25 years I have asked BM students what does it mean to be a bar mitzvah. Some version of be a mensch

What I am really asking is what does it mean to be a Jew?

It's more than Tikun Olam and being a "Boy Scout".

Universalism vs Particularism

I'm eyn ani li me li?

Apology

Taught second verse glossed over first

Obligation to one's family

You have to carry both tribalism and universalism. Carry both verses

Don't diminish the universal rather but to make sure that we stand up for ourselves as well.

More people coming to Jewish community functions. Jews embracing Judaism. Open the gift.

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Living with intentionality, every moment matters, sliding doors

We are as close as a cough. My health means your health. (Warnick)

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What they have in common, though, is that they are helping us put the events of today into the context of the history of the Jewish people, reminding us that we are not a people of the story of 2023-2025, but a people of thousands of years of history. We've been here before, we'll be here again. The question is how we make meaning out of this painful moment, and learn from it how to move forward. (Danny Gordis)

Covenant of fate v destiny
https://sapirjournal.org/faith/2024/08/the-first-tisha-bav-since-october-7/

The Covenant of Fate expressed the existence of the Jewish people as a persecuted minority in the lands of the Diaspora, beholden to the choices and external powers around them. It was a mode of survival built on a common memory of powerlessness.

The Covenant of Destiny was configured around the opposite: power and agency, the will to express the Jewish experience through a national mission, unencumbered by external powers, seeking to realize its special role in history as a member in the family of nations, to be an *am segula*, a term often translated as a "treasured nation," but more accurately, a "dignified one."

In every generation… Passover. What does this mean for us today? How do we live as Jews

If I go there I need to provide hope. The resilience and creativity that comes from necessity (mother of invention) has been key to our survival.

R B Lau

Suddenly, I was reminded of something Joe Biden said Golda Meir had told him many years ago: "We Israelis have a secret weapon," she said. "We have nowhere else to go."

When the exile of Europe became unbearable, hundreds of thousands of Jews migrated to a new exile in the Americas. This is what the Jewish people have always done. Exile after exile, wandering and more wandering. But as the Torah tells us of exile:

[You] will flee from them by many roads; and you shall become a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth . . . even among those nations you shall find no peace, nor shall your foot find a place to rest. God will give you there an anguished heart and eyes that pine and a despondent spirit. The life you face shall be precarious; you shall be in terror, night and day, with no assurance of survival (Deuteronomy 28:64–67).

So many times it was our dream to find rest and inheritance in other lands, but the Torah was clear about this futility.

Poland = Polin stay here a while… make a connection

Gordis
https://app.sparkmailapp.com/web-share/hIHATzeSL4wykgpAt1yQGaCmc6_1liIrsmdymJe4