

SCW-3/15/96

"A MODEST PROPOSAL"

1. Defin'g charactr'c J rel pers'y=צניעות;
usual: modsty; tz in techn'l trms: height hem/
sleeves/skin. Imp't-bt=aspts of tz, nt hrt.

Tz nt restrctd t measurble-ruler. Don't ignore
concptl matr..tz touches יסודות. S, wll addrss
nt techn'l Hal, bt broader implic'ns tz, nt
merly sex'l sgnif'ce, & explor 3 dimensions tz.

2. 1st=principle קדושה. Torah: קדושים תהיו &
Chazal פרושים תהיו: Mitzvah thrfre immor'y
in strict sex'al sgnif'ce. The furthr fr
illicit sensuality, th mr pers'al קדושה.

3. How tz relate t KD? RAV: KD thrives העלם nt
בגלוי (Thus: ערוות)... * -- זניוהו = האש

So, holiest place=קה"ק; persn=כה"ג; dy=כ"ב.
Here=convrg'g 3 forms KD- place /tm /person'y
Q: if KD s imp't, why not masses/fanfare?

A: KD nt prospr crowds... Rather: tz= nat'l
envir't KD. Hol'ss grows in unobtrusiv
recesses soul, nt on stage of public persona.

Other exampl: טמא ידים. No touch. Pointer. ידים
Ovr-fam'r KD, dtract טמא קדושת & defile it. If
exposd, KD exting'd. "כשהוא ערום"--lackg tz.

4. Rav: Greeks: hum body aesth'c terms. Masters
Bty, obsessed. Museum; bty nt thrv hiddenness;
If n view--aesth'c purpose comprm'd.
Thrives only when lookd at, exposed...

Hnce, if bdy prim'ly aesth'c, needs exposure.
Maj elmnt confct Athns/Jer: Greeks = gymnsia
Israel, sports in nude bec body=object beauty.

Bt Jsm dissntd: (חנוכה-Hasm'n revol). There is
aesth'c in Jsm. Talm: בנות ישראל יפות אלא
שעניות מנוולתן. Yt KD > esth'cs. Jsm: hum bdy=
rel value--sacred. Bt sacred=cover'g, nt
expsure. Hnce, Jsm-- laws tz, demandd cover'g,
bec body=sacrd, KD>bty. Jsm vs Hellen'c trad.

5. Support Rav: begin'g שמות--revel'n Gd: משה
של נעליך מעל רגליך. Gd: אדמת...הנני. M: משה.
Then: אני ה' אלקי אברי יצי ויעקב. Hw M
react? ויסתר משה פניו כי ירא מהביט אל ~~משה~~ אל
האלקים. Nt terror; awe. Whn awe in presnc KD,
propr rsnse= close eyes/ cvr face--"Cvrg up"
bec KD. If tz~ corrct orient'n pers'y t prsnce
KD, thn body (encloses pers'y) also b cvrd up.

Anothr ex: Ch. 6 Isaiah: שרפים-היכל קק"ק-
צבא. Note: Each angl~6 wings--2 cover face,
2 feet, 2 flies. Only 2 of 6=functional--f
flying! 4 of 6=f tz! Why? Bec קק"ק; prsnce KD=
cvr up, evn angls--נ יצה"ר. S tz nt only sex'l
stimul'n; KD always conceal't--or:tz.

S t tz=~ נשמה, whch=~ KD. Tz ^ = acknw't pers'y,
whch> bdy, partkes KD. Is nt jst biol orgnm...
Mn= anmal, bt=also angl bec: צלם אלקים, KD.

6. 2nd dimen'n tz connected w exper'ce of כבוד,
us'l: "glry"/mj'y/ honr /rspct. Bttr: dgnty.
Dgnty < Lat=value, wrth, slf-rspct. Source hum
dgnty=Gd, of Whom say: כבוד אלקים הסתר דבר. (Pr
25:2). Dgnty, lk KD-- הסתר דבר.

Mn t: If hs כבוד wll act manner compatbl w tz.
Mod'y~charct'ze conduct/persn'y:reflec'n worth.

Daily exp'ce: prsn bragging... despses slf=
compenstng poor slf-imge... Prsn self-rspct=n
need ...Lck כבוד -> t exhb'sm; כבוד-> mdsty/ tz

7. As said earlier, dress etc. = aspc't of tz,
nt all. Nt mean: tz=unkempt/unstylish. Tz not
antonym attract'ss/pleasnt appear'ce; is oppst
overexposure which=sign of lack כבוד, dign'y.

8. Tz~ כבוד nt only slf bt also othrs. Tz as
כבוד bears on interspers'l rel'ps. Ex.=צדקה.
Hghest צדקה= donr/ rcpnt nt knw...Tz-> כבוד nt
only t slf bt other; cncrn f dig'y other.
Handout =good bt nt ideal. Nobler: genuine
mod'y, where also supprt hs pers'y by respctg
hs כבוד and do not make him feel like a beggar.

