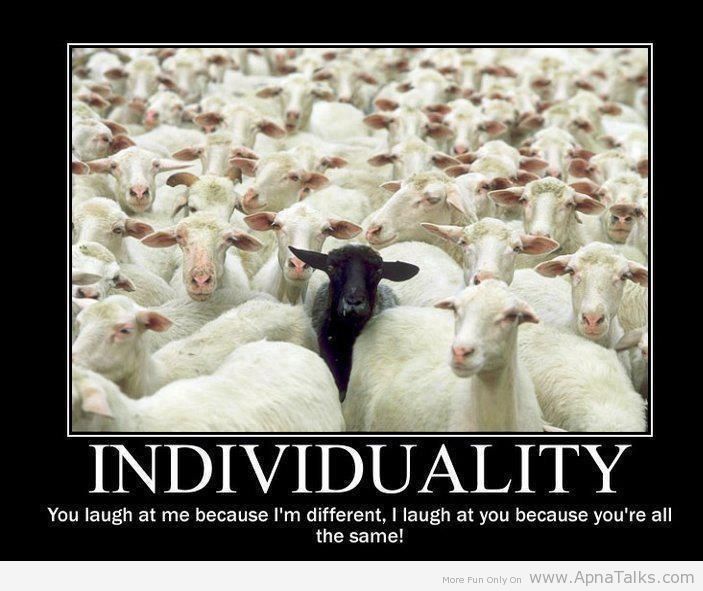
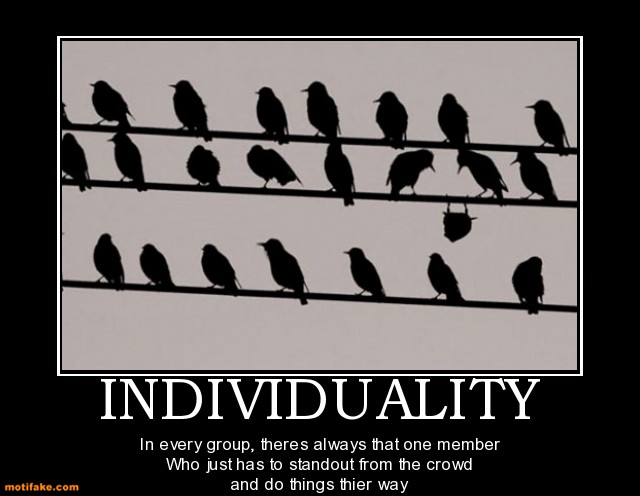
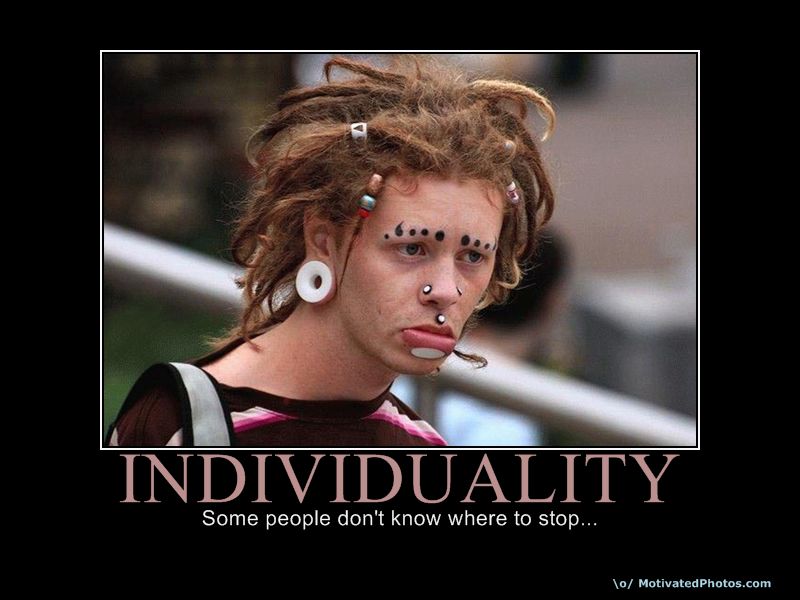
Individuality and Community

**Individuality**









***“To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.”***

― Ralph Waldo Emerson

***“Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.”***

― Mark Twain

***“The most courageous act is still to think for yourself. Aloud.”***

― Coco Chanel

***“I will not let anyone walk through my mind with their dirty feet.”***

― Mahatma Gandhi

***“I think the reward for conformity is that everyone likes you except yourself.”***

― Rita Mae Brown

***“The individual has always had to struggle to keep from being overwhelmed by the tribe. If you try it, you will be lonely often, and sometimes frightened. But no price is too high to pay for the privilege of owning yourself.”***

― Friedrich Nietzsche

***“Always be a first rate version of yourself and not a second rate version of someone else.”***

― Judy Garland

***“In order to be irreplaceable, one must always be different.”***

― Coco Chanel

***“The surest way to corrupt a youth is to instruct him to hold in higher esteem those who think alike than those who think differently.”***

― Friedrich Nietzsche

***“Every one of us is, in the cosmic perspective, precious. If a human disagrees with you, let him live. In a hundred billion galaxies, you will not find another.”***

― Carl Sagan, Cosmos

**Community**





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***“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.”***

― Mother Teresa

***“No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were: any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bells tolls; it tolls for thee.”***

