

# Why God started with one human

**T**HE most important definition is not "Who is God?" but rather "What is man?"

The way we answer this question affects the society in which we live, the nature of our conduct, the moral choices we make and the development of our character.

The sages of old ask a fundamental question about the creation story. Why was only one man, Adam, created? God created swarms of living creatures, the creatures of the sea and the beasts and the animals and all that move across the earth. God took dust and created one man. Why not an entire race?

**THEY OFFER** several interpretations, each of which conveys an enduring moral truth.

First, the act teaches the significance and sanctity of human life. Every human being is a world in himself. Thus, when a person destroys one soul, it is as though he caused the world to perish.

Conversely, he who saves a single soul is credited with saving the whole world.

Totalitarian states make their citizens slaves of the political order. Man is a tool of the dictator or a victim of the tyrant, or a sub-human species subject to extermination.

But the Bible declares that each person is born with a dignity that cannot be denied or rejected. No power on earth, no organization or movement has the right to deprive any human being of the dignity and the holiness that inheres in him.

**SECONDLY**, the sages declare that the creation of Adam and Eve convey the truth that each human being is unique. Each of us is God's unrepeatable experiment, his unreplicated creative event.

Our difference and uniqueness is part of that divine gift that resides in every person.

Judaism argues that there is "no common man" or "average person."

## Breast cancer program open

A free breast cancer awareness program for women will run from 8 a.m. to noon Thursday, Oct. 27, in the Birmingham Community House, 380 S. Bates.

Co-sponsors are the Oakland County Health Division, American Cancer Society and the Community House.

A professional women's breakfast starts at 7:30 a.m. Call 644-5832 for reservations and tickets at \$4.75.

A panel will discuss early detection, breast anatomy, mammography, self-examination and surgical options. Speakers will include Dr. Janet Baum of Beaumont Hospital, Catherine Burns of the cancer society and Judith Anderson, RN, of the health department.

For program reservations, call 557-5353.

## 'Transitions' seminar open

The free seminar, "Transitions," is scheduled for its second session beginning the weeks of Nov. 7 and 14 at all campuses of Oakland Community College.

The beginning dates for the seminar at each OCC campus are: Highland Lakes, Nov. 7; Royal Oak, Nov. 8; Southfield, Nov. 9; Auburn Hills, Nov. 10; Orchard Ridge, Nov. 14. Sessions are held once each week for

six weeks at each campus.

"Transitions" is designed for people needing support, direction, educational guidance and career planning.

Discussion will focus on personal growth, decision making, economic and academic growth.

Registration and program details are available by calling OCC at 360-3338.



moral perspectives  
**Rabbi Irwin Groner**

Each of us knows, in the depths of his or her being, that he or she is not average.

Each person is someone special and distinctive, who knows his own secrets, who bears his own hopes and dreams, his own fears and desires.

**THIRD**, the human race began with a single individual for the sake of peace among all men, so that no man might say, "My ancestor is greater than yours."

The sages taught that there are no superior or inferior races, that we are all equal in the sight of God, that every person has the rights of life, liberty and the enjoyment of God's world, rights that are inalienable having been conferred upon him by the Creator who loves his children without distinction.

Finally, the sages say that every person should have a measure of pride, should recognize his own worth, and should be able to say to Adam on the first day of his existence: "For my sake, the world was created."

Rabbi Irwin Groner is with Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield.

# Rich less generous with time, money

(AP) — Americans of low and moderate incomes are more generous with their financial contributions and time than their upper income counterparts, according to a Gallup poll released Tuesday.

Contrary to popular opinion, the well-to-do in America cannot be described as generous," said Brian O'Connell, president of the Independent Sector, a coalition of 650 corporate, foundation and volunteer organizations that commissioned the survey by the Gallup Organization.

"Giving and volunteering in America is a stark contrast between heart-warming generosity and bone-chilling selfishness," he said, noting the results of the in-home interviews conducted last March with 2,775 Americans 18 years and older.

O'CONNELL TOLD a news conference in Washington that:

- Contributing households with incomes below \$10,000 gave an average of 2.8 percent of their incomes to charity.
- Families between \$10,000 and \$30,000 gave 2.5 percent.

- Those with incomes between \$50,000 and \$75,000 gave 1.5 percent.
- Families earning \$75,000 to \$100,000 donated 1.7 percent.
- Those with incomes over \$100,000 gave 2.1 percent.

Overall, the survey said, seven out of 10 households in America contributed an average of \$790 to charitable organizations, with 45 percent volunteering an average of 4.7 hours a week in time to causes and organizations in 1987. Independent Sector said the margin of error was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

THESE FIGURES translate into 80 million people giving a total of 19.5 billion hours with a dollar value of time contributed at \$150 billion, O'Connell said.

Eugene C. Dorsey, head of the group's "Give Five" campaign to increase volunteerism, said the latest study showed it was possible to reach the organization's goal of motivating Americans to donate at least 5 percent of their incomes and five hours a week to the causes of their choice.

Dorsey, who also serves as president of the Give Five Foundation, said "the findings confirm the need for the 'Give Five' campaign to establish a basic standard of what we owe to our communities."

Virginia A. Hodgkinson, the Independent Sector's vice president for research, said the poll's finding that giving decreases as income increases had been missed in previous Gallup surveys, which measured only the amount given without regard to what percentage of income the donated amount represented.

A TYPICAL generous American household, she said, was a moderate income family of five living in the rural Midwest that volunteers and belongs to a church.

The least generous profile was a single, affluent individual living in a central city in the South who does not volunteer or attend church, she said.

These rankings were formulated by evaluating results of averages for weekly volunteering, income and the percentage of family members who were volunteers, she said.

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