

CHAPTER 6: THE SYSTEM BEHIND DIVINE PROVIDENCE - PARAGRAPH 1

by Rabbi Yaakov Feldman

2:6:1

In the course of His interactions with the world ¹, G-d arranged it so that both the things that humankind brings about out of free will ², and that He purposefully brings about in creation ³, should function like a government. That's to say, with upper and lower courts with all of their procedures and rules ⁴. As our sages put it, "The kingdom of Heaven functions like a human kingdom" ⁵.

He thus established different "court systems" for the spiritual realm with rules and procedures ⁶, which work on various levels, feature certain spiritual entities ⁷, and follow particular sequences ⁸. And everything that's to be judged is to appear before those courts and is to be subject to its decisions ⁹. As it's said, "By the decree of the overseers is the sentence decreed" (Daniel 4:14) ¹⁰.

Footnotes:

¹This chapter is termed "The System behind Divine Providence", which is a subject that necessarily touches on our interactions with Him and His with us.

²And are to be judged for.

³That are somehow or another adjudged or at least subject to decisions about placement, role and the like, too.

⁴The point is that G-d purposefully arranged for the universe to function in a comprehensible, linear, and over-all orderly manner -- despite the fact that it's rooted in preternatural mystical nothingness and primal chaos -- so that we can understand the "rules of the game", interact with Him within our own contours and limitations, and to thus draw close to Him.

⁵Ramchal is referencing a statement in Zohar 1:197a and *Berachot* 58a that is worded differently.

⁶Of their own that mirror the rules and procedures of earthly courts.

⁷Which function as the "overseers" cited below.

⁸See *Ma'amar Halkurim*, "B'hashgacha".

⁹See *Adir Bamarom* p.68.

¹⁰See Sanhedrin 38b and *Shemot Rabbah* 6:1.