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It might sound out of place to speak of, let alone, invoke the idea of cosmopolitanism in the current global conditions that are dominated by the language of "clash" – clash of cultures, civilizations, religions, or ethnicities. The discourse of clash is currently so overwhelming as though it were the central feature of our international, religious, and communal life. The media apart, academia is also inclined to concentrate far more on human "conflict" as a subject of scholarly inquiry than on "cooperation" and "sharing." Precisely because of this prevalent preoccupation with clash, it becomes morally imperative to underline the other, more common but unnoticed and inaudible processes of human conduct, to show how people belonging to different cultural groupings can transcend their immediate selves by intensely interacting in their life-worlds with members of other ethnic or religious collectives. Would we still imagine today's Iraq as the "natural" embodiment of sharp ethnic and religious boundaries (because the "nation" was no more than an artificial and imposed construct), if we knew how the twentieth century Iraq was replete with instances of individuals, families, and neighbourhoods from Sunni, Shi, Jewish, and Christian communities engaged in interactions and shared lives (see pp. 6-7)? The recent upsurge in the literature on cosmopolitanism (even though highly diverse) points to welcome efforts to confront cultural superiority and ethnocentrism. It further stands deployed to challenge the language of separation and antagonism, which in turn blurs and problematizes the meaning of "us" and "them" and its dynamics, which in turn blurs and problematizes the meaning of group boundaries. The "everyday cosmopolitanism" may not go as far as the often abstract and philosophical notions of Stoicist "world citizenship," but engages in the modest and down-to-earth though highly relevant ways in which ordinary men and women from different communal cosmos manage to engage, associate, and live together at the level of the everyday.

Asef Bayat is Academic Director of ISIM and holds the ISIM Chair at Leiden University.