹפַת חוֹתֵך שָׁאִי אֶפְשָׁר שָׁלֹא יִהְיֶה זֶה רַק מִמְסַדֵּר מַמְצִיא הַכֹּל, הוּא הָאֵל אֲשֶׁר סִדְּר הַכֹּל בְּחָרְמָתוֹ, וּבָרָא הַכֹּל בִּתְבוּנָתוֹ.

Now let us ask them: since they admit to two things — one, that all existence is ordered; and two, that it is not reasonable to say that the existence of the world and its good order came about by mere chance, for chance is not constant and not very abundant — and yet all of existence, with all its multitude, is ordered and stands consistently in its order — therefore the order of existence could not have occurred by chance.

וּמֵעַתָּה נִשְׁאֵל לָהֶם, אַחַר שֶׁהֵם מוֹדִים בִּשְׁנֵי דְבָרִים; הָאֶחָד – שֶׁבָּל הַמְצִיאוּת מְסַדָּר. וְהַשֵׁנִי – שֶׁאֵין רָאוּי לוֹמַר שֶׁיִהְיֶה מְצִיאוּת הָעוֹלֶם וְטוּב סִדְרוֹ בְּמִקְרֶה קָרָה, כִּי הַמִּקְרָה אֵינוֹ תָּמִיד וְאֵינוֹ רַב מְאֹד, וְכָל הַנְּמְצָאִים עַם רְבּוּיָם הֵם מְסַדְּרִים וְעוֹמְדִים תָּמִיד הַכְּסְדָרָם; וּלְפִּיכָךְ סֵדֶר הַנִּמְצָאִים אֵינוֹ בְּמִקְרָה קָרָה

Now let us ask them: if in the world there is murder, adultery, shame, and violence — can it be said that this is an upright, ordered reality? Clearly, this cannot be called order in uprightness.

ְרָבֵּה נִשְׁאֵל לָהֶם, אָם הָיָה בָּעוֹלֶם הָרְצִיחָה וְהַנָּאוּף וְהַנָּאֵל וְהָחָמָס, אִם הָיָה זֶה מְצִיאוּת יֹשֶׁר מְסַדָּר, הֲרֵי הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה אִי אָפְשָׁר לוֹמַר שֶׁדָּבָר זֶה הוּא מְסַדָּר בּישֵׁר.

And if one says the Torah is not from Heaven, but rather is from man's intellect and reason, and he grasps that murder and adultery are not appropriate in the world — it is clear that any wisdom and understanding which a person acquires on his own is a matter of chance: it is possible he will understand, or possible he will not, and remain in potential only.

וְאָם נֹאמֵר כִּי אֵין הַתּוֹרָה מִן הַשָּׁמֵיִם, רַק הוּא שַׁכֶּל הָאֶדָם וּמִדַּעְתּוֹ, וְהוּא מַשִּׁיג שֶׁאֵין רָאוּי שֶׁיִהְיֶה בָּעוֹלֶם הָרְצִיחָה וְהַנָּאוּף. הֲרֵי הוּא מְבֹאָר כִּי כָּל חָכְמָה וְדַעַת אֲשֶׁר יִקְנֶה הָאָדָם מֵעַצְמוֹ הוּא מִקְרֵה קָרָה, שֶׁאֶפְשָׁר שֶׁיַשְׂכִּיל, אוֹ לֹא יַשְׂכִּיל, וְיִהְיֶה נִשְׁאָר בָּכֹתַ

For intellect, at the time of its creation and emergence, is in potential.

ַפִּי הַשַּׁכָל בְּעֵת בְּרִיאָתוֹ הוּא בְּכֹחַ.

And after it is impossible to say that the world came to be by mere happenstance, and they themselves have already distanced from saying that the order of the world occurred by accident — therefore, according to their own words, it is impossible to say that immediately when God, blessed be He, created man, on the very day God created man, He arranged his actions.

וְאַחֲרֵי כִּי אִי אֶפְשָׁר לוֹמֵר שֶׁיִהְיֶה הָעוֹלֶם רַק בְּמִקְרֵה קָרָה, וּלְבָר הִרְחִיקוּ בְּעַצְמָם לוֹמֵר שֶׁיִהְיֶה מִדּוּר הָעוֹלֶם בְּמִקְרֶרָה קָרָה, לָכֵן לְכִּי דִּבְרֵיהֶם בְּעַצְמָם אִי אֶפְשָׁר לוֹמֵר רַק שֶׁמִּיִד שֶׁבָּרָא הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַה אֶת הָאָדָם, וּבִיוֹם בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הָאָדָם, סִדֵר אֶת מַעֵשֵׂיו

And as our Sages of blessed memory expounded (Sanhedrin 56b) on the verse (Bereishis 2:16), "And the Lord God commanded the man," that immediately the man was commanded in the seven Noahide commandments, as will yet be explained.

וּכְמוֹ שֶׁדָּרְשׁוּ זִכְרוֹנָם לְבְרֶכָה (מַנְהֶרְרִין נו, א) עַל הַבָּתוּב (בְּרֵאשִׁית ב, טז): "וַיְצֵו ה' אֱלֹהִים עַל הָאָדָם", שֶׁמִּיָּד נִצְטַנָּה הָאָדָם בְּשֶׁבַע מִצְוֹת בְּנֵי נֹחַ, כְּמוֹ שָׁיִתְבָּאֵר עוֹד.

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And this matter is required by reason, in order that the order of this world should not be a matter of chance.	וְדָבָר זָה מְחַיַּב הַשָּׂכֶל, כְּדֵי שֶׁיִהְיֶה סֵדֶר הָעוֹלָם הַזָּה לֹא בְּמִקְרַה קָרַה.
Therefore, the sages, who truly know the order of the world, arranged and determined that man was commanded by God, blessed be He, as will be further explained, that the order of the world should not depend on human intellect, which is subject to chance — whether he will understand or not.	לְכָךְ הַחֲכָמִים, הַיּוֹדְעִים סִדּוּר הָעוֹלָם בֶּאֱמֶת, סִדְרוּ וְגָזְרוּ שָׁנִּצְטַנָּה הָאָדָם מִן הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ כְּמוֹ שֻׁיִּתְבָּאֵר, שֶׁלֹא יִהְיֶה סֵדֶר הָעוֹלָם עַל־יְדֵי שֵׁכָל הָאָדָם שֶׁהוּא בְּמִקְרֶה - אָם יַשְׂבִּיל אוֹ לֹא יַשְׂבִּיל.
For reason is only in potential and not in actuality.	פִּי הַשֵּׂכֶל הוּא בְּכֹחַ וְלֹא בְּפְעַל.
For it is not from the essence of man or from his creation that he will necessarily be intelligent.	פִּי אֵין מֵעֶצֶם הָאָדָם וּמִבְּרִיאָתוֹ שֶׁיִהְיֶה מַשְׂכִּיל בְּוַדַּאי.
Also, it is possible that he will comprehend things contrary to what is correct.	גַם אָפְשָׁר שֶׁיַשְׂכִּיל הַדְּבָרִים בְּחַלוּף מֵה שֶׁהוּא.
And they tell of one of their wise men, named Plato, who said that it would be fitting that all those who share a single craft should have wives in common, and that no one should have his own individual wife.	וַהֲרֵי סְפְּרוּ עַל אֶחָד מֵחַכְמֵיהָם, שֶׁהָיָה נִקְרָא אַפְּלָטוֹן, שֶׁאָמַר כִּי הָיָה רָאוּי שֶׁכָּל אֲשֶׁר הֵם בַּעֲלֵי מְלָאכָה אַחַת שָׁיִהְיָה לָהֶם נָשִׁים בְּיַחַד, וְלֹא יִהְיָה לְכָל אֶחָד אִשָּׁה מִיחָדֶת.
For he followed an imagination that led him astray, toward something contrary to what is proper for all.	שֶׁהָלַךְ אַחַר הַדְּמְיוֹן שֶׁהָיָה מַטְעָה אוֹתוֹ, אֶל דָּבָר שֶׁהוּא בְּחִלּוּף מַה שֶׁהוּא אֶל הַכּּלֹ,
And how is it fitting that the order of the world should rely on human reason, which errs?	וְאֵיךְ רָאוּי שֶׁיָהְיֶה נִסְמָךְ סַדֶּר הָעוֹלָם אֶל שֵׁכָל הָאָדָם, אֲשֶׁר הוּא חוֹטָא
And how is it possible that his actions — the foundational ones, meaning the rectification of his body — should be ordered with perfect structure by God, blessed be He, as we see that everything is arranged with wisdom, and yet the actions that are derived from human reason are not arranged from God, blessed be He?	וְאֵידְּ דָּבָר זֶה אֶפְשֶׁר, שֶׁיִהְיוּ מַצְשֶׂיו הַמִּבְעִיִּים דְּהַיְנוּ תִּקוּן גּוּפוֹ - מְסַדָּר בְּתַכְלִית הַמִּדּוֹר מִן הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְּ, כַּאֲשֶׁר נִרְאֶה כִּי הַכֹּל מְסֵדֶר בְּחָכְמָה, וְאִלּוּ מַעֲשִׂים שֶׁהֵם מְצַד הַשָּׂכֶל לֹא יִהְיוּ מְסַדְּרִים מִן הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְּ.
Furthermore, this existence is possible from its own perspective, but is necessitated from its cause, for from the side of God, blessed be He, it is necessary and inevitable that it exist — for He decrees its existence.	ְּוְעוֹד הַמְצִיאוּת הַזֶּה הוּא אֶפְשָׁרִי מִצֵּד עַצְמוֹ, וְהוּא מְחַיָּב מִצַד עִלָּתוֹ, כִּי מִצֵד הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ הוּא מְחַיָּב וּמֶבְרָח שֶׁיִהְיָה נִמְצָא, שֶׁהוּא גּוֹזֵר מְצִיאוּתוֹ.
And since the existence of man is necessitated from God, blessed be He, if you say that this order is dependent on human intellect, then his existence would not be necessitated by the cause at all.	וּמֵאַחַר כִּי מְצִיאוּת הָאָדָם הוּא מְחַיָּב מִן הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךּ, וְאָם אַתָּה אוֹמֵר כִּי סֵדֶר הַזֶּה הוּא נִמְשָׁךּ אֶל שֵׁכֶל הָאָדָם, הָיָה מְצִיאוּת אֵינוֹ מְחַיָּב מִצֵּד הָעָלֶה כְּלָל.

