

LEGACY



**WHY DO PEOPLE CHOOSE TO
LEAVE JUDAISM TODAY?**

WHY DO PEOPLE CHOOSE TO STAY?

“

[Jews see] Judaism the way an English aristocrat sees a **stately home**.

You live in it but you don't really own it.

It's handed on to you by your ancestors and it's your task to hand it on to **future generations**, intact, preserved, if possible beautified and enhanced, and you do so willingly because you know that this is your **legacy**.

It's what makes your family different, special.

To lose it, sell it or let it fall into ruins, would be a kind of betrayal.

Jonathan Sacks
THE RABBI SACKS LEGACY

EDUCATION



**SHOULD JEWISH CHILDREN
ATTEND JEWISH SCHOOLS?**

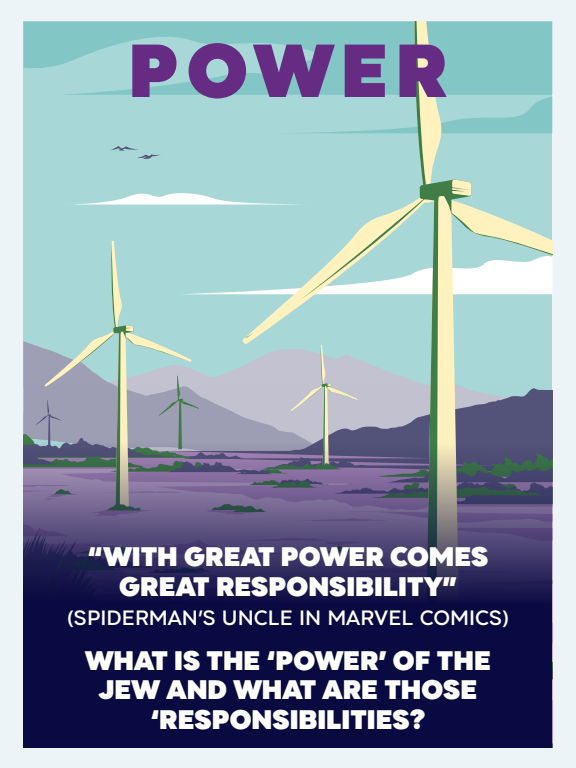
“

The Egyptians built pyramids, the Greeks built temples, the Romans built amphitheatres.

Jews built schools. They knew that to defend a country you need an army, but to defend a civilisation you need **education.**

So Jews became the people whose **heroes were teachers**, whose citadels were schools, and whose passion was study and the life of the mind.

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POWER

**"WITH GREAT POWER COMES
GREAT RESPONSIBILITY"**

(SPIDERMAN'S UNCLE IN MARVEL COMICS)

**WHAT IS THE 'POWER' OF THE
JEW AND WHAT ARE THOSE
'RESPONSIBILITIES'?**

“

Never doubt that it's a **privilege** to be a Jew.

Head for head our people have done more to transform the world than any other.

There are easier ways to live, but none more **challenging**.

God asks great things of our people.
That's what made our people great.

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SUCCESS



OF ALL THE RECIPIENTS OF NOBEL PRIZES BETWEEN
1901 AND 2023, AT LEAST 216 WERE JEWISH.

**DOES THEIR JUDAISM INFLUENCE
THEIR GREATNESS AND SUCCESS?**

“

Jews were the first people to understand the significance of human **responsibility and freedom**, the first to conceive of a society of **equal dignity**, the first to understand that **right matters more than might**, and a whole list of other insights that eventually revolutionised Western civilisation.

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TIME



**IF YOU KNEW THE MOMENT OF
YOUR DEATH, HOW WOULD YOU
SPEND YOUR REMAINING TIME?**

“

None of us knows how long we will live.

We just know that one day we will die.

Life is too short to waste on 'the small stuff.'

Judaism teaches us the simplest, deepest truth of all.

You make a blessing over life by being a blessing to those whose lives you touch.

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ADMIRATION



**WHAT IS JUDAISM BEST
KNOWN FOR?**

“

Non-Jews admire Judaism for our **strong families and communities**, our commitment to education and the excellence of our schools, the emphasis we place on chessed and tzedakah, on practical acts of **kindness** and generosity....

People respect Judaism for its **wisdom** and insight.

It has integrity without fanaticism.

It has strong principles without seeking to impose them on others.

It has humour and **humanity**.

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TEMPTATION



**CAN BELIEF IN GOD HELP
KEEP US FROM TEMPTATION?**

“

If you want to be protected against doing foolish things, be guided by a wisdom higher than your own and older than your contemporaries.

When it comes to **moral wisdom**, there is no tradition stronger than Judaism.

