Cosmic Unity

 Energy, which in earlier civilizations took the form of horse drawn carriages and sickles, has morphed into combustion, hydroelectricity and eventually nuclear power. A work load that would’ve taken days to complete, now can take a few minutes. If we follow the chronology of energy, what’s clear is that the magnitude of energy we can harness has increased cosmically. Thanks to the range of discovery modern technology allows for, scientists can study the nature of earth’s smallest particles. At the nucleus of everything there is, if channeled properly, enough energy to power the entire globe until the end of time. The nuclear bond holding each atom together is tremendous and when modified in a controlled setting can release massive amounts of energy. This is done through either nuclear fission, splitting the nucleus of an atom, or nuclear fusion, combining two nuclei. While nuclear fission has been used to generate energy for almost a century, nuclear fusion, as relevant to Earth, is yet to be accomplished by anyone aside for the sun. Comparatively, splitting an atom requires much less energy than fusing atoms, which makes it a possible feat. The fission of an atom, however, creates radioactive and therefore dangerous waste and reactants and requires nature’s heaviest yet not so common elements. For this reason, scientists have been trying to imitate the sun’s fusing of atoms for energy as it produces 3 to 10 times more energy than fission does, it’s ingredients are hydrogen and helium, both common resources, and releases no radioactive particles. Energy harnessed by nuclear fusion is outrageously more potent than any other form of energy, yet to date has not been generated for long term use by any lab. Particles within the nucleus exert an extremely strong repulsive force on foreign protons and therefore particles have to be fused with a rate of 7 percent of the speed of light, a speed that requires huge amounts of energy to produce. Scientists have reached a breakeven point where the energy produced by nuclear fusion is as much as the energy needed to create it. They have not however generated self-sustaining and surplus energy from conducting nuclear fusion. They have come quite a long way, yet are still missing the key to the sun’s magic.

 If we look with a metaphoric eye at nuclear fission and fusion, they seem to be the narration of human divisiveness and harmony. Fascinating parallels can be drawn between the science and the psychology of fusion and fission, enriching both in the process.

As nuclear fission is more easily done than fusion, so too is disregarding someone else many times easier than interacting. Investing in a relationship and putting ourselves aside to make room for someone else can be more taxing than merely disengaging. It is simpler to breaks things apart than to put them together; to destroy than to build. It takes much more energy to create peace than to sow discord.

Man was created to communicate and connect with others. When people are in harmony there is no waste – no down time, no peripheral distractions. Harmony is by definition seamless, synergetic, leaving no room for unnecessary expenditure of energy. The anatomy of divisiveness is such that when humankind does not connect and engage with each other, man becomes ‘radioactive’. He generates negativity for himself and those around him.

But how do we overcome the dilemma of harnessing the incredible power of fusion? We look to the sun – the ultimate fusion generator.Psychological fusion, like scientific fusion, seems like an impossible feat. The enormous repulsive force exerted by the particles within the nucleus make it very difficult to fuse new particles to the atom. Similarly, the diverse egos and personalities of individuals exert a tremendous resistance to fusing and uniting with others. The powerful tug of self-interest repels interconnectivity

Yet, when we tap into the power of the sun we can achieve this fusion.

What is the sun?

 The mystics teach that the sun represents the divine. “The L-rd, G-d, is a sun and its sheath” (Psalms 84:12) is a verse used as the basis for an extended analogy between Gd and the sun throughout the teachings of Chassidus. Like Gd (Havaya), just more obviously understood, the sun serves as the source of life, energy and light for man on earth. And just as the sun has the key to fusing two repelling forces, the divine soul – the G-dly sun within rach one of us – is the key to the synthesis of man. As long as we are just physical bodies we are inherently separate and apart from each other. For such is the cardinal rule of material existence: Every thing occupies its own time and space, to the exclusion of all others. By virtue of the spiritual soul, which does not occupy time and space, we are capable of loving and fusing with one another (see Tanya chapter 32). Self-sustaining harmony between people is thus only possible when the divine “sun” radiates.

At first glance, true harmony between people seems to be merely a social thing, something that people can achieve on their own, without the need for a Gdly intervention. Yet the mystics teach that in fact truly connecting with another is impossible without involving Gd; they are mutually inclusive. This is hinted to in the cardinal Torah commandment “Love your fellow as yourself:” The Hebrew word for ‘as yourself’, *Kamocha* shares the same numerical value (86) as *Elokim –* Gd (source). This equivalence highlights that the fusion of people, each with their own culture, opinions and personalities is a feat- a Gdly feat, because on our own we are different entities, each driven by our own interests Matter, by definition, divides.

 However, at the deepest part of man, at the point where our exterior no longer masks our soul, man is one indivisible unit. A unit with the same goal, same vision and same heartbeat. What blinds us from this essential point of unison, is the exterior parts of ourselves. Our social circles, our psyches, our attitudes, our upbringing and all symptoms of the human condition. All these differences entitle me to my space and you to your space. They restrict me to my feelings and you to yours. They are the reason why I have to let go of a part of myself to make room for you. If we identify with our self-concern and it is dominant in every aspect of our life then it’ll be extremely difficult to tolerate and invite anyone into our ‘personal space’.

Just like the sun needs cosmic amounts of energy to override the repelling force of particles to induce nuclear fusion, man as well needs a uniting force that is much more compelling than what divides us. We access that uniting force through our *bittul* –suspending the self, the ego, through humility allwing in a higher, transcendent force that allows us to fuse with another. And then “when many different parts fuse into one, reinforcing each other to the point where the beginning of one and the end of another cannot be discerned, the ultimate level of unity and synthesis is achieved. And each quality reinforces and benefits from another, each detail leads to the other. This is true unity for no opposition exists” (Heichaltzu chapter VII).

 Chapter 32 of Tanya outlines the formula for true self-sustaining unity between man and his fellow. When unity comes as a result of agreement of ideas, beliefs, social status, religion etc., the unity can only run as deep as those ideas and as far as our tolerance for a difference of opinion. To create true harmony between people, we must identify with the deepest part of ourselves, because at that point we are all alike, we are all part of one indivisible, collective soul. We must identify with the Gdly part of ourselves to allow genuine unity, the kind that’s impervious to external or even opposing factors that divide us. As Tanya quotes, “Therefore there can be no genuine love between those who regard their bodies as primary and their souls as secondary, but only a love based on external and temporary circumstances.” We can try and even succeed in connecting with others on a surface level as some labs have succeeded in fusing atoms, but to create self-sustaining and lasting unity, the key element of identifying with the Gdly part of us is critical.

 In a physical realm, an allotted space can only house one thing at a time. When our soul, however, is what occupies the space we fill, there’s infinite room for others. Because, when we identify with our soul, bringing Gd into the equation, the spiritual space we take up welcomes everything and everyone; such is the workings of the spiritual space system. If Gd is involved, then like Him, we can incorporate and blend with everyone, regardless of difference in opinion, nationality or appearance.

 Let us vow to try to generate energy fostered by the fusion of people, community, and most essentially souls, by imitating nuclear fusion and by imitating Gd.

Now the big question is this: How can we apply this idea of psycho-spiritual fusion of the sun to create efficient scientific fusion? In the spiritual model the “G-d particle is the force that allows us to counter the tremendous repulsion exerted by the particles. The “God particle” is accessed through *bittul*. What is the equivalent parallel of bittul and the G-d particle in the physical sun?

When we answer that question we will have the solution to the age-old dilemma of tapping into the enormous energy of the sun, providing the human race with self-sustaining power without any side effects.