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## DEEP DEMOCRACY and Rahamim

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Decisions and how we make them can have a crucial impact on our future. Even daily decisions, from whose turn it is to wash up to which candidate gets our vote, are woven into the fabric of our lives. Often, our decisions bring out important differences of opinion.

It was my interest in a new model of decision-making that had me in Sydney last week studying a United Nations award-winning model called Deep Democracy.

Conventional democracy can take us part of the way toward resolving differences. Deep Democracy moves away from a winner-take-all arrangement which usually only creates poor losers.

In theory, those who are outvoted should set aside their own views in order to support the majority; but the fact is that they typically don't. Instead, minority voters often feel rejected and isolated. Eventually, these disaffected group members will find ways to sabotage the majority decision.

This is a serious problem but what is also lost is the minority's wisdom.

Consider that every member of a given group holds some piece of a larger puzzle. Even opposite viewpoints almost always turn out to carry valuable and even indispensable insights.

Drawing out the minority view has a more profound function than merely pacifying the dissenters. It's crucial to developing a complete and grounded decision. In other words, the minority view isn't a bothersome obstacle to agreement: it's a key ingredient in sound decision-making.

One way to bring the minority view holders on board is to ask them "What do you need to go with the majority?" That simple question alone will have them more engaged in the decision. Consider what is happening in your world this week and if someone is in the minority ask him or her "What do you come along?"

Rahamim is committed to inclusiveness in society. Please consider, "what do you need to bring more inclusiveness into your world?" If you would like assistance with this remember our Retreats in Everyday Life would serve you well in this area.