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SCIENCE



NOW THAT SCIENCE HAS MADE OUR
WORLD COMPREHENSIBLE -

**WHAT ROLE DOES RELIGION PLAY IN
OUR UNDERSTANDING OF CREATION?**

“

Who are we? Why are we here? How then should we live?

Those are the questions to answer for which we need faith, and they will continue to be asked as long as there are humans on earth.

Faith is the answer to the questions that will remain even when all the science has been done.

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The image features a dramatic, high-contrast landscape. The sky is a deep, dark purple, with a bright, glowing yellow sun or moon partially obscured by dark, swirling clouds. In the foreground, the silhouettes of two trees are prominent: a gnarled, leafless tree on the left and a fuller, leafy tree on the right. Several birds are depicted in flight against the sky. The overall mood is somber and mysterious, reflecting the theme of the text.

EVIL

**IF GOD EXISTS AND GOD IS GOOD,
THEN WHY DOES EVIL EXIST?**

“

If He can create an entire universe, why can't He eliminate evil and suffering and disease without our help?

Because some of the evil is because He gave humans **free will**, and He can't take away that **freedom** without taking away our **humanity**.

And because only if there is deterioration and decay can there be a physical universe capable of giving rise to life at all.

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PRAYER



WHAT IS THE POINT OF PRAYER?

“

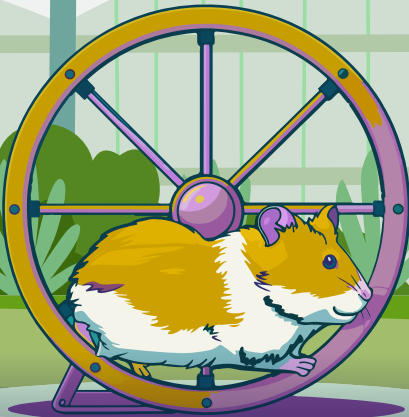
Prayer teaches us to give thanks.

...Prayer tells us we are not alone in the world.

Prayer changes the world because it changes us.

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REPETITION



WHY IS JUDAISM SO REPETITIVE?



Repetition creates deeply embedded habits.

Prayer engenders gratitude.

Daily charitable giving makes us generous.

Each of Judaism's 'thou shalt nots' teaches us self-control.

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DEMANDS

**WHY DO WE NEED SO MANY
LAWS AND RITUALS TO
PRACTICE JUDAISM?**

“

Most people think that more people would keep Judaism if only it were easier, less demanding...

Now think of the hardest day in the Jewish calendar, one in which there is no eating or drinking, no joy or celebration, on which you spend the entire day in shul, thinking of all the things you did wrong. A perfect formula, you would have thought, for making sure that no one keeps it at all. But of course the opposite is true. Yom Kippur, when all these things happen, is the day on which more Jews come to shul than any other in the entire year.

It's counterintuitive but true: **the things we value most are the things that are the most demanding.**

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FUTURE

**WILL BEING A JEW HELP OR
HURT THE PURSUIT OF YOUR
FUTURE SELF AND WHY?**

“

I promise you that whatever you choose to do, living a **Jewish life will help** you do it better, with greater balance, more wisdom, more joy, a deeper sense of **purpose** and a feeling of having been touched by eternity.

Jonathan Sacks

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A stylized, flat-design illustration of an Israeli cityscape. In the foreground, there are dark, angular, mountain-like shapes. Behind them are various buildings, including a prominent white building with a yellow dome and a minaret on the left. In the background, there's a long, white building with many arches, possibly a bridge or a large hall, and several palm trees. The color palette is limited to shades of purple, teal, yellow, and white.

ISRAEL

**SHOULD ALL JEWISH PEOPLE
LIVE IN ISRAEL? WHY?**

“

Israel is the home of the Jewish people, but it is not the whole of the Jewish people.

The strength of the Jewish people has always been its diversity, its ability to adapt to different times and places while remaining faithful to its **eternal values**.

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RESPECT



**WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS
NON JEWS SAY ABOUT JEWS?**

“

Non-Jews respect Jews who **respect Judaism.**

They are embarrassed by Jews who are embarrassed by Judaism.

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COMPROMISE



**WOULD IT BE OKAY TO DO SOMETHING
THAT WOULD COMPROMISE YOUR
JEWISH VALUES?**

“

Never compromise your principles because of others.

Don't compromise on kashrut or any other Jewish practice because you happen to find yourself among non-Jews or non-religious Jews.

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COMMUNITY



**DOES A JEW NEED A COMMUNITY
IN ORDER TO LIVE AS A JEW?**

“

Think of a letter in the alphabet.

All meaning is expressed in words and all words are made of letters.

But no letter has meaning on its own.

