

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

My name is Avram Yehoshua and I was born in Brooklyn, New York on May 24th, 1951. My parents divorced when I was five years old and I grew up thinking that I was the only kid who didn't have his father living at home. By 20 I was attending Bergen Community College in Paramus, New Jersey, but I made my living shooting pool. I would eventually graduate from Ramapo State College in Mahwah, New Jersey with a BA in Political Science with no distinctions. My heart was into shooting pool and my real education came from the pool hall where I got an MA in 'Banking' and a PhD in 'English' :)

My life was one where I did whatever I wanted to do. Leaving home at 18, I made the pool hall my new home where I could be found 70 hours a week. I smoked grass, did hash and some LSD, and learned what sex was all about. I also saw that I wasn't as ethical as I had imagined myself to be, but lately, something was stirring inside me. As I drove onto Rt. 17 to go to the pool hall that day, I looked up into the sky and said:

'God, if You're real, I want to know. If You're not then Heaven and Hell don't mean anything, but if You are, then You're wise enough and strong enough to get in onto a guy like me.'

That began my spiritual journey. Oh, I 'knew' God existed. I had heard about Him in one way or another all my Jewish life, but God meant no more to me than Abraham Lincoln. I knew he existed, too, but Mr. Lincoln didn't effect my life, as I could see it, in 1971, and neither did God. Where was integrity? Where was real Life? I was hungry for Reality. I searched for God in Transcendental Meditation. I found something there. I looked into Zen Buddhism. I loved it. I thought it was the perfect answer to reality, but I would come to see that God wasn't in either of them—just 'self' at a heightened level of awareness. I would wander down that spiritual lane for four years and then I moved from New Jersey to Tampa, Florida.

I had played pool for five years and could have turned professional, but my heart wasn't into hustling people. I had come to see that in order to excel I'd have to become insensitive to people and to any morals that I might have had left. I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life, but I knew that I didn't want to shoot pool for the rest of it. To be the best you have to give your soul to the game, which I had done, but the game didn't reward me with something that truly satisfied my soul. It just took my soul and left me empty.

I would have headed to California, but I didn't think my 1967 Buick Skylark would make it. So Tommy Vince, a friend of mine, and I decided to head to Florida. It was Sept 1975. I only brought a couple books with me, but one of them would radically change my life. I had heard good things about it over the last few years and when I began reading it in Oct 1975 I thought it was going to be like the other self-help books that I had read before. I was into the 'pulling myself up by my own belt loops' philosophy and I thought that *The Power of Positive Thinking* by Norman Vincent Peale would be similar. It wasn't. It was my time to meet the God of Israel.

God drew me to Himself through the book. It had stories of people who were searching for Reality, searching for hope or for real peace with God, etc. Each one found their answer in Jesus. I was deeply impressed. I had never read anything like that before. By the time I was halfway through the book I could see that Jesus was everything that I had always wanted, but could never put my Jewish finger on. I asked Jesus to forgive me of my sins and to come into my heart, as the book spoke of, and the most incredible thing happened—*He did! I felt a living peace come over me.* It wasn't the 'peace of nothingness' that the gurus teach, but a heavenly peace. The two were as different as night and day. I knew I had made the right decision. The God of the universe—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, was affirming it. I now had an experiential awareness of Jesus, God the Son, for He manifested Himself within me and I was Born Again (John 3:3, 5). One journey came to an end while another one began.

You, too, can know the peace and love of Papa God and Jesus His Son—our Savior. Ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins and to be Born Again (and if it doesn't happen immediately, keep on asking. It will!). If you have any questions or you'd like to know how to live out this incredible life that the one true God has given us, call me at 727 515-2336 or email me at AvramYeh@Gmail.com and/or visit my website at [The Seed of Abraham](#). For the rest of my Journey, see [Sam the Rock Thrower](#).

Blessings from Above!,

Avram Yehoshua