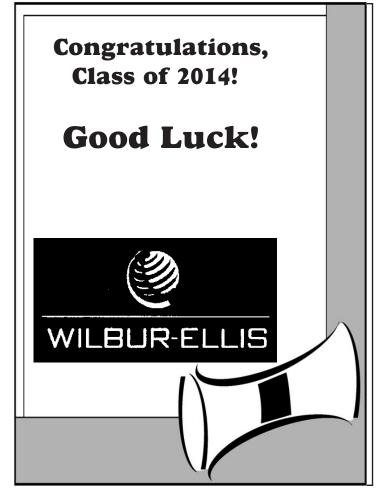
CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

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Timmothy Leigh Garza

Timmothy Garza is the grandson of Lucas and Sanjuana Anzaldua. He plans to attend college.

His hobbies include playing games and being with friends.



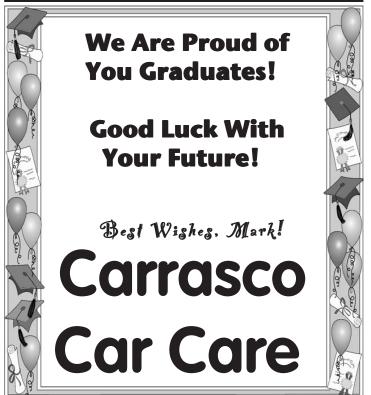


Timmothy Leigh Garza



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memories important to their identity. This made them feel that their existence was in jeopardy.

And since there was much human cruelty in their exile, it made them conscious of problems about the nature of evil in a world supposedly created by a just and benvolent God. Luria's most complicated, involved, esoteric, Kabbalistic myth was really far out. But it spoke to their situation, comforted them and empowered them. It made the Jews feel that if they were faithful to their Kabbalistic rituals and lived a life of good works and justice, God would use them to heal and redeem the world from evil.

I cannot begin to explain the essence of this form of Kabbalism. So I am going to quote an explanation of just the very beginning part of the myth from Karen Armstrong' wonderful book, "The Bible, A Biography," to give you an idea of its inventive esotericness.

"Luria's myth: God began the creative process by going voluntarily into exile. How could the world exist if God was everywhere? Luria's answer was the myth of zimzum (withdrawal): the infinite En Sof (Hebrew for without end: the inscrutable, inaccessible and unknowable essence of God in the mystical philosophy of Kabbalah; the Godhead, the hidden source of the Divine) had as it were to evacuate a region within itself to make room for the cosmos. The cosmos was punctuated by accidents, primal explosions and false starts, quite different from the orderly, peaceful creation of Genesis 1. But to the Sephardim, Luria's myth seemed a more accurate appraisal of their unpredictable, fragmented world."

There is so much more to this myth. Strange as it was, it was used powerfully in these exiled Jews for positive good.