

## **Myra Estelle class: Creativity & Love**

**Exodus 35:10 & 22:** "Every wise-hearted person among you shall come and make everything that God has commanded: the Tabernacle, its Tent, and its Cover, its hooks, its planks, its bars, its pillars, and its sockets; the Ark and its staves, the Cover, the Partition-curtain; the Table, its staves and all its utensils, and the show-bread.... The men came with the women; everyone whose heart motivated him brought bracelets, nose-rings, rings, body ornaments...an offering of gold to God."

### **Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan (1934-1983): *A World of Love: The Purpose of Creation:***

"Why did God create the world? ... God had absolutely no need to create the world. God Himself is absolute perfection, and has no need for anything, even creation. When He created the world, He therefore performed the most perfect possible act of altruism and love. ... God has no needs or wants, and therefore, there was nothing about Him that creation could satisfy. It was therefore the most perfect possible act of love....God is the source of all life, and therefore, the more one resembles God, the more he partakes of life."

### **Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook (1865-1935):*The Lights of Holiness, Soul's Illumination Vol.I,p.174:***

"As long as a person is constrained to wait for a time when the creative spirit will inspire him, and then he will create, meditate, sing—this is an indication that his soul has not yet been illuminated.

Surely the soul sings always. It is robed in might and joy, it is surrounded by a noble delight, and the person must raise himself to the height of confronting his soul, of recognizing its spiritual imprints, the rushing of its wings that abound in the majesty of the holy of holies, and he will always be ready to listen to the secret of its holy discourse. Then he will know that it is not at one time rather than another, on one occasion rather than another, that the soul engenders in us new thrusts of wisdom and thought, song and holy meditation. At all times, in every hour, it releases streams of its precious gifts. And the streams that flow from it are holy treasures, fountains of understanding, stored with good sense. God's compassions are new each morning, great is His faithfulness (Lam 3:23)."

### **Maimonides (1135-1204): *Guide for the Perplexed II, 36:***

"Know that true prophecy essentially is the flow which descends from God ... on the intellect first, and after on the imagination. Prophecy is the highest human level, the most perfection which may be found in humankind. It involves the perfection of the imaginative faculty. Not all men are capable of prophecy. It is not something which might be attained merely by immersion in analytical studies or ethical self-improvement. There must be added to them the perfection of the imaginative faculty at birth, as much as is possible."

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### **Dr. Rollo May, (1909-1994): *The Courage to Create*:**

"If you do not express your own original [creative] ideas, if you do not listen to your own being, you will have betrayed yourself. Also you will have betrayed our community in failing to make your contribution to the whole.

A chief characteristic of this courage is that it requires a centeredness within our own being, without which we would feel ourselves to be in a vacuum. The "emptiness" within corresponds to an apathy without; and apathy adds up, in the long run, to cowardice. That is why we must always base our commitment in the center of our own being, or else no commitment will be ultimately authentic.

Courage is not a virtue or value among other personal values like love or fidelity. It is the foundation that underlies and gives reality to all other virtues and personal values. Without courage our love pales into mere dependency. Without courage our fidelity become conformism. Without courage other values wither away into mere facsimiles of virtue.

In human beings courage is necessary to make being and becoming possible. An assertion of the self, a commitment, is essential if the self is to have any reality."