

VAEIRA
Food for Thought
By Rabbi Shlomo Truzman

Racism is the absolute antithesis of G-d's creation. It negates that G-d indeed is the father of all humanity. A G-d who prided himself in calling all that he created good, whether black or white, Jew, Christian or Muslim, whether healthy or physically impeded only to be undermined and refuted by the forces of xenophobia, racism, saying to G-d; "Where did you go wrong?"

In His infinite wisdom the All-knowing, omnipotent G-d created each and every individual different to emphasize individual life as one of the spiritual hallmarks of creation.

Thus, the perceptive truth of the infinite value of the individual innate characteristics is that G-d originally created only one human being, Adam. Thus, had Adam been killed, all humanity would have been destroyed, and conversely had he been saved, so would the entire world.

Thus, from a biblical perspective that each human being is of supreme importance has many implications. The wise Hillel reinforced this principle by saying if I am not for myself who will be for me? And if I am only for myself what am I? Hillel here wishes to express the importance of the self, while at the same time one should endeavor to consider others as one would consider himself. And should consider yourself and you alone, disregarding others then "what am I, suggesting that, that type of person ceases to be a who and becomes instead a what. Judaism teaches Jews the great individuality of each human being and insists that one's singularity shines through in everyday life encounter, hence a person should never alter his, her essence, to please the person he, she, is speaking with the following illustration, as in the words of Rabbi Menachem Mendel: if I am because I am I, then I am I, and you are you. But if I am I, because you are you, and you are you because I am I, then I am not, and you are not you. In other words, simply be your good G-d created self, and proud of it.

Shabbat Shalom

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