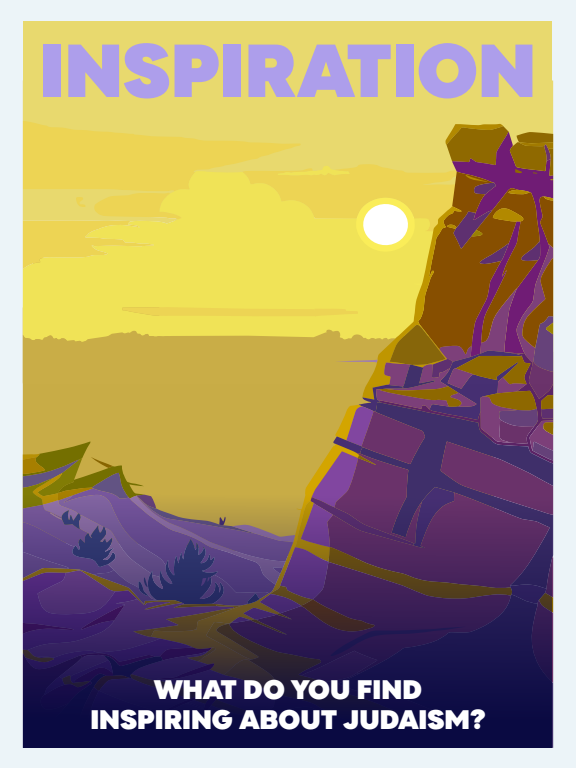
To have meaning it must be joined to others to make words, sentences, paragraphs and stories.

The same is true of lives. **No life has meaning on its own.**

It must be joined to other lives in families, communities, peoples and their histories.

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INSPIRATION



**WHAT DO YOU FIND
INSPIRING ABOUT JUDAISM?**

“

Throughout my life I have met Jews of all kinds throughout the world.

And if I have noticed one thing it is that Jews seem somehow more vivid, more energetic and passionate, hungrier for life, than most others.

The reason is not that Jews are different.

It's that **Judaism is different.**

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REACTION

An illustration of a person with dark hair, wearing a light blue t-shirt and blue pants, sitting on the ground in a park. They are covering their face with their hands, suggesting distress or sadness. To the left is a wooden park bench. The background shows a park with trees and a path under a hazy sky.

**HOW SHOULD YOU RESPOND TO
SOMEONE WHO OFFENDED YOU?**

“

You will find much in life to distress you.

People can be careless, cruel,
thoughtless, offensive, arrogant, harsh,
destructive, insensitive, and rude.

That is their problem, not yours. Your
problem is how to respond...

Don't hand others a victory over your
own emotional state.

Forgive, or if you can't **forgive, ignore.**

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An illustration featuring six hands of various skin tones (light, medium, and dark brown) reaching upwards from the bottom and sides to form a circular shape. The hands are positioned as if they are about to clasp or are just releasing. The background is a dense, textured green field, possibly of small flowers or grass, which transitions into a dark blue/purple gradient at the bottom where the text is located.

EMPOWER

**HOW SHOULD YOU RESPOND
WHEN YOUR KINDNESS GOES
UNTHANKED OR UNNOTICED?**

“

Most people, most of the time, are unappreciated.

Being recognised, thanked and congratulated by someone else is one of the most **empowering** things that can happen to us.

So don't wait for someone to do it for you: do it for someone else.

You will make their day, and that will help make yours.

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GENEROSITY



**WHAT DOES 'PAYING IT
FORWARD' MEAN TO YOU?
WHAT CAN YOU DO TODAY
TO 'PAY IT FORWARD'?**

“

Normally, kindnesses are reciprocated.

They are 'paid back'.

What if they were **paid forward**?

What if we made it a condition of doing someone some good, that they agreed to do good to someone else in need?

Could you not make virtue contagious, creating an epidemiology of **generosity**?

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PROHIBITION



THERE ARE 365 PROHIBITIONS AND
248 POSITIVE COMMANDMENTS IN
THE TORAH (JEWISH BIBLE)

**WHY ARE THERE MORE
PROHIBITIONS THAN POSITIVE
COMMANDMENTS?**

“

When I think of the people who had such gifts, such talents, such promising careers, who were so well thought of – and then, because of a moment's temptation, the prospect of a quick profit, an easy gain, they put it all at risk – then I thank God for whispering the word that is always the **hardest to hear**.

The word '**No**'.

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IDEOLOGY



**WHAT TYPE OF PERSON IS LIKELY
TO MAKE MORE OF AN IMPACT
DURING THEIR LIFETIME?
REALIST, IDEALIST, FATALIST**

“

Never worry when people say that you are being too idealistic.

It is only idealistic people who **change the world**, and do you really want, in the course of your life, to leave the world unchanged?

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