

## Community Circles

August 25, 2021

### Healing Our World, with Rev. Melanie Eyre

Aired 08/22/2021 – [Watch on YouTube](#) (high-speed available)



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*“For hundreds of years – perhaps since the beginning of Creation – a piece of the world has been waiting for your soul to purify and repair it. And your soul, from the time it was first conceived, waited above to descend to this world and carry out that mission. And your footsteps were guided to reach that place. And you are there now.”*

*~ Rebbe Menachem Schneerson*

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Tikkun Olam, or “healing our world,” is our focus today. According to Jewish mystic tradition, Yahweh designed creation so that we, human beings, can bring about the wholeness and unity that was lost at the beginning of time when Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden and humans were expelled into the world. At that time, the primordial light that was gathered into that place shattered, and millions of holy sparks fell all over the universe, into all events, circumstances, people.

The human task, Kabbalah teaches, is to find and recover the holy sparks present, yet hidden, all around us. There is a holy spark in every moment, every person, every opportunity. Our job is to find it and restore each one, with love and discernment, and by so doing contribute to the healing only we can accomplish.

*As an aside, do legends like this one help you in developing purpose, mission, and hope? Why or why not? Do you think that might be the purpose of such stories? Put it this way – we can articulate this point in two ways:*

- 1. Simply assert that we should all do our part in healing our world and bringing about a better future; or,*
- 2. Tell the legend of Tikkun Olam.*

*Which works better for you?*

*Can you think of any other legends or stories that serve the same purpose for you?*

Focusing on the opportunity we each have to contribute to healing, take a look at today’s quote above and ask yourself if any particular part of it is more meaningful to you. The phrase that jumped out at me was “a piece of the world has been waiting.” Why this phrase?

Because it suggests to me that we each have a piece waiting for us, not all of it. Our purpose is to discern what that piece is and apply our gifts to it. *Do you agree? How do we do that? Does that thought give you any relief from the sense of overwhelm that so many of us have?*

When we are called to use our gifts to heal our world, we sometimes first feel that we are unprepared for the job. *Does that resonate at all with you?* Remember the Hebrew prophets who all expressed that they were the wrong person for the job? Turns out they were wrong, and each was able to step up to do the task set before them. *Have you ever been called to a challenge that you felt you couldn't do? What was your experience, and how did it unfold? How did you face the challenge, and what about yourself did you learn? (Remember Eleanor Roosevelt's observation that "You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, 'I have lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.' ...You must do the thing you think you cannot do.")*

*What, if anything, does Ms. Roosevelt's observation have to do with the opportunities we have to help heal our global community?*

*Finally, if you were asked to list five areas, or categories, in which you think our world needs healing, what would they be? Why did you select those five?*