For its order would follow human intellect, which is a possibility, and certainly, if there is no order to its existence, its existence is nullified.	ָשֶׁהָרֵי סַדָר שָׁלּוֹ נִמְשָׁךְ אֶל שֵׁכָל הָאָדָם, שֶׁהוּא אָפְשָׁר, וּבְוַדַּאי אָם אֵין סַדֶר לַמְצִיאוּתוֹ, הָרֵי מְצִיאוּתוֹ בָּטֵל.
Therefore, it is only possible that man be ordered by God, blessed be He, entirely from the side of the cause.	לְפִיכָךְ אִי אֶפְשָׁר רַק שֶׁיִּהְיֶה הָאָדָם מְסַדָּר מִן הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ לְגַמְרֵי מִצַד הָעִלָּה.
For how is it possible that the world is necessitated from the cause in its existence, and yet in its order — which requires arrangement — it is not necessitated from the cause?	כִּי אֵיךְ אֶפְשָׁר שֶׁיָהָיֶה הָעוֹלֶם מְחַיָּב מִצֵּד הָעָלֶה מִצַד — הַמְצִיאוּת שֶׁלוֹ, וּמְצֵד סִדְרוֹ — אֵינוֹ מְחַיָּב מִצַד הָעָלָה
And this necessarily dictates a compelling decree: that man is commanded by the Cause, and through this he is ordered from his Cause — in both his existence and his order, as is proper.	ְוָדֶבֶר זֶה מְחַיֵּב בִּגְזֵרָה מְחַיֶּנֶת שֶׁהָאָדָם מְצְוָה מִן הָעַלָּה, וּבָזֶה הוּא מְסַדָּר מִצֵד עַלָּתוֹ בִּמְצִיאוּתוֹ וּבְסִדְרוֹ כַּאֲשֶׁר רָאוּי.
Second proof: All things that God, blessed be He, created — everything is in perfection, and there is nothing lacking in the world.	מוֹפֵת שַׁנִי; כִּי כָּל הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר בְּרָאָם הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְ הַכּל הוּא בִּשְׁלֵמוּת, וְלֹא נִמְצָא דָּבָר חָסֵר בָּעוֹלָם.
And this matter is testified to by the senses, as we investigate all existing things — they are complete according to what they are.	וְדָבָר זֶה מֵעִיד עָלָיו הַחוּשׁ כַּאֲשֶׁר אָנוּ חוֹקְרִין עַל כָּל נִמְצָאִים שֶׁהֵם שְׁלֵמִים לְפִי מַה שֶׁהֵם.
And as our Sages of blessed memory also said (Rosh Hashanah 11a): "All the works of Creation were created in their full form, in their full stature."	וּכְמוֹ שֶׁאָמְרוּ רַבּוֹתֵינוּ זִכְרוֹנָם לְבָרֶכָה גַּם־כֵּן (רֹאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה יא, א): כָּל מַצֲשֶׂה בְּרֵאשִׁית בְּצִבְיוֹנָם נִבְרָאוּ, בִּקוֹמָתָן נִבְרָאוּ.
And this is not the place to elaborate on that. Also, it is agreed upon by all — even the wise men of the nations admit to this.	וְאֵין עִנְיַן מָקוֹם זֶה לְבָאֵר. גַּם הוּא מַסְכָּם מִפִּי הַכּּל, אַף חַכְמֵי הָאֵמוֹת מוֹדִים בָּזֶה.
And when we investigate the nature of perfection, we find that perfection is defined as having no addition or deficiency at all.	וְכַאֲשֶׁר אָנוּ חוֹקְרִין עַל גָּדֶר הַהַשְׁלָמָה, הִנֵּה עִנְיָן הַהַשְׁלָמָה שָׁאֵין בּוֹ תּוֹסֶפֶת וְחִסָרוֹן כְּלָל.
For if there is an addition, it would not be perfection. And similarly, if there were a deficiency, it would not be complete.	שָׁאָם יֵשׁ בּוֹ תּוֹסֶפֶּת, לֹא הָיָה זֶה שְׁלֵמוּת. וְכֵן אָם הָיָה בּוֹ חָסָרוֹן, הֲרֵי אֵינוֹ שָׁלֵם.
And man is lacking, for the greatness of man lies in his intellect, and from this perspective man is lacking, for he lacks intellect.	ְהָאָדָם הַזֶּה הוּא חָסֵר, כִּי מַעֲלַת הָאָדָם מִצַר הַשָּׂכֶל, וּמְצַד הַזֶּה הָאָדָם חָסֵר, שֶׁהוּא חָמֵר הַשָּׂכֶל.
And even if there are individuals who possess intellect, nevertheless this is not true perfection, for man was created with only potential for intellect.	וְאַף אָם יִמָּצְאוּ פָּרָטִיִּים שֶׁהֵם בַּצְלֵי שֶׁכֶל, מִכָּל מָקוֹם אֵין בְּדָבָר זֶה הַשְּׁלָמָה כְּלָל. כִּי הָאָדָם נִבְרָא בְּכֹחַ עַל הַשָּׂכֶל,
And even if he brings his intellect into actuality, still there is no perfection here, for he always remains in potential for further development, and thus there is no total perfection.	וְאַף אָם הוֹצִיא שִּׂכְלוֹ אֶל הַפּעַל עֲדַיִן אֵין כָּאן שְׁלֵמוּת, כִּי תָּמִיד הוּא עוֹד בְּכֹחַ יוֹתֵר לָצֵאת אֶל הַפַּעַל, וְאֵין כָּאן הַשְׁלָמָה כְּלָל.

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For perfection is when there is nothing more to add, and such a thing is not found in man, for he can always add to his intellect.	פִּי הַשְׁלָמָה הוּא כַּאֲשֶׁר אֵין כָּאן תּוֹסֶפֶּת, וְדָבָר זֶה אֵינוֹ בָּאָדָם, פִּי תָּמִיד אֶפְשָׁר לוֹ לְהוֹסִיף עַל הַשָּׂכֶל.
And all other creations do possess completion.	וַהַרֵי כָּל הַנִּבְרָאִים יֵשׁ לָהֶם הַשְּׁלָמֶה
However, when God, blessed be He, gave the world the Torah — this was the completion of intellect entirely.	אֶמְנָם כַּאֲשֶׁר נָתַן הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַף לָעוֹלָם הַתּוֹרָה, דְּבָר זָה הַשְׁלָמַת הַשָּׂכֶל לְגַמְרֵי.
And even though man does not grasp the entire Torah, nevertheless man has perfection in this regard — that he was given the Torah, in which is everything — and he possesses completion.	וְאַף כִּי הָאָדָם אֵין מַשִּׁיג כָּל הַתּוֹרָה, מִכָּל מָקוֹם יֵשׁ לָאָדָם הַשְׁלָמָה בַּצַר הַזָּה שֶׁנָּתַן לוֹ הַתּוֹרָה שֶׁבָּה הַכּּל, וְיֵשׁ לוֹ הַשְׁלָמָה
As our Sages said (Avos 5:24), "Turn it over, for everything is in it."	יְכְמוֹ שֶׁאָמְרוּ (אָבוֹת ה, כד): הָפַדְּ בָּה דְּכַלָּה בָּה'.
And this matter, that a person brings out his perfection into actuality through constant pursuit of wisdom — this is not the essential thing, for that is not total completion.	וְדָבָר זֶה שֶׁמּוֹצִיא הָאָדָם שְׁלֵמוּתוֹ אֶל הַפּּעַל תָּמִיד לְהִתְחַכֵּם, דָּבָר זֶה אֵינוֹ עֵקֶר, כִּי אֵין זֶה הַשְׁלְמַת הַכְּלָל
Only what was given — the Torah — to the collective of Israel: this is the total completion of the whole.	רַק מַה שֶׁנָתַן הַתּוֹרָה לִכְלָל יִשְׂרָאֵל, דָּבָר זֶה הוּא הַשְׁלָמֵת הַכְּלָל.
And what one person comprehends in the Torah — this one much, that one little — this is not surprising.	וּמַה שֶׁהָאָדָם מַשִּׂיג בַּתּוֹרָה, שֶׁזֶּה מֵשִּׂיג הַרְבָּה, וְזֶה מְעַט, אֵין זֶה חִדּוּשׁ.
For even among other existing things, even though they all belong to one species, there are differences in matters that do not pertain to their essence — one is large, one small; this one is strong, this one weak.	פִּי אַף בִּשְׁאָר הַנִּמְצָאִים אַף שֶׁהֵם כַּלָּם מִין אָחָד, יֵשׁ בָּהֶם שִׁנּוּי בְּדָבָר שֶׁאֵינוֹ מַגִּיעַ לְעֵעַצְמוֹ, שֶׁזָּה גָּדוֹל וְזָה קָטן, לָזָה יֵשׁ כֹּחַ גָּדוֹל, וְזָה אֵינוֹ בַּעַל כֹּחַ.
But they are equal in that which pertains to their essence, and there is no variation among them.	אָבֶל הֵם שָׁוִים בְּדָבֶר שָׁמַגִּיעַ לְעַצְמוֹ, וְאֵין בָּהֶם שִׁנּוּי.
Likewise, the Torah was given to the collective together — and it is one unified perfection in the collective, without addition and without lack.	וְכֵן נָתַן הַתּוֹרָה אֶל הַכְּלָל בְּיַחַד, וְהוּא הַשְׁלָמָה אַחַת בַּכְּלָל, מִבְּלִי תּוֹסֶפֶת וּמִבְּלִי חַסָרוֹן.
Therefore, it is only possible to say there is one single completion which applies to the collective — as it is written (Bamidbar 15:29), "One Torah."	לְכָךּ אִי אָפְשָׁר לוֹמֵר רַק הַשְׁלָמָה אַחַת שֶׁיֵשׁ אֶל הַבְּלָל, וּכְדָכְתִיב (בְּמִדְבָּר טו, כט): "תּוֹרָה אַחַת",
And this is the perfection of the species — until all is equal, as it is written (ibid.), "One Torah shall there be for you," etc.	וְדָבָר זֶה הַשְׁלָמַת הַמִּין עַד שָׁיִהְיֶה הַכֹּל שָׁוָה, וּכְדְכְתִיב '(שָׁם): "תּוֹרָה אַחַת יִהְיֶה לֶכֶם" וְגוֹ.

