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The Matrix trilogy is a midrashic vehicle that illustrates deep Torah concepts.

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PAIFFINEO

The Matrix trilogy follows the journey of Neo, from the false reality of the Matrix world, back to "the source" which pre-existed the Matrix.

This parallels the path of our own souls, existing in this present life in the world of concealment (physicality & materialism, since the expulsion from Gan Edan) back to its source, G-d.

The "path back" for us is 'teshuvah,' which is defined as a "return to self." This 'self' made in the "Image of G-d" (Genesis 1:26).

The Matrix is also a 'love story' the divine bride and groom, the soul longing for G-d.

WHAT IS THE CONCEPT OF "KNOWING?"

The Torah concept of 'connecting' is 'da'at' which is translated 'knowing' or 'to know.' This 'knowing' is an intimate bond – physical or spiritual. The same term used in Genesis 4:1 is used in Daniel 12:4.

The process of our soul returning to the Image of G-d (teshuvah) is a continual one. The concepts reviewed on the next few slides are important to understand regarding this path.

These include;

- 1. The five levels of the soul
- 2. The worlds of existence
- 3. The Sefirot: emanations of G-d that exist in us and all creation

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line...

LEVELS OF 'INTERNAL' CONNECTIVITY

The soul is seen as having "5 levels." We may consider these as five levels of potential development, though few attain more than the first three in this life.

NEFESH: The basic soul that is concerned with physical reality

RUACH: The level that senses there is more to life and 'seeks'

NESHAMA: The level that makes a valid spiritual connection

CHAYA: The level of connecting to other souls and the life-force of creation

YECHIDA: Unity with the source, total self-nullification, even via martyrdom

Neo's journey is one of attaining these level of the soul.

The Four "Worlds of Existence"

Each of these is seen as a greater 'constriction' (tsimtsum) from the source, G-d. The Matrix represents the lowest world of concealment, that we exist in. Examining these from the 'lowest to highest' worlds within the story line, we have the following relationships:

Asiyah (Making) Matrix World = The world of concealment (materialism, consumerism, etc.)

Yetzirah (Forming) Program World = The world of angels (which can take form in the world of Asiyah)

Beriah (Creating) The Oracle = The world of heavenly powers/forces

Atzilut (Nearness) The Architect = Existence outside of the "created Matrix"

Matrix Worlds Corresponding With Torah View of Reality

WORLD	EXISTENCE CREATION	OF SOUL	HUMAN STATE	JACOB'S DREAM	CREATION Intro to 'Reloaded'	Process of Redemption (Ex. 6:6,7)	LETTER PARTZUF	NEO'S PATH
ADAM KADMON	PRE- EXISTENCE	YECHIDA	SUPREME CONSCIOUSNESS UNITY WITH GOD		CONCEPTION		CUSP HIDDEN BEYOND	MACHINE WORLD
ATZILUT	EXISTENCE	CHAYAH	COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS	G-D ABOVE	SINGLE POINT	l will take you	YOD FATHER	ARCHITECT
BERIAH	CREATION PRIOR TO EDEN	NESHAMA	ACCEPTANCE INDIVIDUAL CONSCIOUSNESS	THE HEAVENS	FIRST EXPANSION	I will redeem you	HEY MOTHER	ORACLE
YETZIRAH	CREATION IN EDEN	RUACH	STRUGGLE EMOTION/EGO	LADDER	CONNECTION	I will deliver you	VAV SON GROOM	MORPHEUS
ASIYAH	CREATION POST EDEN	NEFESH	SELF INTEREST	EARTH/MAN	SECOND EXPANSION	I will bring you out	HEY DAUGHTER BRIDE	TRINITY

Master Chart at http://www.13petals.org/soulchart

EMANATIONS/SEFIROT

The characters represent different emanations (Sefirot). As with us, each has <u>all</u> of these emanations within them. The characters all have some that manifest consistently and/or depending on circumstances. Morpheus plays a ''father'' role to Neo and the others (Chokhmah). We also see him as the consummate tzaddik, which is the Sefirah of Yesod. Trinity mainly plays the role of Shekinah/Bride at Malkhut and also acts with the judgment of Gevurah at times.

Agent Smith represents the aspect of Gevurah throughout, though as we will learn in a later movie, he is also the 'opposite' of Neo at Tiferet. The Oracle is Binah ('mother' of the Matrix) though her relationship to Neo shifts as he comes to 'know his true self' at each level of soul advancement. The Architect (in 'Reloaded') is Chokmah ('father' of the Matrix) while the Merovingian, the "trafficker of information" and vain egotist, is at Yesod ... or Hod.

