

Questions are a Paradox

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Source:

The key to Jewish exegesis is to assume that nothing is obvious. Questions are the great cultural paradox. They both destabilize and secure social norms. Questions tend to democratize. Ease with questions conveys a fundamental trust in the goodwill and the good sense of others. Autocrats hate questions. We train children at the Passover seder to ask why because tyrants are undone and liberty is won with a good question. Khrushchev once explained why he hated Jews. He said, "They always ask why." It is for this reason that God loves it when we ask why. Consequently we celebrate challenging the Torah to make sense, and above all to be a defensible expression of Divine goodness. When we ask good questions the Torah is given anew on Sinai at that very moment. - Rabbi Steve Greenberg, *Wrestling with God and Men*