### תפארת ישראל

And because of this, the Torah was given in the wilderness (Shemos 19:2), which is a place of ownerlessness, so that the Torah would be the perfection of the human species in general.	וּמִפְּנֵי זֶה נִחָּנָה הַתּוֹרָה בַּמִּדְבָּר (שמות יט, ב), שֶׁהוּא מְקוֹם הָפָּקֵר, שֶׁתִּהָיָה הַתּוֹרָה הַשְׁלָמֵת מִין הָאֱנוֹשִׁי בִּכְלָל
And although the nations did not want to receive the Torah (Avodah Zarah 2b), that is only from the side of the recipients.	וְעָם כִּי לֹא הָיוּ הָאֻמּוֹת רוֹצִים לְקַבֵּל אֶת הַתּוֹרָה (עֲבוֹדָה זָרָה ב ב), דָּבָר זָה הוּא מִצֵד הַמְּקַבֵּל בִּלְבַד.
And this necessitates that the Torah is from Heaven — until there will be one universal intellectual perfection for the species as a whole.	וְדָבָר זֶה מְחַיַּב הַתּוֹרָה מִן הַשָּׁמַיִם, עַד שֶׁיָּהֵא הַשְּׁלָמָה אַחַת שָׁכְלִית אֶל הַמִּין בִּּכְלָל.
For if the Torah were not from Heaven, perfection would be individual for each person — and everything would depend on his own intellect — and that is impossible, as we have already said.	וְאָם לֹא הָיָה תּוֹרָה מִן הַשָּׁמַיִם, הָיָה הַשְּׁלָמָה מְיַחֶּדֶת לְכָל פְּרָטִי וּפְרָטִי, וְהַכּּל לְפִי הַשֵּׁכָל שֶׁלּוֹ, וְדָבָר זֶה אִי אֶפְשָׁר, כְּמוֹ שֶׁאָמֵרְנוּ
And on account of this distinction, they instituted the blessing on the Torah.	ָוְעַל חִלּוּק זֶה תִּקְנוּ הַבְּרֶכָה עַל הַתּוֹרָה.
For the first blessing: "Who sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to engage in Torah study" (Berachos 11b).	פִּי בְּרָכָה רָאשׁוֹנָה: אֲשֶׁר קִּדְשָׁנוּ בְּמָצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָנוּ לַעְּסק בַּתּוֹרָה' (בְּרָכוֹת יא, ב.
And this blessing is like other blessings over commandments — that one blesses over the mitzvos.	וּבְרָכָה זאת הִיא כְּמוֹ שְׁאָר בִּרְכוֹת הַמִּצְוֹת, שֶׁמְבָרַךְּ עַל הַמִּצְוֹת.
And likewise, one who engages in Torah study is performing a mitzvah, and he blesses upon it.	וְגַם זֶה שֶׁעוֹסֵק בַּתּוֹרָה מִצְוָה עוֹשֶׂה, וּמְבָרֵךְ עָלָיו.
But this blessing alone is not sufficient — because God, blessed be He, is the One who brings the intellect of man into actuality.	וּמִפְּנֵי כִּי אֵין דִי בִּבְרָכָה זוֹ, כִּי הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ הוּא שָׁמוֹצִיא שֵׂכֶל הָאָדָם אֶל הַפּעַל.
And this is unlike other mitzvos, which a person performs on his own — but Torah: God, blessed be He, is the One who brings out the intellect of man into actuality; and this does not come from man himself.	וְאֵין דּוֹמֶה זֶה לִשְׁאָר מִצְוָה שֶׁהָאָדָם עוֹשֶׂה מֵעַצְמוֹ, אֲבָל הַתּוֹרָה - הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְּ הוּא הַמּוֹצִיא שֵׂכָל הָאָדָם אֶל הַפּעַל, וְאֵין זֶה לָאָדָם מַעַצְמוֹ;
Therefore, one must bless: "Blessed is He who teaches Torah to His people Israel" (ibid.).	לְכָהְ יֵשׁ לוֹ לְבָרַהְ: בָּרוּהְ הַמְלַמֵד תּוֹרָה לְעַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל' ((שָׁם,
And this corresponds to the idea that God, blessed be He, brings forth the intellect of man into actuality and teaches Torah to His people Israel.	וְזֶה כְּנָגֶד שֶׁהַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַהְ מוֹצִיא שַׁכֶל הָאָדָם אֶל הַפּּעַל וּמְלַמֵּד תּוֹרָה לְעַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל.
And so is implied by the expression "הְּמְלֵמֵד" — which implies present-tense, that He is currently teaching Torah to His people and bringing the intellect into actuality.	וְכָךְּ מוּכָח לְשׁוֹן הַמְלַבֵּד, דְּמַשְׁמֵע לְשׁוֹן הֹוָה. וְדָבָר זָה כִּי עַתָּה מְלַמֵד תּוֹרָה לְעַמּוֹ, וּמוֹצִיא שֵׁכֶל הָאָדָם אֶל הַפּעַל

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And since this matter is not just that He brings out the intellect of the individual into actuality, and it does not mention the completion of the collective — and this must necessarily be — therefore they instituted a third blessing:	וּמִפְּנֵי כִּי דָּבָר זֶה אֵינוֹ רַק מֵה שָׁמוֹצִיא שֵׁכָל הָאָדָם הַפְּרָטִי אֶל הַפּעַל, וְלֹא הִזְכִּיר הַשְׁלָמֵת הַכְּלָל. וְדָבָר זֶה מְחַיָּב וּמַכְרָח לִהְיוֹת, כְּמוֹ שֶׁהִתְבָּאֵר. וּלְכָךְ תִּקְנוּ בְּרָכָה שָׁלִישִׁית:
"Who chose us from among all the nations and gave us His Torah. Blessed are You, Hashem, Giver of the Torah" (ibid.).	אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל הָעַמִּים וְנָתַן לָנוּ אֶת תּוֹרָתוֹ, בָּרוּךְ (אַתָּה ה' נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה' (שָׁם).
And this is because God, blessed be He, completed the collective through the Torah that He gave at Mount Sinai.	וְזֶהוּ מִפְּנֵי שֶׁהַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ הִשְׁלִּים אֶת הַכְּלָל בַּתּוֹרָה שֶׁנָתַן הַשָּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ עַל הַר סִינַי:
And they said (Shevuos 39a), even future generations who are yet to stand were included — and all this is because the Torah is the completion of the collective, for it cannot be otherwise.	וְאָמְרוּ (שְׁבוּעוֹת לט, א) כִּי אַף הַדּוֹרוֹת שֶׁעֲתִידִים לַעֲמֹד. וְכָל זָה מִפְּנֵי כִּי הַתּוֹרָה הִיא הַשְּׁלָמַת הַכְּלָל, כִּי אִי אֶפְשָׁר זוּלַת זָה.
And we elaborated on this elsewhere. And this is a clear, demonstrative proof that admits no doubt to one who possesses wisdom.	וְהָאֱרַכְנוּ בָּזֶה בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר. וְדָבָר זֶה הוּא מוֹפֵת חוֹתֵךְ בָּרוּר שָׁאֵין לִסָפֵק בּוֹ מִי שָׁיֵשׁ בּוֹ חָכְמָה.
A third proof — and it is a clear proof of the obligation of Torah from Heaven — is this: "The beginning of the dust of the world" (Mishlei 8:26) refers to man, and for his sake, everything was created.	מוֹפֵת שְׁלִישִׁי, וְהוּא מוֹפַת בֶּרוּר חִיּוּב תּוֹרָה מִן הַשָּׁמֵיִם. וְזָה כִּי "רֹאשׁ עַפְרוֹת חֵּבֵל" (מִשְׁלַי ח, כו) הוּא הָאָדָם, וּבִשְׁבִילוֹ נִבְרָא הַכּּל.
And it is necessary that man — who is the head of the lower beings — be ordered under the authority of God, blessed be He, who is the Cause of all.	וְצָרִיךּ שָׁיִהְיֶה הָאָדָם, שֶׁהוּא רֹאשׁ בַּתַּחְתּוֹנִים, מְסַדָּר תַּחַת הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ, שֶׁהוּא עֲלַת הַכֹּל.
For if not, man would be an independent entity, removed from God, blessed be He — he would be the head among the lower beings, just as God, blessed be He, is the God of the upper beings.	שֶׁאָם לֹא כֵן, יִהְיֶה הָאָדָם בִּפְנֵי עַצְמוֹ מְסַלֶּק מִן הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַך; הוּא רֹאשׁ בַּתַּחְתוֹנִים, כְּמוֹ הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ שָׁהוּא אֱלוֹהַ בָּעֶלְיוֹנִים.
Rather, you must say that the way man receives the decree of the Supreme is through the Torah from Heaven, which becomes a yoke upon man — and through it he is ordered under the domain of the Cause, concerning what he must do and what he must not do.	רַק שֶׁצָרִיךְ אַתָּה לוֹמַר בַּמָּה שֶׁמְקַבֵּל הָאָדָם גְזָרַת הָעֵלֶה – הִיא הַתּוֹרָה מִן הַשְּׁמֵים, שֶׁהוּא לְעֹל עַל הָאָדָם, וּכָזָה הוּא מְסַדָּר תַּחַת רְשׁוּת הָעַלֶּה מַה שִׁיַּעשֶׂה וּמַה שֶׁלֹא יַעֲשֶׂה.
For man is unique among all existents, for he has volitional free will to do as he chooses.	כִּי הָאָדָם מִיחָד מִכָּל הַנִּמְצָאִים שֶׁהוּא בַּעַל בְּחִירָה רְצוֹנִית לַעֲשׂוֹת מֵה שֶׁיִרְצֶה.
And he is not like the upper beings, who perform the will of their Creator without change or variation — rather, they remain fixed in the form in which they were created.	וְאֵינוֹ כְּמוֹ הָעֶלְיוֹנִים, שֶׁהֵם עוֹשִׁים רְצוֹן קוֹנֵיהֶם בְּלֹא שָׁנּוּי וְחָלּוּף כְּלָל, רַק עוֹמְדִים עַל מַתְכַּנְהָּם אֲשֶׁר נִבְרָאוּ

