

# To Redeem the Captives. Part 1

By Ariel Klimer

Who is a captive (in spiritual terms)? A captive is someone whose mind is imprisoned in false beliefs and misconceptions, the "empty falsehoods and flashing imaginations" of the society or culture in which he lives, which prevent him from behaving as a free man. He is like a *tinok shenishba* (a captured baby) by the educational system in which he was born and raised. This person is a prisoner to fantasies which are imposed on him -lifestyles dark in the eyes of the Creator, though enlightened in the eyes of the world.

In contrast, a free man is someone who knows how to discern and separate between light and darkness, good and evil, pure and impure, holy and mundane, and truth and falsehood; and who chooses to cleave to light, goodness, holiness, purity, and truth - and succeeds.

The above opposites, such as light and darkness, look obvious to us. Excluding the blind, the difference between light and darkness is clear to all who see. It is obvious to us that a little light dispels great darkness, is it not so? Specifically, it is impossible for light and darkness to exist in the same space, because the presence of light overrides the presence of darkness. If so, what is the meaning of the first act God did within His creation when it says: "**...And God separated the light from the darkness**" [Genesis 1:3-4]? God separated between the light and the darkness, which were, as it seems, mixed together. As humans, it is difficult to understand, or to imagine, how it is possible for light and darkness to co-exist. How can there be the presence of light with the absence of light at the same time?

Why is it difficult for us to digest this phenomenon? Because we are captives to the limitations of natural intellect, we are constantly trying to interpret God's wonders by molding them into the template of human logic. Man insists on molding God, His wisdom, and all of His doings into the format of his mortal logic. Everything Divine that does not fit that template is cast on the ground, as in Daniel 8:12 "*And she cast truth to the ground.*" This occurs when the man takes the Divine, twisting it and forcing it to change and be adapted to the template of his intellect.