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## Sepher ha Zohar ("Book of Splendor")

### Vayishlach ("And he sent")

#### (4) "And Jacob was left alone"

78. וּמֵאֵן דְּאִתִּי לְאִסְתְּאַבָּא, אִיהוּ מְשִׁיךְ עֲלֵיהּ הֵהוּא רוּזוּ מִסְאַבָּא,  
וְאִתְדְּבִיק בְּהַדְיָהּ, וְכַמְהָ אֵעוּן דְּזַמְיִנִין לְסְאַבָּא לִיהּ, וּמִסְאַבִּין לִיהּ,  
וְאִיהוּ מִסְאַב וְסְאַבִּין לִיהּ בְּהַא עֲלָמָא, וּבְהַהוּא עֲלָמָא. וְהָא אֲתַמְר.

79. וּבִשְׁעֵתָא דְּאִתִּי בְּרַ נְשׁ לְאִתְדְּכָאָהּ, הֵהוּא רוּזוּ מִסְאַבָּא  
אֲתַכְפִּיָּא קַמֵּיהּ, וְלֹא יְכִיל לְשַׁלְטָאָהּ עֲלוּי, וּכְדִין כְּתִיב, לֹא תֵאָנֶה  
אֲלֵיךְ רָעָה וְנִגַע לֹא יִקְרַב בְּאַהֲלֶךָ. אָמַר ר' יוֹסִי, לֹא תֵאָנֶה אֲלֵיךְ  
רָעָה, דָּא לִילִית, וְנִגַע לֹא יִקְרַב בְּאַהֲלֶךָ, אֲלִין עֲאֲר מְזִיקִין, וְהָא  
אִיקְמוּהָ וְאֲתַמְר.

78. Whoever wishes to be defiled draws upon himself that Spirit of Defilement and cleaves to it. Numerous await to defile him and make him unclean. They corrupt him in this world and in the World to Come, as has already been explained.

79. When a man strives to be purified, however, the Spirit of Defilement is subdued and loses its sway over him. Then, it is written, "No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling." Rabbi Yosi said, "No evil shall befall you," refers to Lilit and, "nor shall any plague come near your dwelling," refers to the other harmful demons. This has already been explained.

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|-Reflections from Rav Yehuda Ashlag, "[The Method of Faith](#)" \* אמונה

The method of faith argues that all that exists is the spirit or the soul. They believe that there are spiritual objects separated from one another by quality. They are called "souls of people," and they exist independently, prior to dressing in a human body. Afterward, when the body dies, death does not apply to it, since a spiritual object is a simple object. In their view, death is but a separation of the elements comprising the object.

This is possible with physical objects, comprised of several elements in which death disintegrates. But the spiritual soul, which is an utterly simple object, lacking any complexity, cannot be separated in any way, as this separation would annul its existence. Hence, the soul is eternal and exists forever.

The body, as they understand it, is like an item of clothing over this spiritual object. The spiritual soul clothes in it and uses it to manifest its forces: the good qualities and all kinds of concepts. Also, it provides the body with life and motion and guards it against harm. Thus, the body itself is lifeless, motionless, and contains nothing but dead matter, as we see it once the soul departs it—when it dies—and all the signs of life that we see in human bodies are but manifestations of the soul's powers.