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Except for man — who possesses volitional free will to act.	זוּלַת הָאָדָם, אֲשֶׁר הוּא בַּעַל בְּחִירָה רְצוֹנִית לַעֲשׁוֹת.
And therefore, if his actions were not commanded, then he would be a distinct division among the lower beings — for he would have jurisdiction over himself, and he would not be bound or ordered under his Cause.	וּלְכָךְ אָם לֹא הָיָה מְצַוָּה בְּמַצְשָׂיו, הָיָה הוּא חִלּוּק בַּתַּחְתוֹנִים, כִּי הָיָה רְשׁוּת לְעַצְמוֹ, וְלֹא הָיָה לוֹ קְשׁוּר וְסַדֶּר בְּעַלָּתוֹ
And such a thing is impossible — that man be separate from the Cause and be under his own authority.	וְדָבָר זָה אִי אָפְשָׁר שֶׁיִהְיֶה הָאָדָם נִבְדָּל מִן הָעַלָּה וְיִהְיֶה בִּרְשׁוּת עַצְמוֹ.
And perhaps it might be said: man and all existents are under the authority of the Cause inasmuch as He can do with them as He wills — to kill or to give life — and in this way, man is under the authority of the Supreme.	וּבְאוּלֵי יֵאָמֵר כִּי הָאָדֶם וְכָל הַנִּמְצָאִים תַּחַת רְשׁוּת הָעִלָּה מִעַד שֶׁיָּכוֹל לַעֲשׁוֹת בָּהֶם כִּרְצוֹנוֹ, לְהָמִית וּלְהַחֲיוֹת, וּבְדָבָר זֶה הָאָדָם תַּחַת רְשׁוּת הָעֵלָה.
This cannot be said at all. For if man is under God's authority only in that He can kill or harm him, that is not because man is rational. All creatures share in this.	דָּבָר זֶה אֵין לוֹמַר כְּלָל; כִּי אָם הָאָדָם מַּחַת רְשׁוּת הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ מַה שֶׁיֵשׁ בְּיָדוֹ לַהְמִיתוֹ וּלְהַפְּסִידוֹ, אֵין זֶה מִצַד בַּמֶה שֶׁהָאָדָם הוּא שִׁכְלִי. כִּי כָּל הַנִּבְרָאִים מְשַׁתָּפִין בָּזֶה.
But in that man is a rational being, from this angle he ought to be under the Supreme authority.	אָבָל בַּמֶּה שֶׁהוּא אָדָם שִׂכְלִי, מִצַר הַזֶּה רָאוּי שֶׁיִּהְיֶה הַחַת רְשׁוּת הָעֵלָה.
And it is only possible when He gave him the Torah — that through the Torah, man as a rational being is under the Supreme authority, who commanded upon him that his conduct in this matter should be directed.	וְאִי אֶפְשָׁר שֶׁיִּהְיֶה זֶה רַק כַּאֲשֶׁר נָתַן לוֹ הַתּוֹרָה. שָׁעַל־יְדֵי הַתּוֹרָה הָאָדָם בַּמָּה שֶׁהוּא שִׁכְלִי תַּחַת רְשׁוּת הַעַלָּה, אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה עָלָיו שֶׁיִּהְיֶה הַנְהָנָה שֶׁלוֹ בְּעִנְיָן זֶה.
If not, then man — precisely in what makes him unique, being rational — is not under the Supreme's authority, only in what he shares with other creatures, not in what makes him distinct.	וְאָם לֹא כֵן, אֵין הָאָדָם - בַּמָּה שֶׁהוּא מְיֵחָד בַּעַל שֵׂכָל הַחַת רְשׁוּת הָעֵלָה, רַק שֶׁהוּא תַּחַת הָעַלָּה בַּמָה שָׁהוּא מְשַׁתָּף עַם שְׁאָר הַתַּחְתּוֹנִים, לֹא בַּמָּה שֶׁהוּא מִיחָד מִבֵּין שְׁאָר הַנָּמְצָאִים.
Therefore, when he is thirteen years old — then man is a being with intellect and knowledge, and is a moral agent — he is commanded (Avos 5:21), and is then under the Supreme's authority in this regard.	וּלְכָךְ כַּאֲשֶׁר הוּא בֶּן שְׁלֹשׁ עֶשְׂרֵה שֶׁנָה, שֶׁאָז הָאָדָם בַּעַל שֵׂכָל וְדַעַת וְהוּא בַּעַל מַעֲשִׂים, נִצְטַנָּה (אָבוֹת ה, כא), וְהוּא תַּחַת רְשׁוּת הָעֵלָה מִצֵד זֶה.
And perhaps one might say: still, man has free will to do as he desires — this is not a question, because that stems from the inclination within him.	וּבָאוּלֵי יֵאָמֵר עִם כָּל זֶה, הֲרֵי הַבְּחִירָה הִיא בָּאָדָם לַעֲשׂוֹת רְצוֹנוֹ כַּאֲשֶׁר יִרְצָה. אֵין זֶה שְׁאֵלָה, כִּי דָּבָר זֶה מִצֵד הַיַּצֶר שֶׁבּוֹ.
And we have already said that his body — where his inclination lies — is under the Supreme to kill or damage, and in this, all creatures are alike.	וּכָבָר אָמַרְנוּ כִּי גּוּפוֹ – שֶׁבּוֹ יִצְרוֹ – הוּא תַּחַת הָעֵלָה לַהֲמִיתוֹ וּלְהַפְּסִידוֹ, וּבָזֶה מְשֵׁתָּפִין כָּל הַנִּבְרָאִים.

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But that he is under the Supreme in that he is rational — this cannot be said unless the Supreme decreed commandments upon man.

אֲבָל מַה שֶׁהוּא תַּחַת רְשׁוּת הָעָלָה מִעַד שֶׁהוּא אָדָם שָׁכְלִי, אִי אֶפְשָׁר לוֹמֵר כֵּן רַק מִעַד שֶׁגָּזַר עַל הָאָדָם גָזַרַת מִצְוֹתָיו.

Therefore, aside from the fact that the Torah is from Heaven and is stated in the Torah and by the prophets, the sages explained with their wisdom to all people that the Torah is from Heaven with demonstrative proof — as will be explained shortly — and these are the words we have said.

וּלְפִיכָךְ מִלְבַד כִּי הַתּוֹרָה מִן הַשָּׁמִיִם הוּא מְבֹאָר בַּתּוֹרָה, וְעַלֹּ־יְדֵי הַנְּבִיאִים, בַּאֲרוּ חֲכָמִים בְּחָכְמָתִם לְכָל בָּאֵי עוֹלָם כִּי הַתּוֹרָה מִן הַשָּׁמֵיִם בְּמוֹפֵת חוֹתֵךְ, .כְּמוֹ שֶׁיִּתְבָּאֵר בְּסָמוּךְ, וְהֵם דְּבַרִים אֲשֶׁר אָמֵרְנוּ

And if one says: even without the giving of the Torah from Heaven, man is under the Supreme authority because he recognizes God through his intellect and accepts His divinity—that cannot be called being under God's authority, since he accepts by his own volition, unless the Supreme decrees it upon him.