― John Donne, No Man Is An Island

***“People use drugs, legal and illegal, because their lives are intolerably painful or dull. They hate their work and find no rest in their leisure. They are estranged from their families and their neighbors. It should tell us something that in healthy societies drug use is celebrative, convivial, and occasional, whereas among us it is lonely, shameful, and addictive. We need drugs, apparently, because we have lost each other.”***

― Wendell Berry, The Art of the Commonplace: The Agrarian Essays

***“The world is so empty if one thinks only of mountains, rivers and cities; but to know someone who thinks and feels with us, and who, though distant, is close to us in spirit, this makes the earth for us an inhabited garden.”***

― Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

***“Strength lies in differences, not in similarities”***

― Stephen R. Covey

***“Community is a sign that love is possible in a materialistic world where people so often either ignore or fight each other. It is a sign that we don't need a lot of money to be happy--in fact, the opposite.”***

― Jean Vanier, Community And Growth

**Jewish Individuality**

***"If I am I because I am I, and you are you because you are you, then I am I and you are you. But if I am I because you are you and you are you because I am I, then I am not I and you are not you!"***

― Rabbi Menachem Mendel Morgensztern of Kotzk, (the Kotzker Rebbe)

תלמוד בבלי מסכת בבא מציעא דף פד עמוד א

נח נפשיה דרבי שמעון בן לקיש, והוה קא מצטער רבי יוחנן בתריה טובא. אמרו רבנן: מאן ליזיל ליתביה לדעתיה - ניזיל רבי אלעזר בן פדת, דמחדדין שמעתתיה. אזל יתיב קמיה, כל מילתא דהוה אמר רבי יוחנן אמר ליה: תניא דמסייעא לך. אמר: את כבר לקישא? בר לקישא, כי הוה אמינא מילתא - הוה מקשי לי עשרין וארבע קושייתא, ומפרקינא ליה עשרין וארבעה פרוקי, וממילא רווחא שמעתא. ואת אמרת תניא דמסייע לך, אטו לא ידענא דשפיר קאמינא? הוה קא אזיל וקרע מאניה, וקא בכי ואמר: היכא את בר לקישא, היכא את בר לקישא, והוה קא צוח עד דשף דעתיה [מיניה]. בעו רבנן רחמי עליה ונח נפשיה.

Babylonian Talmud Tractate Bava Metzia 84a

﻿Resh Lakish died, and Rebbi Yochanan was plunged into deep grief. The Rabbis said, Who shall go to ease his mind? Let Rebbi Eleazar ben Pedas go, whose disquisitions are very subtle. So he went and sat before him; and on every dictum uttered by Rebbiy he observed: There is a Baraisa which Supports you. ‘Are you as the son of Lakisha?’ Rebbi Yochanan complained. ‘When I stated a law, the son of Lakisha used to raise twenty-four objections, to which I gave twenty-four answers, which consequently led to a fuller comprehension of the law, while you say, "A Baraisa has been taught which supports you" do I not know myself that my positions are right?’

Laws of the Rebellious Ones

**Halacha 1:** The Supreme Sanhedrin in Jerusalem are the essence of the Oral Law. They are the pillars of instruction from whom statutes and judgments issue forth for the entire Jewish people. Concerning them, the Torah promises Deuteronomy 17:11: "You shall do according to the laws which they shall instruct you...." This is a positive commandment. Whoever believes in Moses and in his Torah is obligated to make all of his religious acts dependent on this court and to rely on them.

**Halacha 2:** Any person who does not carry out their directives transgresses a negative commandment, as it continues: "Do not deviate from any of the statements they relate to you, neither right nor left."

**Jewish Community**

תלמוד בבלי מסכת שבועות דף לט עמוד א

)ויקרא כ"ו( וכשלו איש באחיו - איש בעון אחיו, מלמד שכל ישראל ערבים זה בזה!

Babylonian Talmud Tractate Shevuos 39a

It says in Leviticus (26:37) ‘Each man will stumble over his brother’ he will stumble over his brother’s sin, which teaches us that the whole of Israel (the Jewish people) is responsible for one another.

משנה מסכת אבות פרק א משנה יד

אם אין אני לי מי לי וכשאני לעצמי מה אני ואם לא עכשיו אימתי:

Ethics of Our Fathers 1:14

If I am not for myself, who is for me? And if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?

בראשית פרק יא פסוק ו

וַיֹּאמֶר יְקֹוָק הֵן עַם אֶחָד וְשָׂפָה אַחַת לְכֻלָּם וְזֶה הַחִלָּם לַעֲשׂוֹת וְעַתָּה לֹא יִבָּצֵר מֵהֶם כֹּל אֲשֶׁר יָזְמוּ לַעֲשׂוֹת:

Genesis 11:6

And the Lord said, "Behold! They are one people, and they all have one language, and this is what they have commenced to do. Now, will it not be withheld from them, all that they have planned to do?

ספורנו עה"ת ספר בראשית פרק יא פסוק ו

(ו) הן עם אחד. כי אמנם הבטול המפר עצות ומניא מחשבות הוא המחלוקת הקורה אם לסבת הדתות ואם לסבת הלשונות. והנה אלה היו עם אחד בענין הדת כי היו כלם מסכימים בדעת אנשי הצא"בה ועם זה היה כלם מסכימים בלשון:

Seforno on Genesis 11:6

Behold, they are one people – Normally the counsel of nations and their plans are thwarted and nullified as a result of divisions which occur between them, caused by (differences) regarding faith, or (lack of a common) language. They, however, were "one people" in the area of religion, for they all agreed (to accept) the philosophy of the Sabians, and they also accepted (one) language.



