

CHAPTER 7: THE INFLUENCE OF THE STARS - PARAGRAPH 2

by Rabbi Yaakov Feldman

1. On the influence of the stars upon events ¹.

G-d instilled yet another factor upon the stars, which is that all of the events experienced by physical things and their outcomes would originate up above ², but would then be drawn downward by the stars ³ in the form they'd need to assume ⁴.

So for example, things touching on one's life, income, wisdom, offspring, and the like ⁵, are initiated up above in the celestial roots but then they're transported downward by the stars to the branches in an appropriate form ⁶.

That happens through certain sub-divisions and combinations within the star system, particular groupings of them, and the well-known orbits assigned to them ⁷.

2. Everything that occurs to physical things is assigned to a particular star. Thus, all physical things were placed under their control.

Thanks to their arrangements, all things come about as a result of the emanation from the star system through its connection to every individual ⁸.

Footnotes:

¹ Ramchal wrote about the influence of the stars elsewhere: see *Da'at Tevunot* pp. 198-199, *Ginzei Ramchal* p. 123, *Derech Eitz Chaim* p. 144, *Adir Bamarom* p. 235, and elsewhere.

² In the higher heavens.

³ In the middle heavens.

⁴ That's to say that the raw, inchoate and deepest elements are found above, lying in potential in those higher heavens; their somehow physical-yet-spiritual elements are brought closer to earth by the stars; and their solid, rank material bodies then assume concrete forms.

⁵ See *Shabbat* 156a.

⁶ See 1-5-2, 10 above which speaks of the role the angels play in this as well. The Zohar cites both stars and angels at various points.

⁷ See *Moed Kattan* 28a. This is referring to constellations and zodiac signs.

⁸ But the stars and planets don't only transmute this information from Heaven as a matter of course. Each one lends a particular hue and tone to whatever it affects. Thus, each element of our life is affected by a particular star or planet with its own makeup, character, and idiosyncrasies as well as by the combination of stars and planets in the cosmos.