

## THE NINETEEN LETTERS

*Speaks to the snow, "Be upon the earth!"  
"And thou, rain, be messenger of heaven!"  
Verily the rain is the embassy of His power.  
Upon the hand of every man He imprints His seal,  
Remembers every member of His creation,  
Gathers the wild beasts in their lairs,  
That they rest in their hiding places.  
Storms come from hidden recesses,  
In its season icy coldness,  
From the breath of God — He causes frost,  
And the broad watery expanse becomes firm.  
When, also, bright rays dispel the mists  
He is it, Who scatters the clouds by His light.  
He! Cause of all causes! In wisdom creative  
He changes them that they fit their purpose.  
All is as He bids it be for His world of men, for the  
earth,  
For instruction, for earth-perfection, for love.  
We find Him." (Job, Chapter 37)*

Therefore, there is one Creator! All else, everything that you know, is the creation, the revelation of this One God. And as for this world — we live in God's own world; every living thing around us is God's creature and servant. Every force is God's messenger, each in its place, in its time, fulfilling His word, contributing its share to the work of the universe.

*"He Who clothes Himself with light as with a garment;  
Who spreads out the heavens as a carpet;  
Who erects over the waters His arches,  
Lays the clouds at His feet,*

## THIRD LETTER

*Who walks upon the wings of the wind,  
He makes the storms His messengers,  
The flaming fire His servants." (Psalm 104:2-4)*

They are His servants all — the storm wind, the lightning, the rain and the snow; the worm which crawls at your feet; the blade of grass which nods to you on the way, the thunder which rumbles majestically above you, and the cool breeze which fans your feverish cheek — they all serve God.

*"For, as the rain and the snow descend from Heaven  
And return not thither until they have moistened the  
earth,  
And caused it to bear and yield fruit  
Until it has given seed to the sower  
And bread to the eater;  
Thus also is My word which comes forth from My  
mouth,  
It shall not return unto Me empty:  
But it shall do that which I desire  
And accomplish that for which I sent it forth." (Isaiah 55:10, 11)*

All things are servants about the throne of the Lord. "For," say the Sages, "It was not with one creative word that the Almighty summoned all things, the universe and the individual, into being, so that each one should depend immediately and solely upon His behest for its existence and activity. On the contrary, it was in a series of ten developments that God called His world into existence, created an abundance of forces and caused them to pervade each other, working closely together in accordance with

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His will — uniting and separating them in such a manner that each should assist in maintaining the other; that none should contain alone the conditions of its existence and activity in itself, but should receive from fellow creatures, and impart to them in turn, the conditions of life and work.”<sup>2</sup> He, in His infinite wisdom, ordained this mutual interdependence in order that each individual being might contribute, whether much or little, to the preservation of the All. Thus water, having penetrated the earth, is collected in cloud and sea; light, having pierced the earthy crust and brought forth plants, is concentrated again into sun, moon and stars; the germ, the offspring of earth, is taken from the soil and given to the crown of ripened fruition so that the earth may produce again. One glorious chain of love, of giving and receiving, unites all living things. All things exist in continuous reciprocal activity — one for All, All for one. None has power, or means, for itself; each receives only in order to give, and gives in order to receive, and finds therein the fulfillment of the purpose of its existence. “*Ha-Shem*” — “Love,” say the Sages, “love which supports and is supported in turn” — that is the character of the Universe.

## Fourth Letter

### MAN

**N**OW AS TO MAN<sup>1</sup> — what is man in this God-filled world? Is he not also a creature of God? Is he not also a servant of the Lord? Every fiber of your body is a creation of the hand of God. Your spirit, the spark of the Divine, your personality, invisible as Deity itself, weave and work in this microcosm and control your intellect and your body. This mysterious spiritual force within you is in itself an emanation of Deity. Learn to deem yourself holy as a creature of God and consecrate yourself to your mission as a “servant of God.” Since all things, the smallest and the greatest alike, are God’s chosen messengers, should man alone be excluded from this sphere of blessed activity? Can it be that he is born only to take? Born not to fill any place, nor to fulfill any purpose but to let all things end in him? No! Your own conscience says it, even as the Torah proclaims; man is to be *tzelem elokim*, “an image of God.” You are called not merely to enjoy or suffer. Spirit, body, wealth, every ability and every power, all constitute means of activity. They were given *le-ovdoh ul-shomroh*, to promote and preserve the world — in love and righteousness. The earth is not yours, but you were given to the earth, to respect it as Divine soil and to deem each one of its creatures a creature of God, your fellow-being.

The Law to which all powers submit unconsciously and involuntarily, to it you shall also subordinate yourself, but consciously and of your own free will. “Deliberately and