

... a small people in a small land, no match for the circumambient empires that periodically assaulted them, Jews did not give way to self-hate, self-... (Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, p. 85)

4) How do we see this quote from Rabbi Sacks manifest in the case of the ... ?

Rabbi Sacks on Anti-Semitism as a Virus

What is antisemitism? It is less a doctrine or set of beliefs than a series of contradictions. In the past Jews were hated because they were rich and because they were poor, because they were capitalists and because they were communists, because they kept to themselves and because they infiltrated everywhere, because they held tenaciously to a superstitious faith and because they were rootless cosmopolitans who believed nothing.

The best way to understand antisemitism is to see it as a virus. Viruses attack the human body, but the body itself has an immensely sophisticated defence, the human immune system. How, then, do viruses survive and flourish? By mutating. (Future Tense: Jews, Judaism and Israel in the 21st Century (Schocken, 2012): p. 92.)

5) With this perspective in mind, how would/should Joseph interact with Pharaoh and how should he express his Judaism?

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They resented his strangeness and singular way of seeing things more than they resented the egocentricity they wrongly imputed to him. "They embittered him and were hostile to him" (Gen. 49:23) because he beheld visions, prophesying and preaching social change. He disturbed the primitive sense of peace that entranced the naive and gullible pastoral society. The brothers were angered by Joseph's dreams and visions. "They hated him yet more for his dreams" (Gen. 37:8). They felt that in his dreams there was a spark of truth, that the voice of God broke through those dreams. But they could not listen to them. (Rabbi Soloveitchik, Vision and Leadership, p.7)

8) What was so important to Joseph that it was worth standing apart, even from his brothers?

9) Is there anything that you care about enough to stand out for?

STANDING OUT AND APART

Look at Vayigash

refuses to be noticeable, to stand out and hence expose himself to loneliness and isolation, which in turn breed antagonism. (Rabbi Soloveitchik, Vision and Leadership, p.6)³

13) If the brothers stand out in Egyptian society, how will that impact the experience in Egypt?

There is one question left, and I end with this story. What should we do as Jews to fight one. And I learned this from a Rav in Manchester, actually Manchester just is . . . I remember . . . in the former Soviet Union was beginning to open up, it was the era of . . . and . . . for the first time in 70 years Jews were free to be Jews. But it had a downside because antisemites, for the first time in 70 years, were free to be antisemites. And antisemitism began to reappear in Russia at the end of the 80s. And one of our Rabbanim from Manchester was out in Moscow helping to rebuild Jewish life. And while he was there, a young girl came to see him, in her late teens, and she was shaking,

If we want to fight antisemitism, let us walk tall and proud as Jews, and let us work with all humanity to banish hatred forever. Amen.

14) When someone recognizes you as a Jew, is that a compliment or an insult?

15) What can you do to show your Jewish pride?