

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## ... Continuous Creation

*The Mystery of Continuous Creation*

By Yonatan Hambourger and Tzali Reicher

"In the beginning G-d created the heaven and the earth." This familiar verse from Genesis holds a deeper truth that most people miss – one that could transform how we view both the universe and our own potential for change.

Modern physics tells us that the universe had a beginning. But here's something even more remarkable: our universe's existence right now, in this very moment, depends on an ongoing act of creation. G-d isn't just the architect who drew up the plans and walked away – He's actively sustaining every atom of existence, every second of every day.

Think of it like tossing a ball into the air. To someone watching, the ball appears to fly under its own power. But anyone who's played catch knows what happens next – the ball reaches its peak, then falls back to earth as the initial force wears off. Without continuous input of energy, motion stops. The same principle applies to our entire universe on a grand scale.

Farmers understand this idea intuitively. A planted field doesn't maintain itself. Each season's crop requires constant nurturing – water, sunlight and care. Remove any of these sustaining forces, and the crop fails. The universe works the same way, but on an infinite scale. G-d is continuously creating every aspect of existence anew, every single moment. If this divine sustaining force were to pause even for an instant, the entire universe would simply cease to exist, reverting to absolute nothingness.

This renewal isn't limited to the physical world. Every morning, when we open our eyes, something extraordinary happens. According to Jewish tradition, our souls are returned to us completely renewed, pristine and fresh. The first prayer Jews say upon waking – Modei Ani – acknowledges this profound daily gift: our soul being restored to us with fresh potential, unmarked by yesterday's mistakes or limitations. It's like receiving a brand new computer each morning, with all the processing power intact but none of the accumulated clutter and cached files that slow it down.

This isn't just some abstract philosophical concept. The continuous nature of creation reveals something profound about our own lives. Since G-d creates a brand-new world at every moment, we too have the power to create brand-new realities for ourselves. Each instant offers a clean slate, free from the weight of past mistakes or seemingly unchangeable circumstances.

Think about what this means: your life isn't like a movie playing on autopilot. It's more like a series of photographs, each one a fresh opportunity to compose something new. The limitations you felt a moment ago don't have to constrain what's possible now. The habits that seemed unbreakable yesterday don't have to control your choices today.

This understanding transforms how we view personal change. Too often, people feel trapped by their past decisions, their established patterns, or their perceived limitations. They might think, "This is just who I am" or "It's too late to change." But if G-d is creating the universe anew each moment, then we too can start fresh at any time.

Every morning when you open your eyes, you're not just waking up to the same old world – you're witnessing an entirely new creation. Your past doesn't have to dictate your future. Your struggles from yesterday don't have to define your today. Each moment offers a divine reset button, a chance to begin again.

This isn't about denying the past or ignoring consequences. Rather, it's about recognizing the profound truth that existence itself is being renewed constantly by divine will. And if G-d can create the universe anew each moment, surely we can recreate ourselves, our relationships, and our life paths.

The power to start over isn't just a comforting thought – it's woven into the very fabric of reality. At any given moment, regardless of where you are or what came before, you can have a genuine do-over. G-d is showing us how it's done, one moment of creation at a time.

*Yonatan Hambourger is a rabbi and writer dedicated to serving spiritual seekers of all backgrounds on behalf of Chabad of Rural Georgia. Tzali Reicher is a rabbi and writer who supports communities throughout the regional South. You can contact them at y@tasteof Torah.org.*

## Guest Columns

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear throughout the paper. If so, please write. Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.



Echos from Sinai  
"Torah for Everyone"  
Rabbi Yonatan Hambourger



## Garden Ready?

Spring officially starts on March 20, but we still have a while to go before we are past the last chance of frost. Let's talk about some ways that you can plan ahead to make sure that you are garden ready when the time arrives.

If you haven't already, I would recommend taking a soil sample and bringing it to the Extension Office. The soil test report will give you recommendations for lime and fertilizer that your garden will need. Recommendations can be given for people who want to use organic fertilizers too. If your soil needs lime it is best to get the soil test in as quickly as possible because lime takes 6-9 months to be fully active in the soil. I have seen a number of people do soil tests on beds that are 100% compost. These samples typically have a pH of around 7.5 which is too high for most plants. Generally, plants like to have a soil pH in the 6 – 6.5 range.

