

Maimonides, Laws of Repentance 3:8

one must view oneself throughout the year as having an equal number of merits and sins, and the same is true for the entire world; half meritorious, and half guilty (sinful). If one committed a sin, one has pushed himself and the entire world to the side of debt, and causes them destruction; if one performed one mitzvah, he pushed both himself and the entire world to the side of merit, and cause for them deliverance and salvation.

A disciple came to the rabbi of Kozak with a problem: "I keep brooding and brooding and I am unable to stop."

"What do you brood about?" asked the rabbi.

"I keep brooding about whether there really is a judgment and a judge."

"Does it matter to you?"

"Rabbi! If there is no judgment and no judge, then what does all creation mean?"

"Does that matter to you?"

"Rabbi! If there is no judgment and no judge, then what do the words of the Torah mean?"

"Does that matter to you?"

"Rabbi! Does it matter to me? What do you think? What else could matter to me?"

"Well, if it matters to you so greatly," said the rabbi of Kozak, "then you are a good Jew after all. And it is quite all right for a good

Jew to brood; nothing can go wrong with such a person."