וְאִם יֵאָמֵר, כִּי אַף בְּלֹא נְתִינַת תּוֹרָה מִן הַשָּׁמֵיִם, הַרֵי הָאָדָם תַּחַת רְשׁוּת הָעֵלָה מִצַר שֶׁהָאָדָם מַכִּיר אֶת הָאֱלֹהִים בְּשִׂכְלוֹ, וּמְקַבֵּל אֱלֹהוּתוֹ. לֹא נַקְרָא דָּבָר זָה שָׁהוּא תַּחַת רְשׁוּת הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַף כַּאֲשֶׁר הָאָדָם מְקַבֵּל מַעַצְמוֹ, אִם לֹא שֶׁנָזַר עָלִיו הָעֵלָה.

And this is the essence of what our Sages of blessed memory said (Shabbos 88a): that God held the mountain over them like a barrel and said, "If you accept the Torah, fine. But if not — there shall be your burial."

וְזֶהוּ עִקַר הַפַּרוּשׁ מַה שֶׁאָמְרוּ זִכְרוֹנָם לְבְרָכָה (שַׁבָּת פח, א) שֶׁכָּפָה עֲלֵיהֶם הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַף הַר בְּגִיגִית, וְאָמֵר לֶהֶם: אִם אַתֶּם מְקַבְּלִים הַתּוֹרָה מוּטָב, וְאָם לָאו – שֵׁם תִּהָא קבוּרַתִּכָם שֵׁם תִּהָא קבוּרַתִּכָם

Why was this necessary? They had already said "We will do and we will hear." But as will be explained, it was not fitting that acceptance of the Torah should come from man himself — for in that case, he would not be fully under the Supreme authority.

וְלָמָה הַצְרַהְ, הַרֵי כְּבָר קּדְמוּ נַצְשֶׂה לְנִשְׁמֵע, וּכְמוֹ שִׁיִּתְבָּאַר עוֹד דָּבָר זָה. אֲבָל אֵין רָאוּי שֶׁיִּהְיֶה קַבְּלַת הַתּוֹרָה מֵעַצְמוֹ שֶׁל אָדָם, שֶׁבָּזֶה לֹא הָיָה לְגַמְרֵי תַּחַת רָשׁוּת הָעִלְּה

And man, by virtue of his intellect, is worthy to be under the Supreme — until the world becomes entirely one. And this is only possible through decree and compulsion.

וְהָאָדָם הַזֶּה רָאוּי מִצֵד שִּׂכְלוֹ שֶׁיִּהְיֶה תַּחַת רְשׁוּת הָצֵלָה, עַד שֶׁיִּהְיֶה הָעוֹלָם אֶחָד לְגַמְרֵי. וְאִי אֶפְשֶׁר שִׁיִּהְיֶה זֶה רַק בִּגְזֵרָה וּבָהָכְרֵחַ.

And this is a clear proof for Torah from Heaven — for it cannot be otherwise — for through this, man is ordered under the Supreme Cause, and this is the entire concept of the giving of the Torah, as will be explained.

וְדָבָר זֶה הוּא מוֹפַת בָּרוּר לְתוֹרָה מִן הַשָּׁמִים, שָׁאִי אֶפְשָׁר בְּלֹא זֶה. כִּי עַל־יְדֵי־זֶה הָאָדָם הוּא מְסַדָּר תַּחַת הָעִלָּה, וְעַל דָּבָר זֶה סוֹבֵב כָּל נְתִינַת הַתּוֹרָה, וּכְמוֹ שׁיתבּאר.

And therefore they said in the chapter (Nigmar HaDin) [Echad Dinei Mamonot] (Sanhedrin 38b): Rabbi Acha said: Twelve hours comprise the day. In the first hour—He gathered his dust. In the second—he became a lifeless form. In the third—his limbs were extended. In the fourth—a soul was cast into him. In

וּלְכָךְ אָמְרוּ בָּפֶּרֶק (נִגְמֵר הַדִּין) [אֶחָד דִּינֵי מָמוֹנוֹת]
(סַנְהָדְרִין לח, ב): אָמַר רַבִּי אַחָא: שְׁתֵּים עֶשְׂרֵה
שָׁעוֹת הֲרֵי יוֹם; שָׁעָה רָאשׁוֹנָה – הֶצְבֵּר עֲפָרוֹ. שְׁנִיָּה –
נַעֲשָׂה גּלֶם. שְׁלִישִׁית – נִמְתְּחוּ אֵיכָרָיו. רְבִיעִית –
נַזְרָקָה בּוֹ נְשָׁמָה. חֲמִישִׁית – עָמַד עַל רַגְלָיו. שְׁשִׁית –
...קַרָא שׁמוֹת

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the fifth—he stood on his feet. In the sixth—he named [the creatures].

In the seventh—a mate was brought to him. In the eighth—they ascended to the bed as two and descended as four. In the ninth—he was commanded. In the tenth—he sinned. In the eleventh—he was judged. In the twelfth—he was banished and went on his way, as it is said (Tehillim 49:13): "Man in his glory does not lodge; he is likened to the silenced animals," until here.

שְׁבִיעִית – נִזְדַּןנָה לוֹ חַזֶּה . שְׁמִינִית – עָלוּ לַמְּטָּה שְׁנַיִם וְיָרְדוּ אַרְבָּעָה. חְּשִׁיעִית – נִצְטַנָּה. עֲשִׂירִית – סָרַח. אַחַת עֶשְׂרֵה – נִדּוֹן. שְׁתֵּים עֶשְׂרֵה – נִטְרַד וְהָלַךְּ לוֹ, שֶׁנָּאֱמֵר (תְּהִלִּים מט, יג): ."אָדָם בִּיקָר בַּל יָלִין נִמְשֵׁל כַּבְּהֵמוֹת נִדְמוּ", עַד כָּאן ."אָדָם בִּיקָר בַּל יָלִין נִמְשֵׁל כַּבְּהֵמוֹת נִדְמוּ", עַד כָּאן

#### **[NOTE Summary**

The Maharal establishes powerful logical and metaphysical proofs that the Torah must be Divine in origin—אמים. Through a careful analysis of the blessings over Torah, he shows that Torah is not merely a human intellectual pursuit or ethical system but a Divinely bestowed force that actualizes human intellect and connects the individual and the collective to the Divine source.

The first blessing ("לעסוק בתורה") treats Torah like a mitzvah. But the second ("לעסוק בתורה") acknowledges that Hashem is actively teaching Torah to His people in the present tense—He draws out human intelligence and makes true understanding possible. This concept separates Torah from all other commandments, as in Torah the human intellect is activated *through* a Divine process, not human initiative alone.

To reflect the universal impact of Torah, a third blessing is required: "אשר בהר בנו מכל העמים ונתן לנו את תורתו". This emphasizes that Torah was given to *all* Israel and includes all generations. Torah is thus the completion of the *klal*—the collective—at Mount Sinai. This multi-layered structure of the blessings reflects a layered proof:

(1) Torah is a commandment, (2) Torah is Divinely taught, and (3) Torah perfects the national soul of Israel.

He then moves to a *mofet*—a decisive proof—demonstrating the necessity of Torah from heaven based on the unique nature of mankind. Man alone is endowed with *bechirah chofshit* (free will). If such a being were not given a Divine framework of command and structure, he would become a lawless creature severed from his Creator. Just as Hashem rules the heavens, man must live under Torah to be aligned under Divine authority on earth. Without Torah from heaven, man becomes a contradiction: a creature of will without guidance—worse than the angels or the beasts.

In support of this, the Gemara in Sanhedrin (38b) outlines the twelve-hour creation of Adam. Within a single day, man is formed, stands, names, marries, sins, is judged, and expelled. The drama of man's origin highlights how precarious and elevated his station is: from dust to fall in just twelve hours. Only Torah can give permanence and direction to this volatile greatness.

## תפארת ישראל The Splendor of Israel Chapter 16

#### **Practical Takeaway**

Don't treat Torah as merely a religious subject to study or a tradition to preserve. Recognize it as the Divine system that allows your mind to function in truth. Learning Torah is not just learning—it is entering into partnership with Hashem, who *teaches* and *activates* intellect through His will. Every time you learn, you are experiencing a moment of *heaven touching earth*, aligning your free will under the Divine structure. This awareness brings kavod and depth to even the simplest pasuk or sugya.

#### **Chassidic Story**

In 1580s Prague, a skeptical nobleman once challenged the Maharal: "If your Torah is Divine, why do its laws depend on human understanding—debate, logic, dispute?"

The Maharal answered him not with philosophy but action. He brought the nobleman into his study and opened a Gemara. "Read," he said. The nobleman fumbled. "I can't—it's too complex, too encoded."

The Maharal replied: "Exactly. Human logic alone cannot begin the process. But when a Jew sits to learn, Hashem *unlocks* his intellect from within. The *melamed Torah* is not the rabbi. It is Hashem. And that is why the same Jew who fumbles in math can see the light of Torah."

Years later, that same nobleman—now an old man—would send books to the Maharal's yeshiva, saying, "For the students whose wisdom is not theirs, but Heaven's."

