

# Salvador Litvak, the “Accidental Talmudist,” Explains Why Ancient Wisdom is Important in the Modern World

*When polarization creates logjams, time-tested wisdom is the key to progress.*

LOS ANGELES, CA, UNITED STATES, August 11, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- We live in a time of rapid change, when things, ideas, and even relationships are increasingly replaceable. We fetishize the new and ignore the old – at our peril. Ancient wisdom that has stood the test of time is more relevant now than ever.

Salvador Litvak, founder of [www.accidentaltalmudist.org](http://www.accidentaltalmudist.org) says, “We’ve built a diverse community of over one million souls who enjoy learning from Judaism’s ancient wisdom. This vast body of knowledge is especially relevant in today’s polarized climate because it’s based on both Scripture and an oral tradition. Our sages did not mince words. They argued passionately over life and death matters, yet they remained respectful of each other because they were more committed to grasping eternal truths than to being right.”



Salvador Litvak — image by Marko Dashev

How do we help the poor and protect the weak? How do we persuade others to vote our way? How do we infuse tragic moments with meaning? Politicians and pundits seem unable to answer these questions, so why not learn from sages who spent thousands of years studying and debating them?

The human enterprise requires two complementary types of knowledge: evidentiary analysis and eternal wisdom. Medical science, for example, continually tests its conclusions and tosses them aside as new evidence comes in. To this process we are indebted for cures that our ancestors would’ve deemed miraculous.

Those same ancestors, however, possessed profound insights about building a life of meaning. Whether one attributes their wisdom to divine revelation or generations of trial and error, the fact remains that we’d be fools to ignore their hard-won lessons.

As cultural critic and philosopher George Santayana said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

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