Opening Reflections:

1. Malachi 3:22-24

Be mindful of the teaching of My servant Moshe, whom I charged at Horev with all of Israel, rules and laws.

Behold, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before the coming of the awesome, fearful day of the Lord.

He will return the heart of parents onto children and heart children onto their parents, so that when I come I do not strike the entire land with utter destruction.

Explain the phrase "returning the heart of parents onto children".

Why does the turning of the heart of parents precede the turning of the heart of children?

Why is Elijah, with his pathetic track record in peace accords, the one who will reconcile parents and children?

2. Rav Kook - Souls of Chaos – Orot, Zeronim (excerpt)

...Souls of chaos are greater than the souls seeking 'tikun' or perfection. They are very great. They seek more from existence than they are capable of assimilating. They seek a very great light. Whatever is limited, whatever is confined within a prescribed pace or set measure they are unable to tolerate.

They descended from their divine abode in accordance with the nature of existence, to generate new life; they soared on high like a flame, and were thrust down. Their endless striving knows no bounds; they robe themselves in various forms, aspiring constantly, to what is beyond the measure of the possible. They aspire and they fall.

Realizing that they are confined within rules, within limiting conditions that forbid expansion toward infinite and unlimited horizons, they fall in sorrow, in despair and in anger; From anger they decline to wickedness, defiance, lowliness ugliness, destruction and every other evil.
Their lively unrest does not cease – it is revealed in the impudent of our generation. These are wicked ones who are dedicated in principle, and not by weakness, to defiantly transgress conventional norms. Their souls are of a very high stature. They are illumined by the light that shines from the realm of chaos. They chose destruction and they are engaged in destroying, the world is blurred and confused by them, and they with it.

But the essence of their aspiration is a dimension of holiness, that which in other souls who are content with measured progress would yield the vigor of life.

The souls inspired by a destructive zeal reveal themselves especially in messianic times, before the ‘labor pains’ which precede the emergence of a new and more wondrous level of existence, when the old boundaries expand, just prior to the birth of a norm which is above existing norms.

In times of redemption ‘chutzpa’ is on the increase. (Talmud Sota)

A fierce storm rages, more and more breaches are breached, acts of audacity and impudence mount, as they find no satisfaction in the goodness offered by the limited light, since it does not satisfy all their yearnings, nor does it unmask the concealed, or unravel for them the mystery of existence. It does not satisfy their deepest desires.

They rebel against everything, including also the dimension of good that could lead them to a great peace and to help them rise to great heights. They rebel and they are indignant, they break and they discard. They seek their nourishment in alien pastures, embracing alien ideals and desecrating everything hallowed, but without finding peace.

These passionate souls reveal their strength to the extent that no fence can hold them back; and the weaklings of the established order, who are guided by balance and decency, are too terrified to contend with them. Their mood is expressed in Isaiah (33:14): “Who among us can dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us can dwell with those
who destroy the world?"

But in truth there is no need to be afraid. Only sinners and those weak in spirit and hypocrites are frightened and seized by terror. Truly heroic spirits know that this force is one of the phenomena needed for the development of the world, for strengthening the power of the nation, of human society, and of the world...

In what ways, according to Rav Kook are souls of chaos greater than the souls seeking 'tikun' or perfection?

How did Rav Kook relate to the souls of chaos in his time?

How can we as parents educate the souls of chaos?

How can we become educated by them?

**Closing Reflections:**