(Source: Oral tradition recorded by Rav Shlomo Schreiber in Otzros HaMaharal)

#### END NOTE

Came to explain the existence of man and his essence: to say that man is everything.	בָּא לְבָאֵר מְצִיאוּת הָאָדָם וּמֵהוּתוֹ, לוֹמֵר שֶׁהָאָדָם הוּא הַכֹּל.
And therefore, had his creation not been across twelve hours, which are the entire day—since the day is existence and the night is absence, as has been explained many times—then man would be only a part and portion.	וּלְפִיכָהְ אָלוּ לֹא הָיָה בְּרִיאָתוֹ כָּל שְׁנֵים עָשֶׂר שָׁעוֹת, שֶׁהֵם כָּל הַיּוֹם, שֶׁהַיּוֹם הוּא הַמְצִיאוּת, וְלַיְלָה הוּא הֶעְדֵר, כְּמוֹ שֶׁהִתְבָּאֵר פְּעָמִים הַרְבֵּה, לֹא הָיָה הָאָדָם רַק חֵלֶק וּמִקְצָת.
But this cannot be, for man is the entirety.	וְדָבָר זֶה אֵינוֹ, כִּי הָאָדָם הוּא הַכֹּל.
And because of this, his creation extended across the entire day, which is the entirety of existence.	וּמִפְּנֵי זֶה הָיָה נִמְשֶׁךְ בְּרִיאָתוֹ אֶל כָּל הַיּוֹם, שֶׁהוּא כָּל הַמְּצִיאוּת.
And the absence that is attached to man—which it is impossible for absence not to be attached to him—this matter corresponds to night, which is the absence of light, which is the essence of existence, as we explained elsewhere.	ְהַהֶּעְדֵר שֶׁדְּבַק בָּאָדָם, שָׁאִי אֶפְשָׁר שָׁלֹא יִהְיֶה הָעֲדֵר דְּבַק בּוֹ, וְדָבָר זֶה הוּא נֶגֶד הַלַיְלָה, שֶׁהוּא הֶעְרֵר הָאוֹר, שֶׁהוּא עִקַר הַמְּצִיאוּת, כְּמוֹ שֶׁבֵּאַרְנוּ זֶה בְּמֶקוֹם אַחֵר

And he said: First hour—he gathered his dust.

וָאַמַר: שַׁעַה רָאשׁוֹנַה – הַצָּבַר עַפַּרוֹ.

### תפארת ישראל

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And this is because every matter has material prepared to receive the form, for not all material is prepared to receive.	וְזֶה כִּי כָּל דָּבָר יֵשׁ לוֹ חֹמֶר מוּכָן לְקַבֵּל הַצוּרָה, כִּי אֵין כָּל חֹמֶר מוּכָן לְקַבֵּל.
And behold, the first stage was that it had material prepared.	וְהִנֵּה הַמַּדְרֵגָה הָרִאשׁוֹנָה הָיָה לוֹ חֹמֶר מוּכָן.
And this is what he said: First hour—he gathered his dust.	וְזֶה שֶׁאָמַר: שָׁעָה רָאשׁוֹנָה - הַצְּבֵּר עֲפָרוֹ'.
Because piling up the dust is the preparation of the matter to receive what one wishes to do.	כִּי הַגּוֹבֵר הָעָפָר הוּא הַמַּכִין הַדָּבָר לְקַבֵּל מַה שֶׁיִרְצָה לַצְשׂוֹת.
Second hour—became a formless mass.	שָׁעָה שְׁנִיָּה - נַעֲשֶׂה וּלָם.
That is, the second stage it had was that the material received blending. And this is the second stage.	פֵרוּשׁ, הַמַּדְרֵנָה הַשַּׁנִית שֶׁיֵשׁ לוֹ, שֶׁקְבֵּל הַחֹמֶר הָתְמַוּגוּת, וְזֶהוּ מַדְרֵנָה שֵׁנִית.
And therefore he said it became a formless mass—meaning the blending that the dust received, and it became a mixture.	וּלְפִיכָךְ אָמַר שֶׁנַּעֲשֶׂה גּלָם, רוֹצֶה לוֹמֵר הַהִּתְמַוּגוּת שֶׁקְבֵּל הֶעָפָר, וְהָיָה מַרְכָּב.
Third hour—his limbs were extended.	שֶׁשֶׁנָה שְׁלִּישִׁית – נִמְתָּחוּ אֵבָרִיו
Because after the mixture, is the growing, which is the extension of development.	פִּי אַחַר הַמֶּרְכָּב, הוּא הַצוֹמֵחַ, הוּא הָתְפַּשְׁטוּת הַגִּדוּל.
And this is what he said: his limbs were extended—it is the power of growth and development.	ָוְזֶה שֶׁאָמַר: נִמְתָּחוּ אֵבָרָיו' – הוּא כֹּחַ הַגִּדוּל וְהַגּוֹמֵחַ.
Fourth hour—soul was cast into him. This is the life-force.	יַשָּׁעָה רְבִיעִית -נִזְרָקָה בּוֹ נְשָׁמָה – הוּא הַחַיּוּנִי.
He stood upon his feet — this is the fifth level. For these levels: the first, the stage of the unformed mass, is found in inanimate matter. The vegetative is found in what grows — anything that has growth. And the living vitality is found in animals. But this — standing upon two feet — is found only in man.	חָמִישִׁית – עָמַד עַל רַגְלָיו. דָּבָר זֶה הַמַּדְרֵגָה הַחָמִישִׁית. כִּי אֵלוּ הַמַּדְרֵגוֹת; הָאֶחָד מַדְרַגַּת הַגּלָם הוּא שֶׁתִּמְצָא בְּדוֹמֵם. וְהַצּוֹמֵחַ – תִּמְצָא בְּצוֹמֵחַ, בְּכָל דָּבָר שֶׁיֵשׁ לוֹ צְמִיחָה. וְהַחִיוּנִי – תִּמְצָא בְּבַעַל חַי. אֲבָל דָּבָר זֶה שֶׁעָמַד עַל רַגְלָיו לֹא תִּמְצָא רַק בָּאָדָם
For all other creatures walk bent over, their faces turned downward. But man walks upright, because he is the king of the lower beings — and a king should walk erect. Among the lower beings, there is none above man.	כִּי כָּל הַנִּבְרָאִים כַּלָּם הוֹלְכִים כְּפוּפִים, פְּנֵיהֶם יוֹרֵד לְמַטָּה. אֲבָל הָאָדָם הוֹלֵךּ קוֹמֵם, מִפְּנֵי שֶׁהוּא מֶלֶךְ הַנִּמְצָאִים הַתַּחְתּוֹנִים, וְהַמֶּלֶךְ רָאוּי שֶׁיִּהְיֶה הוֹלֵךְ בִּזְקִיפָה, וּבַתַּחְתּוֹנִים אֵין עַל הָאָדָם.
Therefore all animals go bent over — like a servant bowed before a king — while man alone stands erect. There is more wondrous meaning to the form of his upright stature, and all this is hinted in what they said: "Beloved is man who was created in the image of God" (Avos 3:14). It is further explained in the work <i>Derech HaChaim</i> — see there.	וְלְפִיכָךְ כָּל בַּעֲלֵי חַיִּים הוֹלְכִים כְּפוּפִים, כְּמוֹ הָעֶבֶּד שֶׁהוּא כָּפוּף מִפְּנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ, וְאָדָם בִּלְבַד הוּא עוֹמֵד בִּזְקִיפָה. וְיֵשׁ בָּזֶה עוֹד דְּבָרִים מַפְלִאִים בְּצוּרָתוֹ שֶׁהִיא זְקוּפָה, וְהַכֹּל נִרְמָז בַּמָּה שֶׁאָמְרוּ (אָבוֹת ג, יד): חָבִיב הָאָדָם שֶׁנִּבְרָא בְּצֶלֶם אֱלֹהִים. וְנִתְבָּאֵר בְּחִבּוּר דֶּרֶךְ הַחַיִּים, עַיִן שָׁם.

