I have long told people that in these troubled times, the best thing to do is to duck and take cover. We hope for the best, but at the same time, prepare for the worse. So, now once we do duck, how specifically is it best for us to prepare for tough times to come?

Most people think about preparing with a survivalist mentality. But, when I say prepare, I am speaking about internal preparations, for if life teaches us anything, it is that the future is unpredictable. Even the best of physical preparations can be taken away, and lost, in the blink of an eye. Anyone putting their security in anything external stands the change of facing great, and possibly deadly disappointment and loss.

Preparations for bad times begins with the head, and works downwards from there. Yet, when I refer to the head, I am not limiting my reference to reading books, and learning skills that will help one navigate even the worst of times. Learning these types of things, in my mind, are necessary skills for daily life, and not just for hard times. Everyone should learn how to handle the worst of time, even at the best of times.

When I refer to preparing from the head down, maybe I should rephrase and say, prepare from within the head and outwards. All the knowledge and skills in the world will be of absolutely no help whatsoever if one finds oneself in the wrong place, at the wrong time, in the wrong way.

Step one in mental preparations, therefore, has to be the cultivation of mental abilities that heighten one's sensitivities to be able to recognize times, ways and places, before one ever encounters them. Yes, step one is psychic intuitive awareness of what is happening, so that one can know ahead of the curve how to react, even before the need to act arises.

This kind of psychic training can be referred to by its common religious name, for those who insist upon religious associations. In religion, especially in mysticism, this type of psychic training is called bonding with God. In Hebrew, this is called Devekut.
Traditional religion usually refers to bonding with God as some type of association with one's religious ethnicity, rituals and dogmas. True, these will bond one with one's religion, but this is not Devekut. Devekut is bonding with God, and God is to be found everywhere, and not just within the confines that certain religious leaders wish to define for God.

Finding God in one's religion is relatively easy. Finding God outside of religion, in the very world and universe that He created, this tends to be more difficult. However, in a survival situation, wherein which the ethnicities and rituals of one's religion might not be available, one must realize that God can still be found outside these limited accouterments.

The reality of God, like the reality of so many other things, can only be experienced in the mind of one who is trained to experience extra sensory perceptions. Bonding with God, as a psychic reality, requires one to learn how to do this, and then once learned, to live continually with an outlook on life, and the world, that will forever separate such a one from all others untrained to see that which the extra sensory eye can see.

The first and foremost obstacle to seeing, and experiencing with the inner eye, is all the baggage that we mentally carry around with us. We are so convinced that things have to be this way or that, that we thereby disable ourselves from seeing real things in the real way that they are. In Hebrew, these mental blocks are called Klipot, shells, because they envelop the truth in a hard shell of untruth. Sometimes shells, and what are within them, are indistinguishable from one another. Essentially, one does not know that one is dealing with a shell, until the shell is broken thus exposing the rich fruit within.

Just like a shell has to be cracked in order to release what is in it, so too must klipot of the mind be cracked, or shattered in order to release the hidden light within. Essentially, all of our preconceived ideas and beliefs are these klipot. God allows hard times to come upon us specifically to give us the opportunity to break these klipot in order to extract their inner fruit. Hard times come, forcing upon us many changes, and it is in these changes that we give up the old, as we discover and embrace the new. This is the way and path to God. This is Devekut in practice.

No one knows what the future will bring. For better or for worse, it is coming upon us, and we cannot stop its advancement. As such, fine tuning our inner sight becomes our primary task of preparation.

Referring to simple things, like meditation, makes these preparations sound easy, but meditation alone does not enhance extra sensory perceptions. Going into the deeper realms of the mind require far more exercise than simple meditations. One can meditate upon any of God's Names all one desires, and still, in the end, acquire
no greater Devekut for the efforts. Mind expansion requires exercises of the mind that are generic in nature, and not just a mere ritual practice within the context of one's personal application of religion.

One of the first mental exercises to help train the psyche to see is very simple. All one has to do is to look out at the world in silence and observe the way things really are. Now, here is where this first step becomes difficult. Seeing the world as it is, is one thing, interpreting what one sees correctly is another.

We are so often convinced that things are this way, or they are supposed to be that way, and when things are not as we expect them to be, we invent all kinds of excuses, religious or otherwise, to justify why the world is not spinning the way we believe that it should. It is these very same excuses that are the klipot, and which must be removed.

Sometimes bad things just happen. Who knows why? They just do! And, when they do, we try to justify their occurrences with some religious or philosophical pithy sayings or beliefs. But, in reality, no one knows what is the reasons behind life's occurrences. Those are secrets known only to God. We cannot control what happens. But, we can very much control how we respond to what happens.

As the old saying goes, “when the going get tough, the tough get going.” This is the secret to bonding with God, Devekut, and the secret of developing extra sensory sensitivities to one’s surroundings. The cultivation of a survival instinct serves animals well. Yet, we humans have allowed ourselves to become lost in a sea of mental klipot, full of rationalizations and justifications. We are the only species that has lost that which is so natural throughout the animal kingdom.

Sometimes bad things just happen. We cannot necessarily control them or manipulate them, But, we can indeed lessen their influence, and possibility get out of the way of more trouble.

Sometimes bad things happen. It is God’s Will. It is a design unfathomable to us. I do not try to dive to the bottom of the sea, rather I try to surf its waves. What’s down there is God’s business. Surfing the waves, that's my business and my responsibility. I do my work, God does His work. And I find that as I mind my own business, and focus on what it is that I must do, instead of sticking my nose into God's business, the greater my awareness of God grows.

Here is another secret of Devekut. Bonding with God does not mean drawing close to God. We are already as close as we can get! Rather, Devekut means becoming aware of the closeness that already exists. The more I do what I am supposed to do, the more I see the wisdom in my path. In minding my own business, I come more and more to understand how God's Hand works minding the Divine business.
I have discovered Devekut, not by looking for it, but rather by just allowing it to happen! I cast off all my mental klipot of expectations of what I expect religious experience to be like, and instead, I allow them to be what they are. My religious/meditative experiences are most often underwhelming, and non-impressive, but yet, very deep in revelations of an inner knowing that I just know, without being able too explain why I know, or how I know it. I just know it, so I act accordingly.

Difficult times are before us. Those who cling to past ways will fall and die along with that which must remain in the past. Our ways of thinking must change. Our values must transform from the unnatural back to the natural. We must crack the klipot and release the luscious fruit inside. This is the key to survival.

There are all kinds of meditative methods. None of them are any better than the other, unless they teach you the things I have outlined here. Let go of your conceptions. Silence your mind and your mouth. Observe and learn the natural way, and dance nature’s dance. Then will you understand the truth of Devekut, because you will be it.