

# Acharei Mot Kedoshim

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April 24, 2021

This torah reading is also read on Yom Kippur and on Yom Kippur we acknowledge our mistakes and hopefully learn from them and resolve never do them again. The Idea of separating the sin from the idea of the sinner brought the idea of how the judgmental we can be and I consider the cliché don't judge a book by its cover to be maybe not quite the worst sin but something people should work on. In 2020 we saw it come to a fruition in a number of ways people accused of causing the pandemic the eruption again of hate between blacks and whites because some people judged people by the colour of the skin and their past behavior which should not always be done without always putting the situation they were in at the time. We know that through education we can change behaviours and accept other people's attitudes but not through censoring books and changing history rather what I saw Adath Shalom doing really well getting educated through our interaction with one minority in this city.

The fact that we are told we are created in G-d's image gives credence to us being Judgmental because in Acharei Mot G-d sets out a number of sexual mores that are not acceptable behaviours and yet G-d considers all of us to be children of Israel as acceptable. This is probably where the fact that Judaism has always been an evolving religion and maybe that allows for less judgmental attitudes towards Gays, Lesbians and transgender people by being again educated that they are human beings with different sexual ideas but are still children of Israel.

The issues both attitudes towards people of colour and indigenous people should remove the judgmental attitudes that have been fostered in the past and start to put into true action the acceptance of all sorts of people I realize being nonjudgmental is a difficult concept because we are born and see the world through our own prism.

One argument I came across is by Rabbi Dvora E Weinberg that being holy and less judgmental that requires achieving perfectionism which we know is almost impossible She argues that picking your holiness among mitzvahs which again returns me to the idea of non judgmental behaviour since we all have different and special gifts we bring as human beings.

Since I am a fond follower of the late Rabbi Sacks he speaks about civil and civility in society where I also see room for being non judgmental as possible through acceptance of diversity and also the point that G-d asks of us to love the stranger will require

non biased attitudes and will create the civil society we would like to see.

Some of this seems utopian in nature after a year of this pandemic where biased behaviour led to anything but civil and civility toward each other.

I will still continue to say it does require a move towards non judgmental behaviour to allow all contributions to society to achieve some kind of acceptance. Having said this I believe that it might be judgmental to say that children ie Aaron sons were are at an early age to decipher that their behaviour was not acceptable.

I pose these questions to you about what are the necessary behaviours to start being unbiased. We have started on one education: what else would you consider other non judgmental behaviour or is it an ethical decision that belongs to each individual or a coming together of different people to work towards this with all faiths creeds colours and sexual mores.