Keep in mind, the emanations themselves, are 'neutral.'

OTHER CONCEPTS TO KEEP IN MIND - FOR NOW

When a person reaches out to heaven, then heaven (Binah/Oracle) replies with exactly what they need at that time. (Including "unbalancing the equation.") This can be tricky for us to assess. When something goes our way, we view as 'good' or 'positive,' at other times we see things as 'bad' or 'negative.' In all cases, it is what 'heaven' decides. Thus, there is, "no difference between 'cursed is Haman' and 'blessed be Mordechai.'"

Neo is referred to as "the One" at different times of the movies, each relating to the level of understanding of the observer(s), as well as Neo's level of advancement.

The story takes us from the lowest parts of the physical world "toward G-d," so we're going to encounter changes and new realities and entities on the way. The movie characters are often as confused and in doubt as we can be trying to figure this out!



THE MOVIE IN 6 SEGMENTS

We are breaking up the movie into six parts of approximately the same length:

- 1. To 21:40 when Neo awakens after being 'bugged' by the agents
- 2. To 46:40 through Morpheus's explaining to Neo about the first man who freed them
- 3. To 1:07:10 when they all leave breakfast for Neo to go meet the Oracle
- 4. To 1:31:30 when they return from the Matrix right after Cypher is killed
- 5. To 1:53:00 right before Morpheus, Neo and Trinity are about to leave the Matrix and return to the ship via the phone line in the train station
- To the END.

There will be an intermission midway and time for discussion after the movie.

PART 1 OF 6 (UP TO 21:40) WHEN NEO AWAKENS AFTER BEING 'BUGGED' BY THE AGENTS

Neo's job is at 'Metacortex' (= beyond the brain/intellect). Note the scene with his boss as the window washers "clear his view."

Neo hears from Morpheus and is given a task, but fails. He does not give up however, thus 'heaven' will give him another opportunity.

We encounter 'agents' of the 'other side' (= Sitra Achra), that challenge Neo and others. These are also "part of the condition." Our task it to properly understand and react. The more Neo moves forward, the more he arouses "elements of opposition." It is critical to understand that these also contribute to his advancement.

"This too is for the good" (Gam zu letova!)

Through dialogue and action, we're introduced to multiple characters, each of which will play a role related to Neo and his path.

Though Neo exists in the world of concealment (= the Matrix), something has stirred with him to look beyond. This is when a person begins to move from the basic soul level of Nefesh toward that of Ruach.

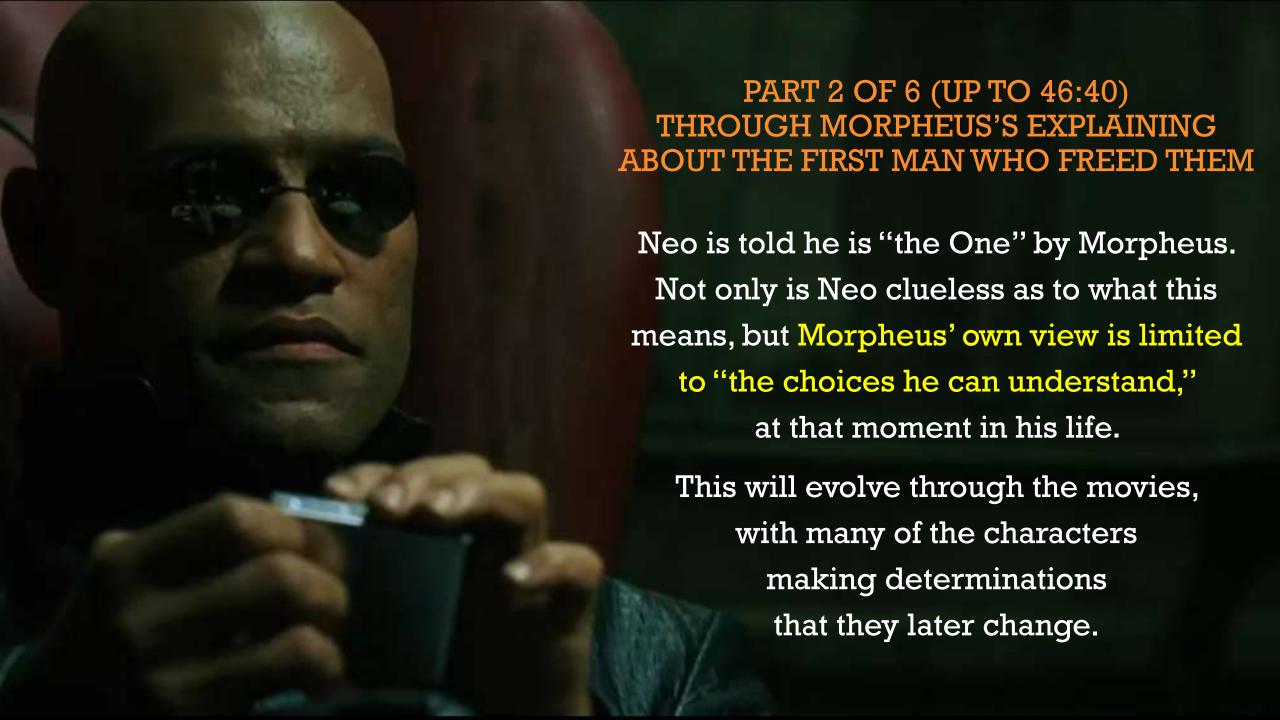
Within his present framework, the first 'condition' (test) he is given, is to 'follow the white rabbit.' This, and all such tests emanate from 'heaven' or as we will come to see, the Oracle. (She inspired Trinity to do this.)