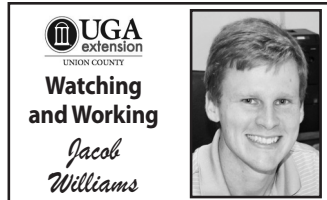
In our area is recommended to wait until mid-May to start putting plants outside. By this time the soils have warmed up enough that seed germination will be better and we are past the threat of frost. Some years it may be possible to plant earlier than mid-May, depending on the weather. Mid-May is good general, conservative prediction.

If you are going to be planting from seed in the garden, you can begin buying the seeds that you're going to plant, if you haven't already done so. If you are going to be growing your own transplants under protection, it's recommended that you start them six to eight weeks before putting them outside. A heat pad and grow light make a big difference if you are trying to start your plants indoors. Growing your own transplants takes more work, but it can give you a wider selection of plants than if you just shop for transplants at a garden center. I do recommend using transplants over seed when possible, because it will give you a stronger stand.

Before you plant put some thought into the layout of your garden. Make sure that you have a place that has plenty of sun. Ideally at least 8 hours a day. For a vegetable garden think about crop rotation if you have been planting in the same spot for a few years. For a pollinator garden think about including as much diversity of flower color and flower shape as possible. This will encourage the most beneficial insects, and support a wide variety of pollinators. Consider plants of different heights, native, and non-native plants.

Spring is the best time to plant summer annuals. I know there is a strong temptation to plant other things too. Perennials do best if planted in the fall or winter. Planting perennials in the spring means that you will need to do a lot of watering over the summer to make sure that they survive.

If you have questions about starting a garden contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.



Watching and Working  
Jacob Williams

## Free Shipping

Your Free Shipping Is Out For Delivery

You've seen the message, a text or an email announcing that your package is "Out for Delivery." I recently saw that notice four times for a package that never arrived. When I called customer service, Steve in Hyderabad (I suspect that Steve is not his real name) told me those messages are generated when a package is actually scanned onto the truck that delivers to our route.

I have a theory about what happened. It's pure conjecture, but my theory is based on conversations with helpful people in some of the biggest cities in Asia. My package's journey began when the box was loaded at the back of a truck because we live near the end of our delivery route. When our driver didn't finish the route that day, it stayed at the back of the truck and got scanned again the next day that he didn't finish his route. After several days at the back of the truck, my package was damaged and undeliverable, which is why the things I ordered from Walmart in Clayton, Ga., went to Uvalde, Texas.

In case you were wondering, we're not talking about UPS. UPS has always been reliable. Our packages come right to the front door and usually on time. If it's raining, the package will be wrapped in plastic. When it snowed last winter and our driver couldn't get the delivery truck up the driveway, he walked the package in. He never appears to be in a hurry, but he always finishes his route.

We're not talking about the USPS either. Our mail carrier has the same excellent work ethic as the UPS guy. If the parcel is too big to fit inside the mailbox, he brings it to the front door. When the tracking information tells me our package has arrived at the post office, we can be confident that it will be delivered the same day.

It's not Amazon. Our young driver in her 2WD sedan has never failed to deliver on the same day she received our packages. During the recent snowstorm, her little car managed to make it all the way out here to the boonocks and up our driveway while another delivery service which shall remain nameless was taking the day off.

The name of the company in question must remain a mystery. We do not wish to embarrass anyone or make them feel unsafe, so we would never single out the \$58 billion company that hires the mysterious, unknowable, and unreachable local contractors who send out the dented white trucks, contractors who are insulated from complaints by a website and automated phone systems that take you on a journey around the world that often mimics the journey of the undeliverable item in the box you never receive.

Much of the reliability of any delivery service depends on the luck of the draw. For several years the mystery company provided us a driver who was so reliable he was promoted to a better route closer to home. We were happy for him and sad to see him go. After he left our route, we got a guy who tossed our packages onto the ground below the mailbox, about 250 feet from the house. Then we had the dude who thought "front door" meant "the patch of poison ivy on the ground by the barn." After that, we enjoyed a brief relationship with a guy who generated "attempted delivery" messages on days we were home, and then the guy who quit in the middle of his route, emptied his truck onto the ground, and left for parts unknown.

