

TIME MANAGEMENT

Background

The Rambam (*Hilchos Yisodei Torah 3*) teaches us that all of the stars and constellations have a spiritual component to them. “All of them stand, each one in accordance with its greatness, and they praise the Creator, as do the *molochim* (angels).” (This issue was discussed in Shmuz #69 – A War of Ideology.)

Apparently, the spiritual counterparts of the heavenly bodies are not just intelligent creations; they have a sense of self-awareness and consciousness that is even superior to man’s. When the moon complained and HASHEM diminished it, the moon felt bad. It had once been a “great luminary,” but now it was put into a minor role. To appease it, HASHEM increased its servants by creating the entire night sky so that now when the moon comes out, it is accompanied by an entire host of stars.

Questions

If HASHEM wished to appease the moon, it doesn’t sound as if He succeeded. To us, occupants of planet Earth, the moon appears to be accompanied by an entire grand array of stars when it rises. But from the moon’s perspective, it is still tiny. Out in space, viewing the cosmos from the star nearest the sun, the moon is almost imperceptible. From man’s perspective, there may have been some glory given to the moon, but from the moon’s perspective, and from the perspective of the universe and the other the heavenly bodies, nothing was done to appease the moon. So what good did HASHEM accomplish by increasing the moon’s servants?

ספר בראשית פרק א

טז וַיַּעַשׂ אֱלֹהִים אֶת שְׁנֵי הַמָּאֲרוֹת הַגְּדֹלִים אֶת הַמָּאֹר הַגָּדֹל לְמַמְשֶׁלֶת הַיּוֹם וְאֶת הַמָּאֹר הַקָּטָן לְמַמְשֶׁלֶת הַלַּיְלָה וְאֶת הַכּוֹכָבִים

And HASHEM made the two great luminaries (light sources): the large one to rule over the day, and the small one to rule over the night, and the stars.

רש"י על בראשית פרק א

טז המאורות הגדולים - שוים נבראו ונתמעטה הלבנה על שקטרגה ואמרה א"א לשני מלכים שישתמשו בכתר אחד ואת הכוכבים - ע"י שמיעט את הלבנה (ב"ר מ"ו) הרבה צבאיה להפיס דעתה

Rashi: The large luminaries — *They were created as equals, and the moon became smaller because it complained. It claimed, "It is impossible for two kings to wear one crown." Since the moon made itself smaller, HASHEM increased its servants to appease it.*