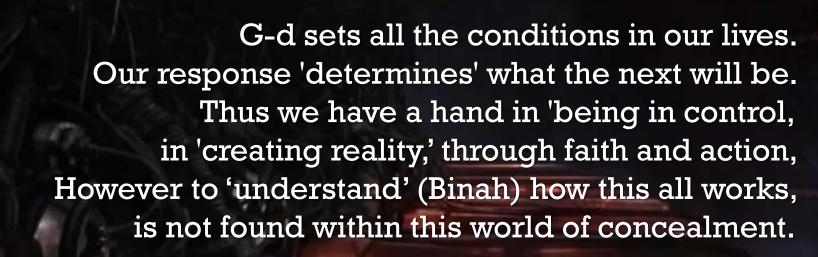
Neo responds to the "small voice," the line on his computer screen that says, "Follow the white rabbit." He 'descends' into a nightclub where he encounters Trinity. This place may be seen as representing the lowest place of impurity or the "Nefesh of Nefesh." Trinity is in the role of the Shekinah for Neo, in the world of the Matrix. She is also, Malchut/Kingdom, the 'first gate' associated with 'humility.'

Seek first the Kingdom ('Malchut') of G-d, and ALL ('Yesod' and the rest) will be added to you.



"We can never see past the choices we don't understand." - The Oracle





"The Matrix cannot tell you who you are." - Trinity

MORPHEUS: Do you believe in fate, Neo?

NEO: No.

MORPHEUS: Why not?

NEO: I don't like the idea that I'm not in control of my life.

MORPHEUS: I know exactly what you mean. Let me tell you why you're here...

"All is under heaven, except the fear of heaven." - Berakhot 33b

Compare the following story Morpheus tells Neo about the first man to free humans from the Matrix to the lesson on the next slide, about Abraham

"When the Matrix was first built, there was a man born inside who had the ability to change whatever he wanted, to remake the Matrix as he saw fit. It was he who freed the first of us, taught us the truth - As long as the Matrix exists, the human race will never be free. After he died, That is why there are the Oracle prophesied his return and his coming would hail the destruction of the Matrix, end the war, bring freedom to our people. hose who have spent our entire lives searching the Matrix looking for him."

"Avram was chosen by G-d because of his defiant character. Yet, it was this same character trait that brought Avram into direct political and social opposition with the powers in his day. Avram was a man who stood up against injustice. He was the first to be defined as a hero. Long before Benjamin Franklin coined the words, "rebellion against tyrants is obedience to G-d," Avram lived this. Avram fought tirelessly against the ruthless oppressive government of the evil Nimrod, who Torah records was the first "mind-controlling" dictator. In this battle against oppressive government and imposed idolatrous religion, Avram lost his brother, who was murdered by the government authorities for having followed Avram. As a single man, leader of a small band, there was not much he could do to change the system from within, therefore by Divine command, Avram removed himself from the corruption of his society and went to what was in his days the hinterlands, the then equivalent of the wild wild west, the land of Canaan. It was there that he could live in peace and build his movement. And this is exactly what he did."

