**Jewish Pride**

**#1**

**Medrash**

*In the merit of three things our forefathers left Egypt: they didn’t change their clothes, their names, or their language.*

**Question:**

**The Jews were totally assimilated, on the verge of completely losing their identity.**

**They were no longer circumcised, they worshiped idols, but they spoke Hebrew, kept their Jewish names and continued to wear clothing that identified them as Jews.**

**Why specifically do these things connect Jews to their roots and ensure their continuity as a Nation?**

**#2**

**Awake My People (1866)**

**Y.L. Gordon - Leading figure of the Russian Jewish Enlightenment movement**

Remarkable changes have taken place
A different world engulfs us today.

Awake, my people! How long will you sleep?
The night has passed, the sun shines through.

…

How long will you dwell among them as a guest
Why do you reject their hand?

They have already removed the burden from your back
And lifted the yoke from around your neck
…

Become an enlightened nation, speaking their tongue.

Everyone capable of learning should study
Laborers and artisans should take to a craft
The strong and the brave should be soldiers
…

Farmers should buy fields and ploughs.

To the treasury of the state bring your wealth
Bear your share of its riches and bounty
**Be a man in the streets and a Jew at home**

**#3**

**The Washington Post (Rick Noam, May 28, 2019)**

An official has triggered a fierce debate in Germany for saying over the weekend that it might at times not be safe for Jews to wear the traditional kippah skullcap in the country, more than seven decades after the end of the Holocaust.

“My opinion on the matter has changed following the ongoing brutalization in German society,” Germany’s governmental anti-Semitism representative Felix Klein told the Funke newspaper group Saturday.

“I can no longer recommend Jews wear a kippah at every time and place in Germany.”

Klein’s comments drew fierce responses.

Responding to the warning, U.S. Ambassador Richard Grenell wrote on Twitter: “The opposite is true. Wear your kippa. Wear your friend’s kippa. Borrow a kippah and wear it for our Jewish neighbors. Educate people that we are a diverse society.”

**Questions:**

* **Should a Jew publicly display the symbols of being Jewish (e.g. star of David, kippah etc) publicly? Discuss the pros and cons.**
* **Is looking ethnically different "un-American"? How do you feel about Hasidic attire and the way the Amish dress?**
* **Does it make a difference if you live in a place where Jews have been targeted by anti-Semitic acts?**
* **Do you think you'd get more respect or less respect from your secular friends if you appeared more Jewish outwardly?**