

Centropa Lessons

Quotes from the Jewish Tradition
Survival in Sarajevo Project

When the community is in trouble, a person should not say, "I will go to my house and I will eat and drink and be at peace with myself."

Babylonian Talmud Taanit 11a

Do not separate yourself from the community.

Hillel Mishna Avot 2:4

Even a poor man who himself survives on charity should give charity.

Babylonian Talmud Gittin 7b

Hillel used to say: If I am not for myself who will be for me? Yet, if I am for myself only, what am I? And if not now, when?

Pirke Avot, 1:14

[Rabbi Tarfon] used to say: It is not incumbent upon you to finish the task. Yet, you are not free to desist from it.

Pirke Avot 1:21

Defend the poor and the orphan; deal justly with the poor and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Psalms 82:3-4

Therefore only one person was created to teach you that whosoever kills a single soul the Bible considers to have killed a complete world. And whosoever sustains and saves a single soul, it is as if that person sustained a whole world.

Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5

Even a poor person who receives tzedakah must give from what he receives"

Gittin 7b (Talmud)

In a city where non-Jews and Jews live, the tzedakah collectors collect from Jews and non-Jews and support Jewish and non-Jewish poor; we visit Jewish and non-Jewish sick and bury Jewish and non-Jewish dead, and comfort Jewish and non-Jewish mourners, and return lost goods of non-Jews and Jews, to promote the ways of peace.

Jerusalem Talmud Demai 4:1/ Gittin 61a

When Rav Huna would eat a meal, he would open his door and say, "Whoever is in need, let that person come and eat."

Ta'anit 20b (Talmud)