



## Sermon Sparks Parashat Lekh Lekha By Rabbi Felipe Goodman

Of all the images coming to us since October 7, beyond the brutality of what we have seen that we will never be able to forget, the images of people with kippot and Tallitot protesting the righteous position off The State of Israel in this war, definitely stick out.

We have a right and an obligation to demand that all our people stand up for Israel and stand together and strong in this times of tremendous pain. When images of Nazi like devastation reach us, when we see the protest and violence at University Campuses against our students we shouldn't remain silent at the outrage of our "own people" standing against us. These too are powerful images that can't be easily removed from our consciousness.

What is the traditional response to this attitude? Is there a traditional response to people who can't feel the pain we are feeling. Is there a traditional response to people who can't understand the outrage? We expect this from people extraneous to our community but we don't expect it from within!

Here is the traditional response, a text from The Rambam that precisely points to the exact situation that we find ourselves in:

הפּוֹרֵשׁ מִדַּרְכֵי צְבוּר אֶף עַל פִּי שְׂלֵא עֶבֶר עֲבֵרוֹת אֱלֹא נִבְדֵּל מֵעֵדֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֵינוֹ עוֹשֶׂה מִצְוֹת בְּכָלֶּךָ  
וְלֹא נִכְנָס בְּצַרְתּוֹ וְלֹא מִתְעַנֶּה בְּתַעֲנִיתוֹ אֲלֵא הוֹלֵךְ בְּדַרְכּוֹ כְּאֶחָד מִגּוֹיֵי הָאָרֶץ וְכֹאֵלּוּ אֵינוֹ מִהֵן אִי  
הָעוֹשֶׂה עֲבֵרוֹת בְּיַד רָמָה כִּיהוֹנִקִים בֵּין שְׁעָשָׂה קְלוֹת בֵּין שְׁעָשָׂה חֲמוּרוֹת אֵין לּוֹ חֵלֶק לְעוֹלָם הַבָּא  
וְזֶהוּ. לּוֹ חֵלֶק לְעוֹלָם הַבָּא  
הַנִּקְרָא מְגֵלָה פְּנִים בְּתוֹרָה מִפְּנֵי שֶׁהֵעִז מִצָּחוֹ וְגֵלָה פְּנָיו וְלֹא בּוֹשׁ מִדַּבְּרֵי תוֹרָה

Simply stated, anyone who places the pain and suffering of others before the pain and suffering of our own people. Anyone who does not understand or participate in the collective pain and suffering of our People, has no place in the world to come. These are the people who have placed themselves outside of our community through their actions.

It is time to speak about this and call this out! At a time like today we can no longer have the luxury of placing our political convictions before the survival of our people!