

“Too Humble Is Half Proud”

(Yiddish saying)

Quotations:

- A. Is man no more than this? Consider him well... Thou art the thing itself...
Unaccommodated man is no more but such a poor, bare, forked animal as
thou art. *William Shakespeare, King Lear, Act III Sc IV*
- B. Humanity comes from the dust and ends in dust. We spend our lives earning
our living, but we are fragile like a cup so easily broken, like grass that withers,
like flowers that fade, like passing shadows and dissolving clouds, a fleeting
breeze and dust that scatters, like a dream that fades away...
Movement for Reform Judaism, Prayer Book for the High Holy Days
- C. The true way leads along a tightrope, which is not stretched aloft but just
above the ground. It seems designed more to trip one than to be walked
along. *Franz Kafka*
- D. The only wisdom we can hope to acquire
Is the wisdom of humility: humility is endless. *T. S. Eliot, Four Quartets*
- E. Everyone must have two pockets, so that each of us can reach into the one or
the other, according to our needs. In the right pocket is to be a piece of paper
with the words ‘For my sake was the world created,’ and in the left pocket a
piece of paper saying ‘I am dust and ashes.’ *Martin Buber, Hasidic Sayings*
- F. Frail man, our days are like grass,
We blossom like a flower of the field;
But the breeze passes over it and it is gone
And its place knows it no more. *Psalms 103:15-16*
- G. He has told you, O man, what is good and what the Eternal One seeks from
you / asks of you: is it not to do justly / enact justice, and love mercy, and to
walk in humility with your God?
- H. Be very, very humble of spirit, for the hope / prospect for a human being is
the worm [rīma]. *Rabbi Levitas of Yavneh, Ethics of the Fathers 4:4*
- I. Do not resemble a big door which lets in the wind; or a small door which
makes the worthy bend down; but resemble the threshold on which all may
tread, or a low peg on which all can hang their things. *Derech Eretz Zuta,
Babylonian Talmud*