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The general principle is: walking upright is unique to man due to his superiority over animals.	כְּלָל הַדָּבָר, כִּי מַה שֶׁהוֹלֵךְ בְּקוֹמָה זְקוּפָה, הוּא מְיֵחָד לָאָדָם לְמַעֲלָתוֹ יוֹתֵר עַל בַּעֲלֵי חַיִּים.
(6) He called names — this is a higher level: the intellect that he acquired. For naming reflects wisdom and knowledge that Hashem gave him to name things. Without doubt, this intellect is an added level.	שָׁצָה שִׁשִּׁית – קָרָא שֵׁמוֹת. דָּבָר זֶה מַדְרֵגָה יוֹתֵר עָלְיוֹנָה, וְהוּא הַשֵּׁכֶל שֶׁקָנָה. כִּי קְרִיאַת הַשֵּׁמוֹת מוֹרָה זֶה עַל הַחָּכְמָה וְדַעַת שֶׁנָּתַו הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ בּוֹ לִקְרֹא שִׁמוֹת. וְאֵין סָפֵּק כִּי הַשֵּׂכֶל הַזָּה מַדְרֵגָה נוֹסֶכֶּת.
(7) A spouse was joined to him — this is a higher added level, that man has a partner, completing him so that he becomes a complete human. For they said (Yevamos 63a): "Any Jew who has no wife is not a [complete] man."	שְׁבִיעִית – נִזְדַּוְנָה לוֹ חַנָּה. דָּבָר זֶה מַדְרֵגָה יוֹתֵר נוֹסֶפֶת מַה שָׁיֵּשׁ לָאָדָם זִוּוּג, וְהוּא הַשְׁלָמָתוֹ, עַד שָׁהוּא אָדָם לְגַמְרֵי. שֶׁכָּף אָמְרוּ (יְבָמוֹת סג, א): כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל שָׁאֵין לוֹ אִשָּׁה – אֵינוֹ אָדָם.
This is not the place to elaborate, but it is clear that a Jewish man is not considered a complete human without a wife.	וְדָבָר זָה אֵין כָּאן מְקוֹמוֹ, אֲבָל הַדָּבָר הוּא בָּרוּר, כִּי אֵין הָאָדָם יִשְׂרָאֵלִי נָחְשָׁב אָדָם שָׁלֵם בְּלֹא אִשָּׁה.
(8) They ascended to the bed as two and descended as four — this is procreation. This is undoubtedly an added level for man.	שָׁצָה שְׁמִינִית – עָלוּ לַמִּטָּה שְׁנַיִם וְיָרְדוּ אַרְבָּצָה – הוּא פְּרִיָּה וּרְבִיָּה. שֶׁדָּבָר זֶה בְּאֵין סָפֵק מַדְרֵגָה נוֹסֶפֶת לָאָדָם.
For a person is individual by himself. But to have offspring — to create many from himself without limit — makes him more than individual: he becomes collective. This is a higher level, that man becomes a general being.	כִּי הָאָדָם הוּא פְּרָטִי בְּעַצְמוֹ בִּלְבַד, וּמַה שֶׁיֵשׁ בּוֹ הַתּוֹלֶדָה וּפְרִיָּה וּרְבִיָּה – אֵינוֹ נָחְשֶׁב פְּרָטִי, שֶׁהָרֵי בְּכֹחוֹ הָרְבּוִּי בְּלִי גְּבוּל, וּמָזֶּה הַצַּד – אֵינוֹ בְּרָטִי. וְדָבָר זָה הוּא מַדְרֵגָה יוֹתֵר שֶלְיוֹנָה, מַה שֶׁהָאָדָם כְּלָלִי.
(9) He was commanded — after he had completed all these levels, he was commanded by Hashem with seven commandments.	שָׁעָה תְּשִׁיעִית – נִצְטַוָּה. אַחַר שֶׁהֵשְׁלִים בַּכּל, נִצְטַוָּה מָן הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ בְּשֶׁבַע מִצְוֹת.
For we already explained above that man is distinguished through his actions, which purify his soul. And if he were not given decrees by Hashem, he would exist unto himself — with no divine sovereignty over him — which would imply, Heaven forbid, that he is god.	כִּי כְּבֶר אָמַרְנוּ – כִּי נִצְטַוָּה הָאָדָם וְנִתְיַחֵד בְּמַצְשִׂים שָׁהֵם צַרוּף נַפְשׁוֹ, כְּמוֹ שֶׁהִתְבָּאֵר לְמַעְלָה. וְעוֹד, אִם הָיָה בְּלֹא גְּזֵרָה מִן הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרְךְּ – הָיָה הָאָדָם לְעַצְמוֹ, וְלֹא הָיָה עָלָיו עֹל מַלְכוּת שָׁמִים, וְהָיָה הוּא אֱלוֹהַ חֵס וְשָׁלוֹם
Therefore, in the creation — where man is the head of the lower world — he must accept decrees from the Higher One. Through this, he is not his own master, and thus he was commanded in seven mitzvos.	וּלְפִיכָּדְ – עִנְיַן הַבְּרִיאָה, שֶׁהָאָדָם הוּא רֹאשׁ בָּעוֹלָם הַתַּחְתוֹן, וְיֵשׁ לוֹ עִלָּה – צָרִידְּ שֶׁיְּקבֵּל הוּא גְּזֵרַת הָעֵלָּה, שֶׁבָּזָה אֵינוֹ לְעַצְמוֹ, וְנִצְטַוָּה בְּשֶׁבַע מִצְוֹת.

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It has already been explained above (Chapter 7) why exactly וּכָבַר הָתִבַּאֵר לְמַעְלַה (פַּרַק ז) לַמַה דַּוְקָא בִּשֶׁבַע seven mitzvos — because through seven mitzvos one accepts the מְצְוֹת – כִּי עַל־יִדֵי שֶׁבַע מְצְוֹת יֵשׁ קַבַּלַת מֵלְכוּת sovereignty of Heaven and its decrees completely. This is the שַׁמַיִם וּגַזֵרוֹתַיו בִּשָׁלֵמוּת, כִּמוֹ שֻׁנַּתְבַּאֵר לְמַעְלַה. וְזָהוּ highest level. Therefore he was commanded in the ninth hour, הַמַּדְרֵגָה הַגִּדוֹלָה. וּלְכָךְ נִצְטַוָּה בַּתִּשִׁיעִית, כִּי אָז הַיּוֹם for by then the day had reached its perfect completion. בַּתַכְלִית שָׁלֵמוּתוֹ. וּמָן תְּשִׁיעִית וְאֵילֵךְ הַיּוֹם מַתְחִיל לֵירֵד, וְנוֹטֵה אֵל From the ninth hour onward, the day begins to decline, and it leans toward darkness and the diminishment of light. Likewise, הַתְשֶׁךְ וְהַעָרֵר הַאוֹר. וְכֵן הַאַדַם יֵשׁ בּוֹ נְטִיָה אֱל הַעְדֵר in man, there is a tendency toward absence as well. Therefore, in the tenth hour, he sinned, because there is in man a וּלְפִיכַךְ בַּעֲשִׂירִית - חָטָא. כִּי יֵשׁ בַּאַדָם נְטִיָּה אֶל tendency toward deficiency. (In the eleventh hour, he was judged.) And this too is included in בָּאַחַר עָשָׂר נִדּוֹן). וְגַם זֶה נִכְנָס בְּנֶדֶר הַבְּרִיאָה) the nature of creation. "For there is no righteous man on earth who does good and does "כִּי [אַדַם] אֵין צַדִּיק כַּאַרֵץ אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה טוֹב וַלֹא not sin" (Kohelet 7:20). (יַחֶטַא" (קַהַלַת ז, כ Therefore, the fact that he sinned in the tenth hour is relevant to וּלְכַךְ מַה שֶׁחָטָא בַּצַשִּׂירִי הוּא שַׁיַּךְ לְבִרִיאַתוֹ his very creation. Just as this is included in the day's tenth hour, when the light וּכְמוֹ שֶׁנָּכְנַס גַּם־כֵּן בָּגֶדֶר הַיּוֹם שַׁעָה עֲשִׂירִית, שֶׁאַז begins to diminish, so too is man's sin included in the essence of הָאוֹר מַתְחִיל לָהִיוֹת בֵּהָה, וְכַךְ הַחַטְא שֶׁל אַדָם גַם־בֵּן man, for absence is attached to man's being. נִכְנָס בְּגָדֶר הָאָדָם, שֶׁדְּבֵק הַהָּעְדֵר בְּעֶצֶם הָאָדָם And similarly the judgment — for certainly, since "there is no וְכֵן הַדִּין, שֶׁוַדַּאי כֵּיוָן שֶׁאֵין צַדִּיק בָּאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה righteous man on earth who does good and does not sin," it is טוֹב וְלֹא יֶחֱטָא", אָם־כֵּן אִי אֶפְשָׁר שֶׁשַּׁיִהְיֶה בְּלֹא זֶה impossible for this not to occur. In the twelfth hour — he was banished and went away. After בָּשָׁנֵים עֵשָׂרֵה - נָטָרַד וְהָלַךְ לוֹ. אַחַר שֶׁנִּדּוֹן נָטְרַד being judged, he was cast away from his prior exalted level and מְמַצַלָתוֹ אֲשֶׁר הָיָה לוֹ מִקְדֵם, וְנִשְׁאֵר עוֹמֵד עַל מַדְרֵגָה remained on a lower level than he previously had, as befits a פָּחוּתָה מִמַה שֶׁהָיָה לוֹ, כִּמוֹ שֶׁרָאוּי לָאַדָם בַּמָּה שֶׁהוּא sinner And this is what remains for man in the end בַּעַל חֵטָא. וְזֵהוּ שֵׁנִּשָׁאַר לַאַדָם בַּסּוֹף Thus, our sages of blessed memory explained with great הָרֵי בַּאֲרוּ זָכָרוֹנָם לְבָרַכָה בִּחָכְמָתָם, כִּי תֵּכֶף וּמִיָּד wisdom, that immediately with the creation of man, it was בָּבָרִיאַת הָאַדָם, אִי אֶפִשָּׁר שֶׁלֹא יִצְטַנָּה הָאַדָם. כִּי impossible for man not to be commanded — for the command הַצִּוּוּי מִן הַשֵּׁם יִתִבָּרַךְ נִמְשָׁךְ לַבְּרִיאָה from God flows directly from creation itself. For it is not fitting that man should deviate from the higher בִּי אֵין רַאוּי שֵׁיָהִיֵה לַאַדַם סַר מִן הַעַלַה רַק יִהִיָה authority, but rather should stand properly beneath the rule of the עומד מִסְדַר תַּחַת רְשׁוּת הַעַלַּה

higher.

