

The Unification of Torah and Science: Basic Principles and a Case Study on Electromagnetism

Part 16--Telepathic Magnetism

The Shlah haKadosh writes at length about a particular property of magnets that serves as a parable for another profound insight into the nature of a Jew. The Shlah explains that when a lodestone is broken into two and each half is placed in a different location, one piece of the magnet will simultaneously react in the same way when a change is made to the position of the other half. Although this property has not as yet been demonstrated scientifically, there is some definitely approved evidence which points to the fact that perhaps this may be true in some mysterious way (in modern quantum mechanics this property is known as "entanglement," by which objects distant from one another nonetheless affect one another non-locally). We know that magnets are isomorphic in their structure, meaning that every magnet has a north pole and a south pole, which remains true of each of the parts when the magnet is divided. This suggests that magnets are related to the profound Chassidic teaching that each part of the spiritual source contains within it all the properties of the whole, no matter how many times it is divided and despite the fact that it appears that one grasps only a part of the whole. This concept is called inter-inclusion, which we describe as a

hologram effect, whereby each individual segment of reality contains within it a miniature picture of the whole.

The scientific fact of the isomorphic quality of magnets suffices to permit us to relate to the yet unproven property which the Shlah describes, in which two pieces of the same magnet will supposedly retain some mysterious connection which will cause them to react simultaneously when some force is exerted only on one of them. This suggests that magnets possess an inherent telepathic quality, reminiscent of the telepathy often experienced by twins.¹

Telepathy is the clearest way of transmitting thoughts that eliminates the fuzziness usually associated with spoken and written forms of communication. The fact that magnets possess this inherent quality would suggest that telepathy may be the result of a type of electromagnetic wave phenomenon. It would be interesting to investigate this phenomenon relying on the discoveries of Bell and other modern scientific theories (relating to the property of entanglement mentioned above), which surmise that one electron can simultaneously "sense" what is happening to another electron or elementary particle on the other side of the universe with billions of light years between them, to discover whether or not the phenomenon described by the Shlah is a local or a non-local occurrence.

¹ For a detailed discussion about the power of telepathy, see our article, "Kabbalah and Telepathy."

On a similar note, we could conduct a "thought experiment" relating to the idea of a single-poled magnet, which, of course, is an impossible phenomenon since every magnet has a north pole and a south pole. By thinking about such impossible ideas, one may sometimes be able to arrive at new conclusions with regard to existing reality. In this case, a single-poled magnet seems to be comparable to a very sad phenomenon that is rife today, the phenomenon of homosexuality. Here we have a phenomenon in which like-poled "magnets" unnaturally attract one another instead of repelling one another. One idea for making use of electromagnetism for medical purposes would be to try to use it in healing these people of their disease.

Be that as it may, the main idea expressed by the Shlah Hakadosh is that Jews, like magnets, possess an inherent telepathic quality which, when activated through the correct means, by clarifying our actions, speech and thoughts, enables Jews to sense the joys and sorrows of their fellowmen, as Job's friends felt his distress, coming to his aid in his time of need with no previous knowledge of his troubles.

Similarly, this idea is manifest in the image of a couple who are like two halves of the same magnet which split into two and they now find themselves down on earth in two different locations. It is by virtue of this magnetic force that exists

between them that they are unconsciously attracted to one another and eventually find each other and marry. It is very likely that if one would study the histories of these two soul-mates, they may have simultaneously experienced similar episodes in their lives because of the as yet unrevealed power of telepathy between them.