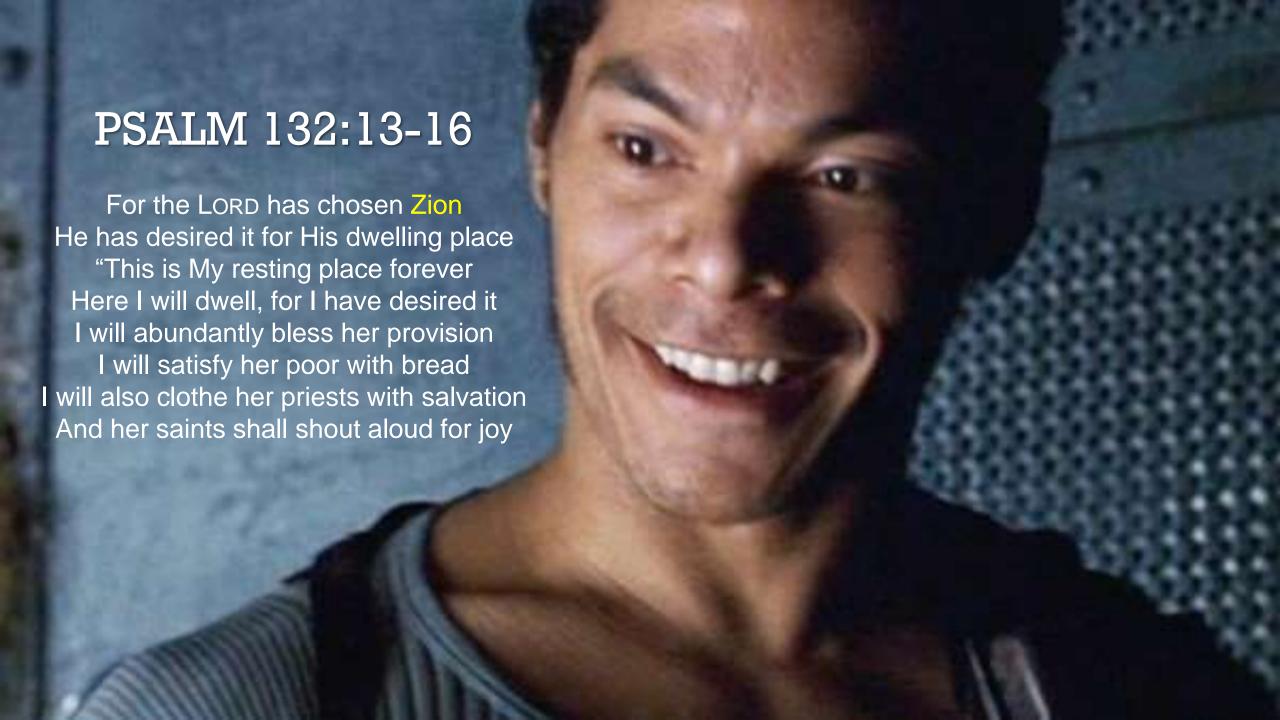
PART 3 OF 6 (UP TO 1:07:10) WHEN THEY ALL LEAVE BREAKFAST FOR NEO TO GO MEET THE ORACLE

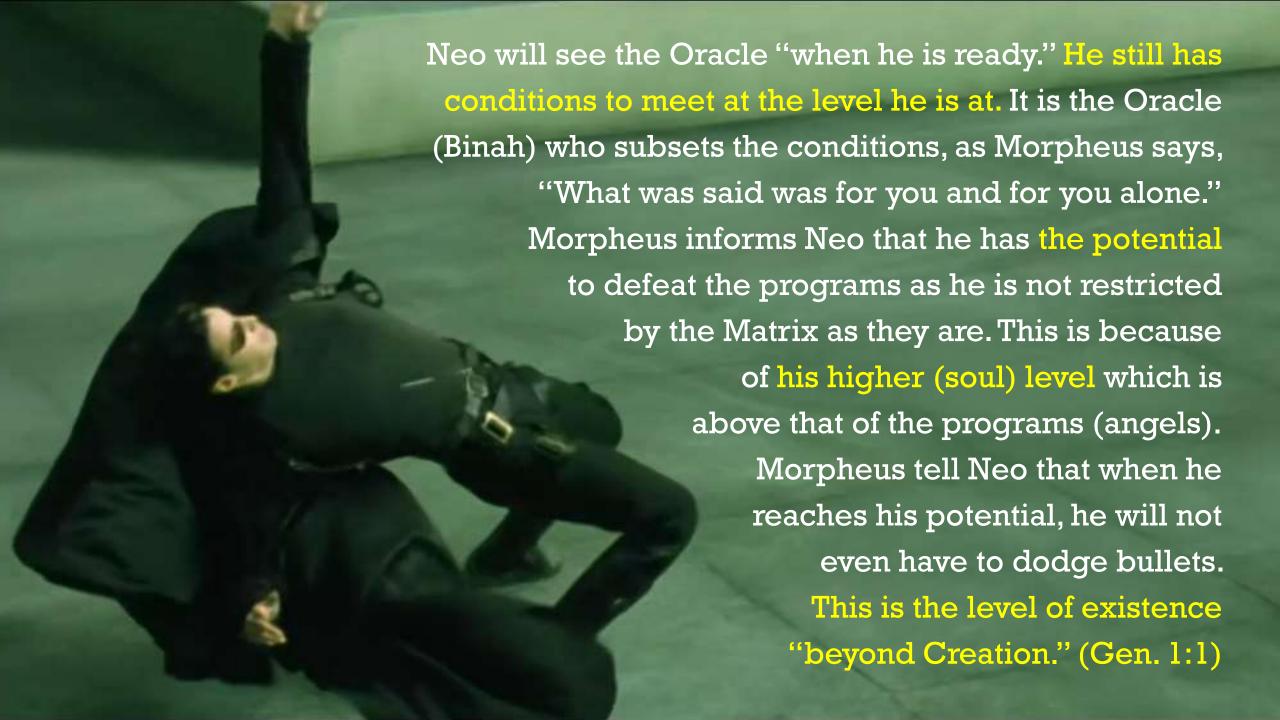
"Zion" is the name of the "hidden city" of the humans, where "the party will be when the war is over." (See Psalm 132:13-16 on next slide.)

