Do Miracles Still Happen?

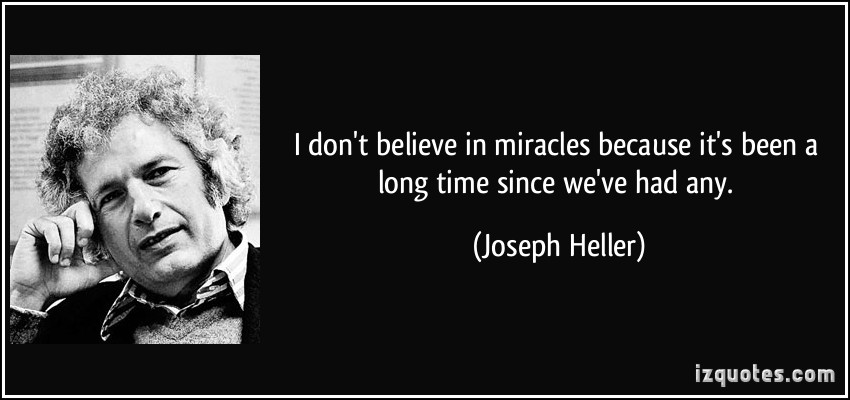
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**Pirkei Avos (Ethics of the Fathers) 5:5**

*Ten miracles were performed for our ancestors in Egypt and ten at the Sea...*

**Pirkei Avos (Ethics of the Fathers) 5:7**

*Ten miracles were performed for our ancestors in the holy Temple...*



**#1**

**Define miracle!**

**#2**

**Questions:**

**Do you believe in miracles?**

**Did you ever experience miracles?**



**#3**

**Questions:**

**Do you believe in miracles or in G-d?**

**Will you believe in G-d if you were to see an open miracle?**

**#4**

**Based on Rabbi E.E. Dessler, Strive for truth and Rabbi D. Gottlieb, yeshiva Ohr Samayach**

*Two things we take for granted:*

*1) Cause & Effect (a causes b and it is predictable)*

*2) Permanence of the items in our world (items continue to exist on their own)*

*According to Judaism - nature has no objective existence; it is merely an illusion, deep illusion...similar to the way video works. It is a sequence of pictures. Each picture is a still picture frame, frames follow so rapidly that psychologically you assimilate, integrate it into a continuous stream of events.*

*The same exact reality applies to our three-dimensional, everyday world. The world is being recreated moment by moment from scratch, a brand new creation...*

**Siddur, Morning Prayer**

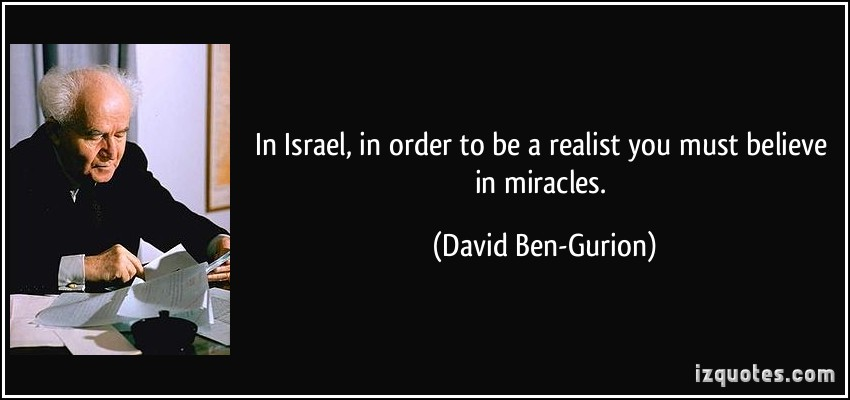
*...and in His goodness He (G-d) renews daily, perpetually, the work of Creation...*

One prominent secular philosopher asked regarding this point: *“Does this mean that G-d is fooling us?”*

**(a) Question:      What could we reply back to him? Is it a mistake to conclude that G-d is fooling us?**

**(b) Question:      Why did G-d make it look as if the world runs on its own, self sustaining?**

**(c) Question:      If it isn’t really cause and effect, if everything is a brand new creation, then things could develop in any way and there is no control - should we trust cause and effect? Is there any point learning science, working on your career?**



**#5**

**Question:      What’s practical application you gained from today’s discussion?**