

What Jews Believe

Lesson One: G-d

Text 1

1. The foundation of all foundations and the pillar of wisdom is to know that there is a Primary Being who brought into being all existence. All the beings of the heavens, the earth, and what is between them came into existence only from the truth of His being.

2. If one would imagine that He does not exist, no other being could possibly exist.

3. If one would imagine that none of the entities aside from Him exist, He alone would continue to exist, and the nullification of their [existence] would not nullify His existence, because all the [other] entities require Him and He, blessed be He, does not require them nor any one of them. Therefore, the truth of His [being] does not resemble the truth of any of their [beings].

(Maimonides, Laws of Foundations of the Torah, ch. 1)

Text 2

"In the beginning of G-d creating...."

(Genesis 1:1)

Text 3

יְחִיד (*Yachid*): Alone, Unique

אֶחָד (*Echad*): One

Questions for Discussion

1. According to Maimonides, is G-d defined by His role as the creator?
2. How do you reconcile that G-d is "perfect existence" with the fact that He engaged in the act of creation? Explain why these two concepts need reconciliation.
3. How does considering G-d's infinity help us understand how G-d can care about seemingly insignificant things?
4. What is the difference between G-d being unique or alone (yachid) and G-d being One (echad)?