

I've never found contemplating the afterlife to be a particularly satisfying activity. It starts with the understanding that whatever there may or may not be is unknowable—and it only gets murkier from there.

Pretty much all of the traditional speculations leave me wanting. I'm guessing that floating around on clouds with wings and harps gets old fast. And seeing everyone you've ever known would probably run its course pretty quickly too. I mean, what's there to do after you reminisce about old times? Do it some more?

Maybe there is some mystical rapture awaiting from which we will never tire but that seems unlikely too. If we've learned anything in this world it is that our ability to grow is at the heart of our humanity. Even the promise of studying Torah and other Wisdom with the great Sages sounds a little suspect. After all, those books are meant for us in this world, not the next.

So I've kept my thoughts on whatever future world there may be vague. I guess I believe that there is one (it really is a vast universe out there) and I am somewhat comforted by that belief. But it's not something I am certain about nor is it something I'm particularly eager to get to.

Enter into this speculation the comedian Lewis Black. In his book "[Me of Little Faith](#)" he suggests that in the next world our reward will be to witness the comeuppance of every [so and so] who has wronged us in this life. This was a vision of the next world I had never contemplated--yet I found it immediately compelling. Give it a little bit of thought and see if it doesn't work for you. I'll wait here...

Didn't take long, did it? I think part of its appeal is that in the more traditional visions of the next world there is a separation between those who have lived well and those who have not. You either go up or down and never the twain do meet. But what if those who went in one direction got to witness exactly what happened to those who went in the other? Would this be something to look forward to? Can you say schadenfreude? Can I get an "Amen?"

If Lewis Black could come up with this, I'm sure it is not beyond the ability of the Almighty to do likewise. So maybe there is something to look forward to in the next world after all. I'm still not in any rush to get there but I confess that the prospect may have become a bit more appetizing.

In the meantime, everybody be good.

RDA

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