

A Thought for Shabbat

Rabbi Richard Steinberg

Shabbat Shalom

Friday, October 21, 2011
23 Tishrei 5772



This week we read from the Book of Genesis, the first portion, *Bereshit*, in which we learn of the story of Creation. This account of how the world was formed is a spiritual explanation of a scientific event. Evolution and the story of Creation as found in the Torah are not mutually exclusive but rather complimentary. The poetry of the idea that “God spoke” and the world came to be is uplifting, meaningful and essential for our understanding of our place in the world.

For example, on the fourth day of creation, the Torah says, “And God made the two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; and the stars.” As I read these words, I am mindful that we all possess light within. The sun pierces through the day to warm us and further illuminate the natural radiance within our souls. At night, when it is dark, the moon shines its brightness reminding us that even in the tough times of our lives, the light within our very being can lead us to peace. The sun and moon are found in the sky, but they are also found within us.

Finding meaning in the text is what Judaism is all about. Search the story of Creation and find your own meaning, bring it to life and let it move you.