Morpheus informs Neo that the rules of the Matrix (= our 'physical' reality) can be bent and even broken to various degrees (of spiritual mastery).

Fighting in the movies is an aspect of 'connection' (= da'at). Neo learns about the Matrix via 'combat' training and battling other entities.

Morpheus tells Neo his problem is not his technique. He lacks da'at. Later, Morpheus says to him, "Don't think you are. Know (da'at) you are!"





PART 4 OF 6 (UP TO 1:31:30) WHEN THEY RETURN FROM THE MATRIX RIGHT AFTER CYPHER IS KILLED

Trinity says to Neo, "The Matrix cannot tell you who you are." To learn 'who we are' is a return to our true self – made in the Image of G-d. This path is not found in what our world of concealment (the Matrix) has to offer, (i.e., pleasure, materialism).

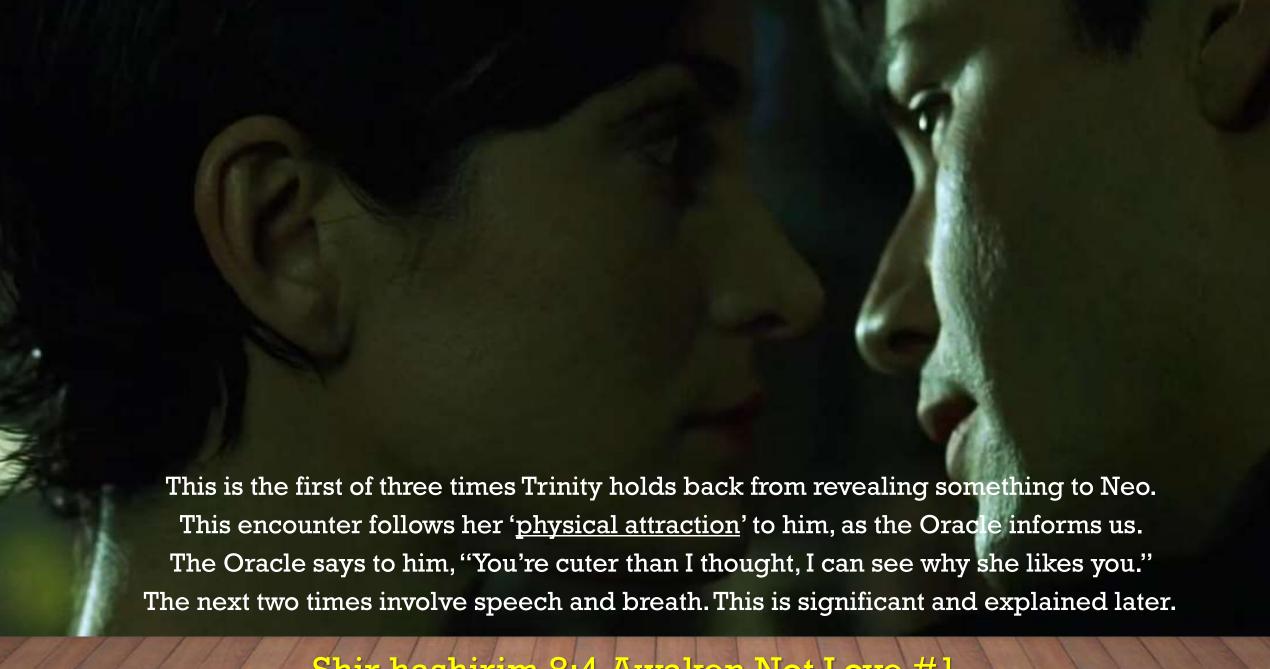
Morpheus tells Neo that the Oracle is a guide for him, not some fixed source of "right versus wrong." This is because the function of the Oracle (= Binah) is to set the condition for us, once we have chosen to walk the path – the path of Teshuvah.

