

**Text Study for “Democracy as a Social Project”**  
Part of [To Bigotry No Sanction, a JCRC Cincinnati Speaker Series](#)  
Rabbi Erin Binder, Rockdale Temple, and Aaron Torop, JCRC Fellow

**Babylonian Talmud, Pesachim 88a**

עולא אָמר: בְּדִי שְׂיֵאכְלוּ תַמְרִים וְיַעֲסִקוּ בַתּוֹרָה. עוּלָא אִיקְלַע לְפּוּמְבִדִיתָא, קָרִיבוּ לֵיהּ טִירְיָנָא דְתַמְרֵי. אָמַר לָהּ: כַּמָּה כִּי הָבִי בְזוּזָא? אָמְרוּ לֵיהּ: תְּלַת בְּזוּזָא. אָמַר: מָלָא צְנָא דְדוּבְנָשָׁא בְּזוּזָא, וּבְבִלְאִי לָא עָסְקִי בְּאוּרִייתָא. בְּלִילִיא צְעֵרוּהוּ. אָמַר: מָלָא צְנָא סְמָא דְמוֹתָא בְּזוּזָא בְּבִבְלָל, וּבְבִלְאִי עָסְקִי בְּאוּרִייתָא.

**Ulla said** that Israel was exiled to Babylonia **in order** to enable them **to eat** the **dates** that grow there plentifully, which gave them strength **and** allowed them to **engage in Torah** study. Once, **Ulla visited Pumbedita**, and his hosts **brought him a basket of dates**. **He said to them: How many baskets of dates like these can one purchase for a zuz? They said to him: One can purchase three for a zuz. He said:** How can it be that it is possible to purchase **a basketful of date honey for** just a single **zuz**, **and yet the Babylonians do not engage in Torah** study more extensively? Since the cost of food is so low and they do not need to work hard to support themselves, the Babylonians should be more extensively engaged in Torah study.

**That night**, the dates he ate **afflicted him** and he suffered from terrible stomach problems. In light of this, Ulla retracted his original assessment of the Babylonians and instead praised them and **said: A basketful of lethal poison** - the baskets of dates that cause stomach problems - sells **for a zuz in Babylonia**, **and** despite the fact that they suffer its effects **the Babylonians** still **engage in Torah** study.

**To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee**

“You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view ... until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.” (Spoken by Atticus Finch)

**Pirkei Avot 2:4**

הִלֵּל אוֹמֵר, אֵל תִּפְרֹשׁ מִן הַצְּבוּר ... וְאַל תִּדְּיִן אֶת חֲבֵרְךָ עַד שֶׁתִּגִּיעַ לְמִקוֹמוֹ

Hillel said: do not separate yourself from the community... Do not judge your fellow man until you have reached his place.

**Elie Weisel**

“The opposite of love is not hate, it’s indifference.”

## 10 Key Findings about Jewish Americans, Pew Research Center

To access the whole article, follow this link: <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/05/11/10-key-findings-about-jewish-americans/>

To access the entire Pew study, follow this link: <https://www.pewforum.org/2021/05/11/jewish-americans-in-2020/>

### 2 Like the overall U.S. population, Jews appear to be growing more racially and ethnically

**diverse.** Around nine-in-ten Jewish American adults (92%) identify as non-Hispanic White, while 8% identify with other racial or ethnic categories. Among Jews ages 18 to 29, however, the share who identify as a race or ethnicity other than non-Hispanic White rises to 15%.

Overall, 17% of Jews surveyed – including 29% of Jewish adults under the age of 30 – live in households in which at least one child or adult is Black, Hispanic, Asian, some other non-White race or ethnicity, or multiracial.

### 3 U.S. Jews are less religious than American adults overall.

About one-in-ten Jewish Americans

---

#### Jewish population in U.S. is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse

% of U.S. Jews who are ...

	Hispanic, Black, Asian, other race or multiracial
	%
<b>NET Jewish</b>	<b>8</b>
Ages 18-29	15
30-49	12
50-64	4
65+	3

Note: Percentages recalculated to exclude nonresponse to the race/ethnicity questions.  
Source: Survey conducted Nov. 19, 2019-June 3, 2020, among U.S. adults.  
"Jewish Americans in 2020"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

---