9. Finally, 3d concept, fr which n wrd in class'l
Heb: PY, f tz= instrum't of PY. imp't concept
sec law, also Hal-- wll developed much earlier
thn West'n wrld. Prt Jsm's ethcs-communication.

Ethics-comm'n whch Jsm prescribes f man=based
imitatio Dei; Bibl-halc vocab'y, והלכת בדרכיו.

T define limts ethcs-commun'n, mst ask hw Gd
commcts-mn, s tch mn hw commct follow mn. Wll
thn lrn: Gd bth reveals/ conceals...

At Sinai=שכינה גילוי--communication of slf-rev'n
In turn, mn commct's-Gd by "revg" slf-TNY/ Kook

S, imitatio Dei: M t mst revl slf t follow mn,
Bt imp't lmt'n: Gd revls bt also concls; div PY
affirms boundaries Hs pers'y; lmts beynd whch n
hum trespass, hum intellect nt free probe. S,
בן סורא--במופלא ממך אל S אלקים הסתר דבר
ש, areas "off lmts" t Mn...H prtcts Hs PY

S mn as צלם אלקים condct slf: rev slf t frnd, &
frnd t hm. Bt lmt: slf=sacr /dgnf'd, prvt (N
Pict'r Windw). Tz=rspect f integ'y ego, vry slf.

Mn (acc Jsm)=fundm'y inscrtble; y knw nvr knw
evrythg...If knw all, n core of slf.One's hum'y
= contingt on hs inscrtbility/ mystry/prvy. Mn=
natura/ also personae. Orig = msk-- symbl
scrt/privt. Beynd mask= liv'g, puls'g, brth'g
hum. Nt only is mn mystry /shld b! Obligd
enhnc/ chrish/dvlp snse of slf whch cn respct.
Slf-hood-- evn tho n one else knws/ confirms/
valdts. Nt catt'ic...pathlg'l. In healthy prsn,
rev'n & commun'n=balanced...Is ths PY whch we
confm whn spk of tz. Other aspts tz are but
derivative expressions of this core.

10. Concept PY in Hal: beg היזק רא'י--ב"ב...

11. Tz, thus quite sig't מצוה. Yt: mch > מצוה.
מצוה=commnd sov'reign (Knesset/Congress /להבדיל
Almg'ty). Bt sch ethic norms > disemb'd
commnds, bec issue fr Imitatio Dei. מכילתא-זה

H nt only commnds/ performs. S, in imitat'n I hv t prfrm thm. W "reg" מצות, as ק"פ, H o-c nt eat lmb. Bt whn commnds be kind/gentl/compassiont/considrt/lovg--is bec H is...& we nt only obey/imitate. Hs acts=nrms. S: תחילתה גמ"ח סופה גמ"ח חז"ל--ת'. מצות, Gd funct'ns normat'ly: role mdl

Now, if sy tz>מצוה, means: Gd too practices tz. Hw possble "Gd=modest?" Sns clothing-- absurd. Bt can spk of Gd as having a sense of PY..

12. We concv Gd mny diff't wys. In philo/ Kab 1 aspt Gd=Hs knowb'y/ accssb'y t our intell curiosty; Hs relat'ss t us. דעת ה'-מצוה גדולה. Is vision הארץ דעה את ה' כמים לים מכסים ומלאה הארץ דעה את ה' כמים לים מכסים.

Bt: essence abs'y unknwble; imperv's mn's cogn quests; א"ס. RH Vol. Gd= hddn, myst ...Ths vast inscrtb'y =innr boundy Hs PY. H resists, puts lmtson mn's desre t knw Hm Again: py of God.

O-c, Jsm wnts us undrstd--ntr,sci."Sec" knwldg =prt nat equip't רבש"ע gv mn--t knw Tor, wrld. S, impt knw Gd= loftiest ambtn /heroic achiev't

Bt: only actionl attrib's...descr/b/ undrstd, imitate. Essence--only neg attrb's...W strctly limtd ablt'y apprhd Div'y...Jst as mn, if h wr tot'y knwble=<hum, s Gd...Gd="prvt Indv."

Micah- הגיד לך אדם מה טוב ומה ה' דורש ממך כי אם לעשות משפט ואהבת חסד והצנע לכת עם אלקיך Last- הצנע לכת. Means: lf tz=imitat'g Gd: עם תhs: Ths: חנון וכו' S: as H =tz/PY s I.

13. Summarz. Tz=faith potential f ק'. Rspct f own/othr's כבוד. Also: hal/eth inviolbl PY mn, based on PY-Gd. Tz=^ blf Gd: ...מכה כקק"ק.

Finally, tz=a trait of Gd: H=prvt. Hence, acme rel/morl delevp't=whn, in own lves-prosaic aspect of dress/speech/mannerism, we reflect highest demand of ה' as it came t us thru Micah תחילתה גמ"ח סופה גמ"ח חז"ל--ת'. ה'.