

## Musings on the Matzav

Imagine, if you will, being back in the days of the great explorers, including Columbus. Think of a person whose cousin is unfortunate enough to be a sailor on one of the boats, which you know with complete confidence will sail off the edge of the planet, if the sea serpents don't get it first. What if you like this cousin? Might it not be possible to feel that burning the ships where they stand would be a good thing, if it keeps him from falling off the world? The act would be understandable, even if the underlying reason is not true. The act would still be wrong. It would not be wrong because the world isn't flat – it would be wrong because it would be destructive.

If we upped the ante by reading current potential actions into the past, the person might choose to harm Columbus (thinking that if the Captain is down, the ships won't sail) or even commit Regicide. This would be infinitely more wrong – not because of getting the facts wrong, but because the reaction leads to harming a person.

Something similar is going on now.

Our gratitude should go out to all those people who brought sharp things with them, with every intention of maintaining purity by destroying people, yet chose not to follow through with their plans. They exist.

Our gratitude goes to the people in Israel who are showing in various ways that these groups can coexist without attempted murder.

Our gratitude goes to all those worldwide who ignore what their religious leaders tell them to do, when those words will lead to destruction.

Our sympathy goes to the families who have lost loved ones.

May the day soon come when all those who judge others by who they are, and not by what they do, learn better by glancing in the mirror from time to time. May we all be helped in our own efforts to make the planet more peaceful and kind, by being kind to the other nearby and resolving to resolve issues peacefully.