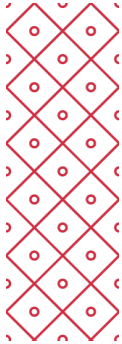




PROTESTANT
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We kindly invite all interested colleagues, students, and broader public to the guest lectures by

Rabbi Joshua Weisberg

a Talmudic scholar teaching at Jerusalem Orthodox Yeshivas and seminaries

For How Will You Know (the Thoughts of Your Heart)?

Dreams and the Unconscious Mind in the Talmud

on Thursday, November 28, 2024, at 18:00

in the lecture room MP, 1st floor,
PTF CU, Černá 9, Prague 1

More information & contact:

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Univerzita
Karlova



Abstract

In a 1927 letter, philosopher and French Nobel laureate in literature, Romain Rolland, wrote his friend Sigmund Freud a letter. I should like to put to you the question, Rolland wrote, whether you have ever come across the phenomenon of 'Oceanic' feeling, a feeling of eternity, of oneness with the universe, a feeling of 'limitless' being. A scholar of Eastern mysticism, Rolland was experimenting with meditation and mystical experience. Persian mystics, he knew, possessed a rich language for the inner workings of the mind and he wanted to know if Freud could help him make sense of his own religious exploration from the perspective of Freud's new science of psychology.

A century later, Rolland's question and Freud's response still intrigue me. On the one hand, like Rolland, although I study the wisdom of the East, I live in a largely Western world. I speak a scientific language for what takes place within me; I go to a doctor when my foot hurts, see a psychologist when I start to feel depressed. On the one hand, I am a religious Jew, and I study and teach traditional Jewish texts and on the other, I maintain what I consider to be a healthy skepticism about the literal truth of many things my tradition teaches me.

Both because I occasionally experience powerful religious feelings, and because I have such admiration for the wisdom of the rabbis of the Talmud, I wonder if the scientific worldview, really can explain to me what I feel. And if not, what can my Jewish tradition teach me about spiritual experience, inner life, and dreams?

Join Rabbi Josh for an evening of Torah study, conversation and reflection on the Talmud's understanding of dreams, dream interpretation and its understanding of the unconscious mind.





Bio

Josh was born in a small Canadian town. His mother, a German Catholic English teacher, and his father, an American Jewish law professor, were among the founding families of the city's Reform Jewish community. "My people took so many Jewish children, I want to give some back," his mother said.

After high school, Josh volunteered on a kibbutz, where he fell in love with Israel and Judaism. After attending Wesleyan University in the USA, he returned to Israel where he has spent three decades studying and teaching Talmud and Jewish mysticism.

Rabbi Josh teaches on line, all over the world, and at Jerusalem Orthodox Yeshivas and seminaries. He is also a professional chef, international public speaker, amateur filmmaker and licensed tour guide (www.chefrabbijosh.com). In his spare time, Rabbi Josh is writing a book on Dreams and the Unconscious Mind in traditional Jewish thought.

Josh lives in Jerusalem with his wife, blogger and author Chana Jenny (www.Jewishmom.com) where they are being raised by their eight children.