Sometimes you get the guy whose biggest qualification is that he shows up for work, like our current white-truck driver. We'll just call him "Nub." Nub is friendly, and he likes music, which we can hear from about a quarter mile away. The dogs hear it much sooner. It's better than a driveway alarm. Nub is never in a hurry, but unlike our UPS driver, he frequently runs late. He once generated an "attempted delivery" notice for a bag of cat food. Perhaps he forgot that you don't have to sign for a bag of cat food, and since we were home all day during his attempted delivery, maybe he forgot where we lived.

We suspect that Nub's short-term memory may be impaired. We respect that Nub's short-term memory may be impaired. We have insured him several times that the front door to our house is not 100 feet away at the corner of the shop in the puddle, but he has yet to remember that. He forgets that the arrows on the box above the "this side up" labels are there to remind him that the top of the box doesn't go on the ground. He forgets to wrap the box in plastic when it's raining. He forgets that if he walked a few more steps he could save the plastic bag he forgot to bring by putting our package on the front porch, by the front door, as per the delivery instructions he forgot to read.

Sometimes it's not Nub's fault when packages are late or undeliverable. I think he has cousins working at the big box stores where we buy supplies and, at the mysterious company's distribution center in Ellenwood, Georgia. To ensure your package never arrives, follow this simple procedure: order a liquid in a glass bottle, like cooking oil or vinegar, from Walmart or Sam's Club. Then order something in a can. Nub's cousin will drop your items into a box that's too large for the shipment and add some brown paper to muffle the sound of metal hitting glass during transit.

The contents of the box might survive the first toss onto the truck from the store to the distribution hub. They might survive the toss from that truck to the warehouse floor, but with each successive toss, the chances of a successful delivery diminish rapidly. By the time your box makes it to hub Nub, the olive oil is leaking onto the floor and a "delivery exception" has occurred.

Sometimes Nub is the price you pay for living in a remote area. For us, buying online continues to be at least as cheap as buying in person, and when you add travel time and costs, it's cheaper to recycle cardboard than to make a 50-mile round trip to buy non-perishables. If your business requires electronic components or you need a proprietary whatzit to repair your gizmo, online is pretty much the only option. We all pay the price for the demise of brick-and-mortar stores that once provided the variety of goods now available only from dented white trucks delivering from distribution hubs. At least shipping is free...

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## Letters to the Editor

### A God of Wrath

Dear Editor,

Let's suppose that the God in heaven was only a God of wrath. Whenever you messed up, He would punish you somehow and get great joy from it. That God would be laughing so hard to see you suffering that He would split another galaxy to create a place of tormenting hell when you died. A God who would be well pleased when we argued and always talked bad about others. If there was only a God of wrath, there would be no need for churches or even to pray or worship such an evil God, and we would delight in all the gusto in this life, because there would be no hope for a brighter day to come.

Though there is a God of wrath, praise God there is also a God of pure love, a love that is everlasting and will never end. A God who knows the pain and suffering that we endure in this old sinful world, but there is hope, my dear friend, in a merciful and gracious God who wants to show us with countless blessings from the cross where God's only begotten son died for all humanity and a God who delights in His children who serve Him faithfully.

God's word is still to be taken seriously when it comes down to one's soul and where that soul will spend all eternity after death comes. A lot of folks just shuffle off to Buffalo without a care about who God is, and sadly, His wrath is coming soon to those who have looked the other way, because to them there is no God. There is no doomsday coming. There is no judgment of sinners, but oh how wrong they are, and soon those who rejected Christ will stand in awe when they hear the words – Depart from Me, I never knew you. WOW!!! I pray with all my heart you will search your heart before it's too late.

Frank F. Combs

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Let the Herald work for you!  
Contact us at 706-896-4454  
Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 4 PM



## Towns County Community Calendar

<b>First Monday of each month:</b> School Board... HS/MS Media Center	6:45 pm
<b>Every Tuesday:</b> Storytime for Children... TC Library	10:30 am
<b>First Tuesday of each month:</b> Hiaw. City Council... City Hall YH City Council... YH City Hall	6 pm 6:30 pm
<b>Second Wednesday of each month:</b> Board of Elections... Elections Office	4 pm
<b>Third Monday of each month:</b> Planning Commission... Temporary Courthouse	6 pm
<b>Third Tuesday of each month:</b> Commissioner's Mtg... Courthouse City of Young Harris Planning Commission... Meeting Room in City Hall TC Water Authority Board Meeting	5:30 pm 5 pm 6 pm

## Towns County Herald

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