

God's Omniscience and Free Will: A Counter-Response to Nathan Aviezer

By: ALAN KADISH

I would like to thank Professor Aviezer for his letter regarding my paper “God, Man, Chaos and Control: How God Might Control the Universe,” which appeared in *Hakirah* Volume 20 (Winter 2015). His main concern appears to relate to my statement that prior to the development of quantum mechanics there was no solution to the conflict between omniscience and free will. He then proceeds to provide a detailed and slightly alternative explanation for the conflict between omniscience and free will based on quantum mechanics.

The primary difference between Professor Aviezer’s formulation and mine is that he does not believe it is necessary to invoke quantum manipulation (God’s intervention in nature through adjusting quantum events) to resolve the conflict.

I appreciate his comments and agree with his formulation to an extent; but the main focus of my essay was dealing not with God’s knowledge, but rather with God’s control of *hashgacha*. To resolve this paradox, omniscience is not enough. God’s actions are needed and for that, we are blessed to have a universe subject to quantum manipulation.



Alan Kadish, M.D., is president of Touro College and University System, the largest Jewish-sponsored educational institution in the United States. He taught at the University of Michigan and enjoyed a 19-year tenure at Northwestern University, where he served as the Chester and Deborah Cooley Professor of Medicine, senior associate chief of the cardiology division, and director of the cardiovascular clinical trials unit, and served on the finance and investment committees of the Northwestern clinical practice plan. Dr. Kadish has published over 250 peer-reviewed papers and contributed to several textbooks. He graduated Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University and received postdoctoral training at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School, and at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, where he was a fellow in cardiology.