Binah is the sefirah 'above' the six between it and Malchut below. These six sefirot are the ones we "work to rectify." By doing this, we 'connect' the "lower Hey" (Malchut) back to the "upper Hey" (Binah) in the name Yud-Hey-Vav-Hey.

Teshuvah is also called "Tashuv-Hey" – return of the (lower) Hey (to the Upper Hey.)

INTERMISSION





Shir hashirim 8:4 Awaken Not Love #1

The sign Neo sees over the Oracle's door ("Temet Nosce") is a Latin version of a phrase ("Know Thyself") associated with the Greek Oracle of Delphi. Here it has noting to do with either Latin or Greek. To 'know' is da'at, to make some type of intimate connection. The path of Teshuvah is to connect to our true self, in the

Image of G-d.

The children in the Oracle's apartment are called "Potentials." The Hebrew word for Wisdom, Chokhmah, is made of two words, Koach and Mah. Koach means "potential." Mah means "what is." The next level of advancement, relates to Chokhmah, the "potential of what is" or "potential to be" – to be "the One" in Neo's case.

Do the Latin-Greek Teshuvah!

The "Spoon Boy" presents a major truth in that, "the conditions we are placed in," (by G-d) are not up to us to change, but we are to change ourselves to meet the condition.

"Do not try and bend the spoon, that's impossible. Instead, only try to realize the truth ...
There is no spoon. Then you'll see that it is not the spoon that bends, it is only yourself."

"When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves." - Viktor Frankl

Cypher's words of 'doubt,' mirror those of some of the people after being freed from Egypt:

Cypher: "Why, oh why didn't I take the blue pill?"

Numbers: "Why did we come out of Egypt?"

Cypher: "I'm tired of ... eating the same god damn goop every day."

Numbers: "Our souls are dried away, there is nothing at all but this manna ... "Who will feed us meat?"

Cypher: "I'm tired of that jack ... and all of his bull. ... He lied to us, Trinity. He tricked us! If you'da told us the truth, we woulda told you to shove that red pill right up your ass... You call this free? All I do is what he tells me to do. If I had to choose between that and the Matrix, I choose the Matrix.

Numbers: "Is it a small thing that you have brought us out of a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, and do you also make yourself a prince over us? Moreover you have not brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, nor given us inheritance of fields and vineyards: will you also put out the eyes of these men?"

Amalek is Doubt

This is the second time Trinity holds back from telling Neo that she loves him. This one follows their first deep conversation over what to do about Morpheus. The first time was physical. This one involved speech. The speech of "ezer kenegdow" (Genesis 2:18) the "helper who is contrary to Adam"

Shir hashirim 8:4 Awaken Not Love #2

More to come on this particular "sub plot!"

PART 5 OF 6 (UP TO 1:53:00) RIGHT BEFORE MORPHEUS, NEO AND TRINITY RETURN TO THE SHIP VIA THE PHONE LINE IN THE TRAIN STATION

Neo begins to understand what his 'new condition' is from the Oracle (through which he will advance). 'IF' he 'CHOOSES' the task of saving Morpheus, knowing he could die, he can meet this condition.

(Note the "If-Then" condition, which we will discuss later.)

When Neo fires the Gatling gun, Smith says "No," but is hit by the bullets. Later the roles will be reversed, but when Neo says "No" he is not struck.

Morpheus reminds Neo that the Oracle told him what HE needed to hear.

Everyone freed, meets the Oracle, and gets their personal 'conditions' to meet.

Binah, from the left side of restriction, 'unbalances' things. She presents the "If-then" condition, through opposition. This provides the concept of CHOICE through the five levels of the soul. The world was designed on this principle. Eve was Adam's "opposition helper" (ezer kenegdow). When we choose to "enter the framework of the condition" and all it entails. Our job, at all levels of advancement, is to "connect above and below.") This is expressed as "uniting the bride (below) & groom (above)." The Bride is the seventh = 7 and the Groom is the connecting vav = 6.

