

## A VISION THAT TRANSCENDS HATE

We human beings want nothing more than to love and be at peace with the people around us. This desire is a most powerful human trait which in turn raises our ability to fully appreciate and live life to its fullest.

Notwithstanding the value we attribute towards this ideal state of living, we sometimes find ourselves embroiled in disputes, involving on at times those that are close us. This might initially be triggered by a whole range of causes, however the end result is the same; a mutual feeling of animosity that becomes entrenched in our system, from which there seems to be no hope of escape.

As with most problems we encounter the solution lies in retracing our steps that led us into the problem in the first place.

For thousands of years the Jewish people have been commemorating a three week period that coincides with the most tragic events that our people have experienced throughout our history. This three week period is referred to by our sages as "*Between the Straits*" and the last Shabbat of this period is called "*Shabbat of the Vision*".

In identifying the root cause of all the calamities that we, as a people have experienced, our sages point to the lack of cohesion amongst us and a unity of purpose. This begins to occur when we as Jews start to see things from a limited perspective. It is not important how sacred or true that perspective might be. The result is all the same. We are isolating ourselves from a more global perspective which incorporates and is concerned with the wellbeing of all Jewish people in particular and all of mankind in general. This global view is indeed G-d's view, for G-d cares about all mankind. And to the degree that we share G-d's perspective of his world and his people, do we attract G-d's blessing.

### ***Between the Straits***

The reason why we end up having disputes with other people is because we are looking at things from a narrow perspective. We are too caught up in the way we personally see things, not allowing ourselves to take other people's perspectives into consideration.

### ***Vision***

We are too engrossed in the here and now and find it difficult to take a step back in order to transcend the confines of the moment and appreciate the bigger picture by taking a glimpse into past and the future.

On this "*Shabbat of the Vision*" each and every Jew is exposed to a truly global view of the Jewish people. A vision which sees all Jews as equally special in the eyes of G-d. A Vision in which each and every Jew has a vital contribution to make to bring peace and love to all mankind. Let G-d's vision of his people be our vision.

*By Yosef Vogel*

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27<sup>th</sup> July

Sedra: **Devarim**

Shabbat Begins: 20.42pm

Shabbat Ends: 21.53pm