

Jewish Parenting – Class #6 – But Everyone is Doing It!

1. **Vayikra 21:1**: Hashem said to Moshe, 'Say to the Kohanim. The sons of Aharon, and you shall say to them.'
2. **Rashi**: To enjoin the adults with regard to the minors.
3. **To Heal the Soul pp.19-20**: As a torrent river surges forth, sweeping with it all that lies in its path, penetrating into deep recesses and washing away all buried things, so does the torrent of public opinion sweep along the individual mind. You may not know it, you may even deny it, but you have been brainwashed by common belief. ***Carried along, perhaps more, perhaps less, you now think along these twisted paths.***

So stay away from the middle of the river, don't be concerned with what people say. But this alone will not protect you, because you can not completely seclude yourself. Who can vouch that your wife or children will not be swept along with the flow? They will then be the open floodgates to bring the floodwaters inside your doors. And who can abstain from breathing the air that carries the germ of public opinion? Thoughts and opinions are beyond time and space and flow from mind to mind in quantum leaps.

Nor can you remain static in this torrent river just by standing firm in your place – ***you must actively swim against the flow. You may not be successful in swimming upstream, but at least you will not be swept down by the flow.*** So it is with the spiritual life and the purity of spirit that you have attained. You can not retain them against the flow unless you continue to struggle for spiritual growth. You must swim upstream without respite – upward, onward against the flow. There may be a limit to how far you can go, but at least you will not be drawn down with the flow.

4. **Rambam Laws of Ethics 6:1**: It is natural to be influenced, in sentiments and conduct, by one's neighbors and associates, and observe the custom's of one's fellow citizens. Hence, a person ought constantly to associate with the righteous and frequent the company of the wise, so as to learn from their practices, and shun the wicked who walk in darkness, so as to not be corrupted by their example.
5. **Shemos 19:5**: And now, if you will listen well to Me and you will keep my covenant, you will be a treasure to Me from among the peoples, for all the earth is Mine. You will be to Me a ***kingdom of priests*** and a holy nation...
6. **Midrash Rabba Bereishis 42:13**: {Why was Avraham called an Ivri?} The entire world was on one side [Eiver] and he was on the other side.
7. **Ethics of the Fathers, 3:18**: Beloved is man, for he was created in G-d's image; it is indicative of a greater love that it was made known

to him that he was created in G-d's image, as it is said: 'For in the image of G-d He made man.' **Beloved are the people of Israel, for they are described as children of Hashem**; it is indicative of a greater love that it was made known to them that they are described as children of Hashem, as it is said: 'You are children of Hashem, your G-d.' **Beloved are the people of Israel, for a cherished utensil was given to them**; it is indicative of a greater love that it was made known to them that they were given a cherished utensil, as it is said, 'For I have given you a good teaching; do not forsake My Torah.'