

## On My Relationship with Judaism

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As a teenager, I visited the local rabbi because I felt a strong desire to become a rabbi and I was not sure what to do. Rabbi Wenger and I discussed the fact that I felt less concerned about making money than I did about making a positive difference in the world. We also discussed the fact that I was not Jewish. He noted that one generally needs to be Jewish in order to attend a rabbinical school and he suggested that I could consider converting to Judaism. He added that this may not be the best solution for me and he never proselytized. The good rabbi also offered some sage advice: No food, no Torah; no Torah, no food; meaning, Torah is important but one should concern oneself with making a living as much as with studying Torah or making a positive difference in other ways. A few years passed. I graduated from high school in 1987 and proceeded to ignore the rabbi's advice about making a living.

I began attending classes at the University of Utah in 1988. For years, I attended only part time with occasional breaks while working assorted jobs. Later, I decided that I wanted to finish college before I died, so I began accepting student loans in order to work less and attend school full time. I received the Zucker Memorial Award for Outstanding Hebrew Performance in 1995 from the Middle East Studies department. When I graduated in 1998, I received a B.S. in Philosophy and a B.A. in Middle East Studies. Also, in the early 1990s, I attended a weekly conversion course at the local synagogue with Rabbi Wenger that took a year to complete; this course educated interested people about what being Jewish means so that they can decide whether that was really for them. There was no pressure to convert and I enjoyed the course. I did not convert to Judaism but I felt welcome later during those few times when I attended services on Friday evening. I learned many things that have been very important for me. However, this education did little to improve my career options. (My graduate education was a little more practical.)

I have studied Jewish mysticism on a personal level since high school. In 1999, I proposed Quantum Resonance Theory which was developed from my own interpretation of Jewish mysticism combined with David Bohm's concepts of the implicate and explicate orders in quantum mechanics. I have been exploring these ideas ever since. In summary, I feel a strong affinity for Judaism and I appreciate what it offers even though I am not Jewish.

*That being said, there remains one last thing that must be said. Criticism of the State of Israel is not antisemitic and there are many Jews who would agree: Genocide is genocide.*