The bride circles the groom seven times in a Jewish wedding.

The 'chibur' (joining) of them is 7x6 which equals 42, a number associated with a process of completion. The gematria of 'Imma' (alef-mem-alef) is 42. The gematria of 'Choice' (bachar/beit-chet-resh) is 210. Thus, the path of choice through the 5 worlds/soul levels is 42 x the 5 = 210. Chabar "friend" is the same letters (chet-beit-resh), one who accepts the condition (= Abraham).

Barach "fled" (beit-resh-chet) is also the same letters = one who flees from the condition. The gematia of 'IF' (alef-mem) is 41. Neo and Trinity stop on floor 41 (the "IF" of entering the condition). They climb up through the ceiling to floor 42 where they embrace (6x7) and ascend.

This is Trinity's third time 'holding back' professing her love for Neo. She goes to far as to expresse fear over what could happen. It occurs right after Morpheus exited the Matrix through the phone line.

There is a 20-second space of <u>silence between them</u>. First was <u>physical attraction</u>. Then came <u>speech</u>. Now <u>silence</u>. We're almost there ... all will be revealed.

SHIR HASHIRIM 8:4 - AWAKEN NOT LOVE #3

PART 6 - TO THE END!

When Neo turns to fight Smith, Morpheus says, "he is starting to believe." Belief/Faith (Emunah) is the world "beyond creation" (Atzilut). Thus it is the, "substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." This is also associated with the soul level of Chaya/Life and the attribute of Chokhmah/Wisdom. Before they fight, Smith calls Neo by the name, "Mr. Anderson." Afterward, he tells Smith, "My name is Neo." This is comparable to him no longer being "Jacob below." but now "Israel above."

Genesis 32:28, ESV: "Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed."

Having chosen to fight Smith, Neo is at this level of Emunah and Israel, which is also the concept of "collective consciousness."

This is the world of the Architect, whom we will address in the next film.

When the agent checks Neo to see if he is dead, he says, "He's gone." This is correct from their perspective 'within Creation,' but Neo is beyond this – the soul level of Chaya (life) which relates to Chokhmah and the life force of creation.

The soul of the tzaddik can do more after death than in life as it is not limited to the restrictions of the physical body and world of concealment.

Talmud, Taanit 5b - Rav Nachman said to Rav Yitzchak: "So said Rabbi Jochanan: Our father Jacob did not die." Asked Rav Yitzchak: "Was it for no reason that the eulogizers eulogized, the embalmers embalmed and the buriers buried?" Responded Rav Nachman: "I am only citing a verse. It is written, 'And you, my servant Jacob, fear not, says the L-rd, and do not tremble, O Israel. For behold, I shall save you from afar, and your descendants from the land of their captivity' (Jeremiah 30:10). The verse equates Jacob with his descendants: just as his descendants are alive, he too, is alive."

The rectified Neo, represents Jacob in the kabbalistic scheme.

Neo has met the condition of the final level by his willingness to become a martyr. This is associated with the soul level of Yehidah. Just as the transcendent world of Adam Kadmon, cleaves to and reflects the original Infinite Light (Ohr Ein Sof), so too does the level of Yechida. This is the essence of the soul which is immutably bound to G-d

Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai declared, "Throughout the days of my connection to this world, I was bound to the Holy One Blessed Be He with a single knot...at one with Him"; this is the level of soul revealed at the moment of self-sacrifice or martyrdom for the sake of G-d, His Torah, or His people.

When Neo says "No" to the bullets, they do not have any effect on him. He is now beyond the world of concealment. He is at the level of the Yechida of his Nefesh. This fulfills what Morpheus had told him:

Neo: "What are you trying to tell me? That I can dodge bullets?"

Morpheus: "I'm trying to tell you, that when you're ready, you won't have to."

Neo has been killed by Smith. Everyone is about to perish. Only now does Trinity tell him that she loves him. Her words seem plain, but are very deep:

Neo, I'm not afraid anymore. The Oracle told me that I would fall in love, and that that man, the man who I loved would be The One. So you see, you can't be dead. You can't be, because I love you. You hear me? I love you.... Now get up.

This prompts a number of questions:

What is significant with the kiss from Trinity?

What about the previous three situations where "love was not awakened?"

What is the deeper meaning when Trinity says, "I'm not afraid anymore," and "you can't be dead?"

