

6/21/71
Dear Rabbi Lamm, יו"ר

My name is [redacted], and I am 22 years of age.

Until approximately three months ago my דת was, by Jewish Orthodox standards, a rather "healthy" one. (I was planning to go into תורה)

At that time I decided to devote a portion of my day to the study of תנ"ך, a 3118 which I had much neglected since my elementary school days.

This proved to be a most painful experience. For as I read, my belief in the doctrine of פשוט / דת steadily diminished.

My problem is essentially this: If דת was, in fact, divinely inspired, why is there barely any indication of this in the text itself? Let me illustrate this with an example: If a certain poem has traditionally been attributed to a brilliant and profound thinker, I would naturally expect to find brilliance and profundity in the poem itself. Now, if the poem turned out to be shallow and primitive, (i.e., I did not deem it brilliant or profound) I would have severe doubts about the authenticity of the tradition I received. Well, a book which was allegedly authored by the Supreme Intelligence should ידע / 152 / 2 ידע be rife with attestations to this fact. And yet, upon turning to the דת, I fail to find anything of the sort.

What דת I do possess is derived from three sources:

- 1) תנ"ך, משנה, גמרא and other scriptural phenomena. (I am referring, not to the wild mathematical games which some פשוט play, but to those phenomena which, I feel, simply cannot be attributed to coincidence).
- 2) Prophecies in the דת which were later realized.
- 3) An intuition that certain פשוט and events in the דת have esoteric meaning.

I hope you will be kind enough to advise me as to what course of action I ought to take.

Thanking you in advance,
Sincerely Yours,
[redacted]