

From the Boiler... in Budapest

By Avi Roth

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As I meditate on this significant and meaningful Passover / Easter weekend about the world around us, I come to realize that we have become lonely people because of our inability to be alone! What does this mean? It means that our social



Maternal Love

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structure in terms of 'human association' has charged outward, embracing the 'external' stimuli (i.e. social media of sorts), and has become in-

ternally lifeless. We stopped developing morality as a central goal of the human character. With wandering minds and deviant ways, we lost our inner sensitivity, our ability to hear silence, and our capacity to contemplate.

And rather than learn from history's great minds, we adopted *cancel-culture* a new social experiment that evidently will 'enforce our ability to recognize each other as viable partners in co-existence! "The 'natural condition' of man," said the English philosopher Thomas Hobbes, "is self-seeking and competitive. Man subjects himself to the rule of the state as the only means of self-preservation whereby he can escape the brutish cycle of mutual destruction that is otherwise the result of his contact with 'others'." But what happens if the state becomes Machiavellian? Or if the state according to Karl Marx, "had become an 'apparatus of oppression' determined by a ruling class whose object was always to maintain itself in economic supremacy."

Whether our lives are guided by philosophers the likes of Rousseau, Hegel, Locke, or Kant, or whether we are inspired by the teachings of Moses, Jesus, Mohamed, or Buddha... one thing is missing for sure: our social codes of conduct! I am referring to codes of social engagement that respect the 'other'. Not to mention the completely ignored *jus gentium* ("law of nations"). How can we expect any social benefits from a modern political system, (and dare we expect a brighter future) in our 21st century when our collective social life has totally ignored i.e. the *Knight's Code of Chivalry*! As described in the *Song of Roland* (1098-1100) this medieval knightly system of religious, moral, and social



Adieu

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code dates back to the Dark Ages. Was this a superior commitment to mutual respect among humans 900 years ago, at least on paper?

To fear God and maintain His Church; To serve the liege lord in valor and faith; To protect the weak and defenseless; To give succor to widows and orphans; To refrain from the wanton giving of offense; To live by honor and for glory; To despise pecuniary reward; To fight for the welfare of all; To obey those placed in authority; To guard the honor of fellow knights; To eschew unfairness, meanness, and deceit; To keep the faith; At all times to speak the truth; To persevere to the end in any enterprise begun; To respect the honor of



Far from Paradise

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*women; Never to refuse a challenge from an equal;
Never to turn the back upon a foe.*

We simply forgot to turn inward and realize our

true glorious selves. At the same time, we lost another important ability – our openness and sincerity to the world, and towards the ‘other’. Instead, we turned belligerent towards each

‘other’, intolerant in our acceptance of the ‘other’ and so we turn against each ‘other’! To dismiss, annihilate, assassinate, slaughter – rather than agree to recognize, accept, acknowledge and abide by the reality of the ‘other’!

I don’t know about others, but I am still hoping for a leader the likes of Mahatma Gandhi!



Planning the Morrow

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