



Hubble displays to us, what Abraham would never see: See the story below, "Colliding Galaxies" bottom right.

"Praise Him sun and moon  
praise Him all bright stars  
for He commanded  
and they were created."

King David: Psalm 148

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Dedicated to Scriptural and Rabbinic Verification  
of Jewish Beliefs and Practices

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## SUGGESTED READINGS:

SEE THESE AND OTHER ARTICLES AT OUR SITE

### Maimonides' 13 PRINCIPLES

THE BASIC FOUNDATIONS WHICH ALL JEWS MUST KNOW AS TRUE. WE URGE YOU TO READ THEM:  
[www.mesora.org/13principles.html](http://www.mesora.org/13principles.html)

### God's Existence Belief or Proof?

[www.mesora.org/belieforproof.html](http://www.mesora.org/belieforproof.html)

### God's Land Without God?

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:  
[www.mesora.org/openletter/openletter2.html](http://www.mesora.org/openletter/openletter2.html)

## Who Deserves Death?

RABBI MOSHE BEN-CHAIM

**Reader:** How can it be logical to murder someone for their false beliefs? Where is the "due process" involved when a religious person murders another person due that person "deserving death because their ideas are so wrong"? My reasoning for the belief that Jews were meant to coexist and act as a beacon of education for the Gentile world comes from TaNaKh, prophets, etc. Why else did Hashem say to us that we would have to struggle with Gentiles after Joshua failed to drive them from the land? Are we not

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## Reincarnation

RABBI MOSHE BEN-CHAIM

**Reader:** (IsraelWire-8/6) In his weekly Saturday night address, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the spiritual leader of the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party, stated the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust were the reincarnated souls of sinners being cleansed. The rabbi stated the victims were paying for their previous sins. I would be interested in your opinion concerning his "answer."

**Mesora:** I will begin by stating that any valid Torah ideal - by definition - must be based on rationale. As all Torah ideals emanate from God, all His wisdom is true, and must follow reason. When Saadia Gaon calls reincarnation "absurd", he goes through an analysis of the theory, and dispels its false foundations. (See his work, "Beliefs and Opinions"). Saadia Gaon - unlike many of today's Jews - did not say that since a reputable rabbi held a view, I cannot oppose him. Not one of our Sages or Rabbis followed the leader. They followed reason, and as the Talmud states, a sage once said, "even if Joshua the son of Nun said it, I wouldn't accept it...". (Talmud Chulin 124a, at the very bottom). This teaches that reputation is of no consequence in deciding truth. We do not follow an "authority", even one who was under the direct tutelage of Moses, as was Joshua. What do we follow? The answer: "Reason." Therefore, when one follows a view, let him have well reasoned arguments for his opinion. If he does not, simply "following the leader" is of no merit to himself, as his mind has been absent in any selection of his actions.

How would Ovadia Yosef explain God's accusation of Sodom for their own wrong doings?

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## COLLIDING GALAXIES

(Photo above) Located 300 million light-years away in the constellation Coma Berenices, the colliding galaxies have been nicknamed "The Mice" because of the long tails of stars and gas emanating from each galaxy. Otherwise known as NGC 4676, the pair will eventually merge into a single giant galaxy.

The image shows the most detail and the most stars that have ever been seen in these galaxies. In the galaxy at left, the bright blue patch is resolved into a vigorous cascade of clusters and associations of young, hot blue stars, whose formation has been triggered by the tidal forces of the gravitational interaction. Streams of material can also be seen flowing between the two galaxies.

The clumps of young stars in the long, straight tidal tail [upper right] are separated by fainter regions of material. These dim regions suggest that the clumps of stars have formed from the gravitational collapse of the gas

and dust that once occupied those areas. Some of the clumps have luminous masses comparable to dwarf galaxies that orbit in the halo of our own Milky Way Galaxy. Computer simulations by astronomers Josh Barnes (University of Hawaii) and John Hibbard (National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Charlottesville, Va.) show that we are seeing two nearly identical spiral galaxies approximately 160 million years after their closest encounter. The long, straight arm is actually curved, but appears straight because we see it edge-on. The simulations also show that the pair will eventually merge, forming a large, nearly spherical galaxy (known as an elliptical galaxy). The stars, gas, and luminous clumps of stars in the tidal tails will either fall back into the merged galaxies or orbit in the halo of the newly formed elliptical galaxy. The Mice presage what may happen to our own Milky Way several billion years from now when it collides with our nearest large neighbor, the Andromeda Galaxy (M31). □

**Image was taken on April 7, 2002.**



"Twisters" composed of cosmic matter. Each one is a half light year in length, and 5000 light years from Earth. Captured by the Hubble space telescope.

## To Love

RIVKA OLENICK

All love that is humanly possible can only exist if one has love of God. Any love relationship between anyone, the foundation of that love, if it is real love can only be if there is love of God.

Why is love of God the essence of the human relationship? We are commanded to "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, all thy soul and all thy might" to "love your neighbor as yourself?" and even to "love the stranger." It is difficult to love your neighbor "as yourself" and to love the stranger, so on what basis would you love them or anyone else for that matter unless it were based on the love of God? Love for other people is based on the understanding that they are like you, your neighbor is you and the stranger was you in Egypt. Both created by God. In one sense it's almost easier to have love of God, since we can see that God created the entire world and everyone and everything in it. How can any person not have this recognition and this great appreciation for all of God's creation? The world as it exists could not have been created by any entity other than God - it seems so obvious. The sky, the moon, the sun, the oceans, all plant and animal life did not "just happen" or evolve as so many foolish people believe. Everywhere you look in the entire universe is the incredible results of God's work that took place on each day of creation. There is no doubt whatsoever to this truth. For thousands of years before we came into existence the world already existed and we are now the benefactors!

Does anyone really believe that there is not a Master of the Universe, a Perfect Creator, a Being Who planned all human life from beginning to end including our eternal life. When a person is deceased, the body is attended to with the ultimate care and compassion guided by specific halachas, laws, the body is then returned to the earth. The body is returned to God, the

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