SHIR HASHIRIM 8:4 - AWAKEN NOT LOVE UNTIL ... NOW

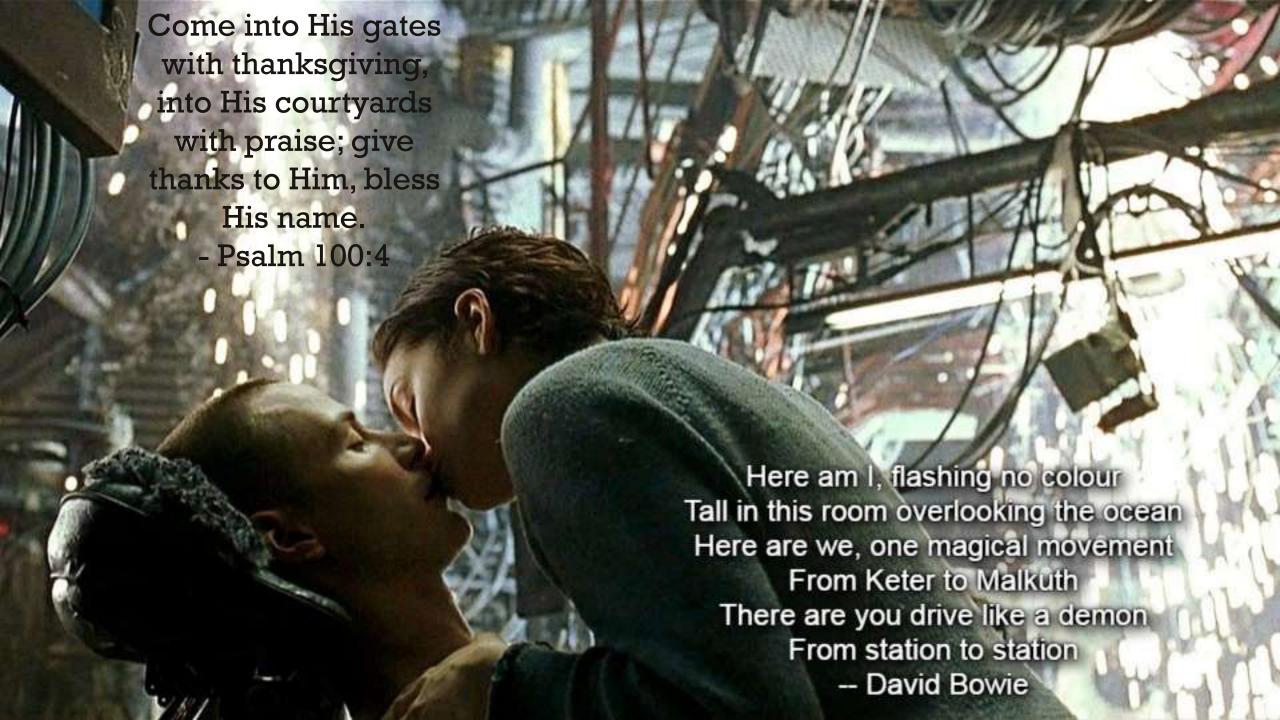
The Zohar states that a kiss is the merging of one breath with another. Love begins with physical attraction. Then, as lovers begin communication, they begin to speak. As they get closer, they stop speaking and are merely aware of each other's breath. Finally, they come still closer, and their communication becomes a kiss, at which point they are actually in physical contact. At this moment, in the kiss, they are aware of each other's life force.

Kissing is thus a natural consequence of increased intimacy in speech. The two mouths come closer and closer and progress from speech, to breath, to the kiss. Thus, there are four levels in the intimacy of love: physical attraction, speech, breath, and the kiss. These same levels exist in the relationship of a person with the Divine."

From Jewish Medidation: A Practical Guide Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan.

Before they met

"Wake up, Neo"
Nefesh
Physical
Ruach
Speech
Neshama
Breath
Chaya
Kiss
Yechida
"Now get up!"



BITTUL

Neo has reached the state of Bittul (Self –Nullifcation). He is not dead, because he has given up his life.

This state of oneness, creates the time when Trinity's "love can be awakened." This is not love in the usual sense. It is the "eternal" love at the level of Yechida, Keter, Adam Kadmon, etc.

The kiss from Trinity now "completes the circuit."

The end wedged in the beginning and the beginning in the end. Sefer Yetzirah

The movie closes with Neo speaking about changes that will come in the future. His message greatly parallels that of the prophet Isaiah:

NEO

"I came here to tell you how it's going to begin. I'll hang up this phone. And then I'll show these people what you don't want them to see.

I'm going to show them a world ... without you. A world without rules and controls, without borders or boundaries.

A world where anything is possible. Where we go from there, is a choice I leave to you."

ISAIAH

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight n the desert, a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted. And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth.

The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea. Isaiah 11:9