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Corresponding to these trustworthy proofs that the Torah must be from Heaven, the first is that it is fitting for man, who is the recipient, to be arranged under the authority of the higher.	וּכְנֶגֶד אֵלוּ הַמּוֹפְתִים הַנָּאֱמְנִים שֶׁחַיָּב לִהְיוֹת תּוֹרָה מִן הַשָּׁמִיִם; הָאֶחָד, כִּי רָאוּי שֶׁיִהְיֶה הָאָדָם הָעָלוּל מְסַדָּר תַּחַת רְשׁוּת הָעַלָּה
And the second is that it is fitting for man to be completed through Torah from Hashem, as was explained above.	וְהַשֵּׁנִי, כִּי רָאוּי שֶׁיֵשְׁלַם הָאָדָם עַל־יְדֵי תּוֹרָה מִן הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְּ, כְּמוֹ שֶׁהִתְבָּאֵר לְמַעְלָה
Therefore, there are two components in the Torah: the Ten Commandments as a unit, and second, the rest of the Torah as a unit.	וּלְפִיכָךְ שָׁנֵי דְּבָרִים בַּתּוֹרָה; עֲשֶׂרֶת הַדִּבְּרוֹת בִּפְנֵי עַצְמָם, וְהַשֵּׁנִי, כָּל הַתּוֹרָה בִּפְנֵי עַצְמָה
This is because the Ten Commandments are the acceptance of His sovereignty, and through these commandments man stands under the authority of the higher.	וְזֶהוּ כִּי עֲשֶׂרֶת הַדִּבְּרוֹת הֵם קַבָּלֵת מֵלְכוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרַדּ, וְעַל־יְדֵי אֵלוּ הַמִּצְוֹת הָאָדָם עוֹמֵד תַּחַת רְשׁוּת הָעַלָּה
Therefore, the Ten Commandments were written separately on two tablets and are called "the Tablets of the Covenant," which represent the acceptance of His kingship.	וּלְפִיכָךְ הָיוּ כְּתוּבִים עֲשֶׂרֶת הַדְּבְּרוֹת עַל שְׁנֵי לוּחוֹת בִּפְנֵי עַצְמָם, וְנִקְרָאוּ לוּחוֹת הַבְּרִית', שֶׁהֵם קַבָּלַת מַלְכוּתוֹ
And their beginning is "I am Hashem your God" (Shemos 20:2), to declare that He, may He be blessed, is their King, and afterward He decreed His laws upon Israel, as will be explained at great length.	וְהַתְחָלֶתוֹ "אָנֹכִי ה' אֱלֹהֶיךְּ" (שְׁמוֹת כ, ב), לוֹמֵר כִּי הוּא יִתְבָּרַךְ מַלְכָּם, וְאַחַר־כָּךְ גָּזֵר גְזֵרוֹתָיו עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁיִּתְבָּאֵר הַכֹּל בְּאֹרֶךְ מְאֹד
And in these Ten Commandments is the acceptance of the decrees of the higher upon the lower.	וּבְאֵלוּ עֲשֶׂרֶת הַדְּבָרִים יֵשׁ קַבָּלֵת גְזֵרוֹת הָעִלְּה עַל הָעָלוּל
And the rest of the Torah serves for the completion of man, as will be explained further (Chapter 35) at length.	וּשְׁאָר הַתּוֹרָה הוּא לְהַשְׁלָמַת הָאָדָם, כְּמוֹ שֶׁיִתְבָּאֵר לְקַמֶן (פְּרַק לֹה) בְּאֹרֶךְּ
And there is another proof: Behold, all those who investigate with their own understanding and intellect all agree that it is impossible for the transition from potential intellect to actual intellect and action to occur on its own.	ְעוֹד יֵשׁ מוֹפֵת. הָנֵּה כָּל הַחוֹקְרִים מִדַּעְתָּם וְשִׂכְלָם כַּלָּם הִסְכִּימוּ, שָׁאִי אֶפְשָׁר לִהְיוֹת רַק כִּי הַשֶּׁבֶל שֶׁל אָדָם שֶׁיוֹצֵא אֶל הַפַּעַל - אֲשֶׁר הָיָה לְדֶם שֶׁהִשְׂכִּיל בְּכֹחַ וְהוּא יוֹצֵא אֶל הַפַּעַל - אֵין דָּבָר זָה מֵעַצְמוֹ
Rather, the actualized intellect only emerges through an active intellect — an outside influence that draws it into action — as is known from their writings.	כִּי אָם שֶׁהַשֵּׂכָל יוֹצֵא אֶל הַפּעַל עַל־יְדֵי הַשֶּׁכָל הַפּוֹעֵל, שֶׁהוּא מַשְׁפִיעַ הַשָּׂכֶל, כְּמוֹ שֶׁיָּדוּעַ מִדְּבְרֵיהֶם
However, we — the disciples of Moshe Rabbeinu, peace be upon him — say that Hashem, may He be blessed, brings all things into actuality. It is not an active intellect (as they believe), which is one of the angels.	אָמְנָם אֲנַחָנוּ תַּלְמִידֵי מֹשֶׁה רַבֵּנוּ עָלָיו הַשָּׁלוֹם אוֹמְרִים כִּי הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ מוֹצִיא אֶל הַפַּעַל הַכֹּל, לֹא שֵׁכָל הַפּוֹעַל אֲשֶׁר לְדַעְתָּם הוּא אֶחָד מִן הַמֵּלְאָכִים

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In the end, everyone agrees that the actualized intellect brings out the intellect within man from potential to actual — and this is the very principle.

סוֹף סוֹף הַסְכָּמַת הַכּּל שֶׁהַשֵּׁכָל אֲשֶׁר הוּא בְּפְעַל, מוֹצִיא הַשָּׂכֶל שֶׁל אָדָם שֶׁהוּא בְּכֹחַ אֶל הַפּּעַל

And this matter applies in the particulars of the species: that every intellect and reason from man is particular, and brings forth his intellect into actuality.

וְדָבֶר זֶה הוּא בִּפְרָטֵי הַמִּין, שֶׁכָּל שֵׁכָל וְשֵׂבֶל מִן הָאָדָם וְדָבָר זֶה הוּא בִּפְרָטֵי, וּמוֹצִיא שִׂכְלוֹ אֶל הַפַּעַל ...

And certainly, more primary and more prior is the influence of intellect upon the general, which is more primary than the particular.

וּבְוַדַּאי כִּי יוֹתֵר רָאשׁוֹן וְיוֹתֵר קוֹדֵם הַשְׁפָּעַת הַשָּׂכֶל אֶל הַכְּלָל, שָהוּא יוֹתֵר רָאשׁוֹן מִן הַפְּרָט.

And from this matter it is conclusively derived that He, may He be blessed, influences the general intellect — and this is the Torah, which is the influence of intellect pertaining to the general, inasmuch as it is general, not inasmuch as it is particular — just as we explained above.

וּמִדָּבָר זֶה מִתְחַיֵּב בְּחִיוּב גָּמוּר כִּי הוּא יִתְבַּרְךְּ מֵשְׁפִּיעַ הַשָּׂכָל הַכְּלָלִי, וְהִיא הַתּוֹרָה, שֶׁהִיא הַשְׁפָּעַת הַשְּׁכָל הַשַּיָּךְ אֶל הַכְּלָל, בַּמָּה שֶׁהוּא כְּלָל, לֹא בַּמָּה שֶׁהוּא בְּרָטִי, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁבַּאַרְנוּ לְמַעְלָה.

And this matter is close to what was explained. And this matter necessitates Torah from Heaven. And this is sufficient for one to whom Hashem, may He be blessed, has given eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to know the truth.

וְדָבֶר זֶה הוּא קָרוֹב לְמֵה שֶׁהִתְבָּאֵר. וְדָבֶר זֶה מְחַיַּב תּוֹרָה מִן הַשָּׁמִיִם. וְדִי בָּזֶה אֶל מִי שֶׁנָּתַן לוֹ הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ עֵינִים לִרְאוֹת וְאָזְנַיִם לִשְׁמֹעַ וְלֵב לְדַעַת הָאֱמֶת:

### [NOTE Summary

The discourse opens with a striking teaching from the Talmud (Sanhedrin 38b) which describes how Adam, the first human, was created in twelve stages during a single day — from dust to being expelled after sinning. The Maharal explains that this developmental model reflects the **essential structure of human potential**: a being formed from below but intended to live under the dominion of the higher, spiritual order.

From this, the Maharal establishes a **philosophical proof**: it is logical and necessary that a creature like man—inherently limited—must be governed and completed by something higher than himself. That higher system is the Torah, which could only originate from God, not human minds.

He then outlines two core functions of the Torah:

- 1. The **Ten Commandments** represent submission to God's Kingship they establish that man is under Divine rule, which aligns with the idea that the created must serve its Creator.
- 2. The **rest of the Torah** exists to **complete and perfect man**, giving him wisdom and moral clarity he could not generate on his own.

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Furthermore, the Maharal argues from the **structure of intellect and causality**: any movement from potential to actuality (in this case, human thought and behavior) must originate from an active cause — and that **ultimate active cause must be God**, not a created intellect. He refutes those who attribute intellectual causality to angels or other intermediary forces and insists that it is God Himself who grants man the Torah, the supreme expression of intellect.

Finally, he declares that the Torah is not a set of ideas arising from individual human reasoning, but **Divine intellect** given to the general whole of mankind — making it categorically impossible for it to have emerged from anything but Heaven.

#### **Practical Takeaway**

The Torah is not merely a cultural heritage or a moral code; it is a **Divine system crafted specifically to rule over, complete, and elevate humanity**. By engaging with Torah, we align ourselves with the source of all wisdom and step into our role as vessels of a higher truth. This should infuse our Torah study and mitzvah observance with deep awe, clarity, and urgency: we are not merely practicing tradition — we are **touching the mind of God**.

#### **Chassidic Story**

The Vilna Gaon once remarked about the Maharal of Prague: "If only the world knew who he was, they would kiss the dust of his grave." One story from the Maharal's own life reflects this discourse's theme — the Torah as a light from above.

A certain nobleman, skeptical of Torah, once challenged the Maharal: "You Jews claim your Torah is from Heaven. But it contains legal details that seem entirely human — commerce, damages, property laws. Why would God concern Himself with oxen and money?"

The Maharal responded: "Indeed, those areas are the true proof that the Torah is from Heaven. For if man had written it, he would have concerned himself only with Heaven, angels, and lofty ideals. But God came **down** into our world — into the marketplace, the field, the alley — and illuminated it with truth. That is a Torah from Heaven: not one that escapes the world, but one that **rules it**."

The nobleman was struck silent.

(Source: *Maharal of Prague: His Life and Times*, Rabbi Shlomo Goren)

END NOTE