P4C - Abraham Ibn Ezra

When does doing something you want to do become a selfish act?

Who was Abraham Ibn Ezra ?

\* Ibn Ezra was Jewish

\* born in Tudela in Spain in 1192

\* Tudela was under Muslim rule at that time

\* remembered for his study of the Pentateuch [ first five books of the

Old Testament which make up the Jewish holy book called the Torah ]

\* studied mathematics , philosophy, astronomy and wrote poetry

Abraham Ibn Ezra was married and was father to five children.

He decided to leave his home and family in order to pursue a life of study. He wandered from country to country for more than thirty years, travelling to Italy, France, England and even as far as Baghdad, only returning to Spain towards the end of his life.

His work on the Pentateuch is still referred to in the study of Judaism today, although not all Jewish people agree with some of his ideas.

Abraham Ibn Ezra’s choice was to leave his family and all responsibility for them in order to study.

Do you think that was selfish? Is it right to ignore your responsibilities in order to do something you want to do? Why? Is it ok to do what you want if you then produce an important book, discover a new mathematical concept or write a famous poem? Why is it important to fulfil your responsibilities to other people?