

# Searching for Hametz בְּדִיקַת חָמֵץ

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE SEDER

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ  
מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,  
וְצִוָּנוּ עַל בְּעוֹר חָמֵץ.

Ba-rukht ata Adonai / Elo-hei-nu me-lekh ha-olam /  
asher kee-d'sha-nu b'meeetz-vo-tav / v'tzee-va-nu al bee-ur hametz.

Before the search recite this blessing:

**Blessed** are You, Adonai  
our God, Ruler of the  
Universe, who sanctified  
us by commanding us to  
**remove all hametz.**

After the search recite this formula in  
Aramaic, for disowning any hametz still  
undiscovered in the home:

כָּל חָמֵץ רָא וְחִמֵּיא  
דְּאַכְא בְּדִשּׁוּתִי,  
דְּלֹא חֲמֵתָה וְדְלֹא בְּעָרְתָה,  
לְבָטִיל וְלֵהוּי הַפְּקָר  
בְּעַפְרָא דְאַרְעָא.

**All hametz** in my  
possession, whether I have  
seen it or not and whether  
I have removed it or not,  
shall be nullified and  
ownerless as the dust of  
the earth.

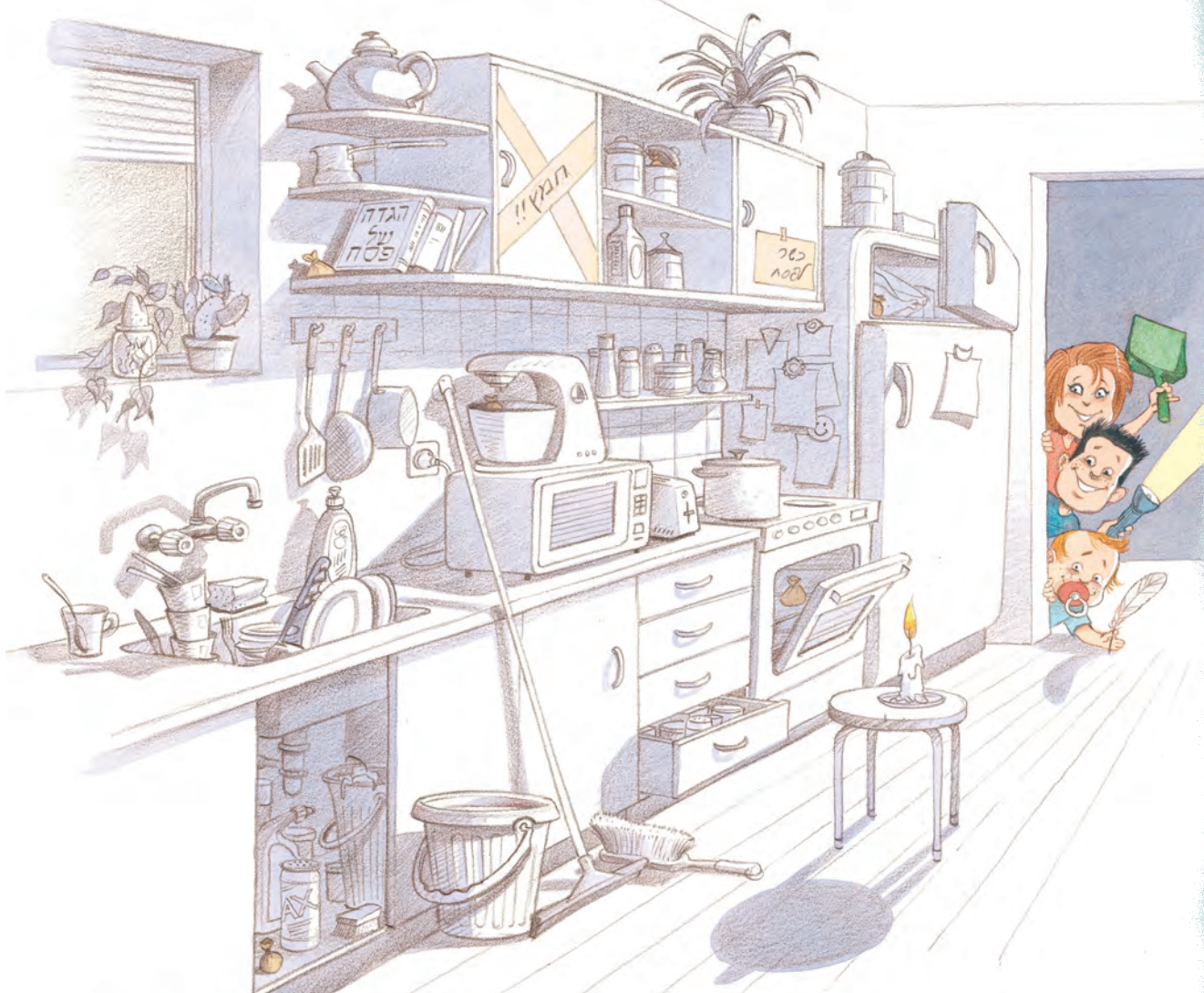
The Search for Hametz is the ceremonial culmination of several weeks of transforming the house into a sanctified setting for Pesach. The physical efforts help create a psychological readiness for the Seder.

"Hametz" refers to grain products that may have leavened, fermented and risen like yeast.

Jews usually clean all the rooms where food might have been eaten or stored. Many collect hametz products (like spaghetti or whiskey) in a sealed cabinet, mark it as hametz, and sell its contents to a non-Jew for the duration of the holiday. Generally a local rabbi will serve as an agent for the ritual "sale."

After dark, on the night before the Seder, conduct a search for hametz into all the corners of the house. The search is conducted in the dark, with a candle or a flashlight for spotting the hametz, and a feather or a spoon for collecting it. All hametz found is burned the next morning.

When Seder night falls on Saturday evening, the search is conducted on Thursday night and the bonfire on Friday morning. Hallah is put aside in a special "hametz zone" in the house to be eaten by approximately 10 a.m. on Shabbat morning. The leftovers may be removed by means of a flush of the toilet.



Six bags of Hametz have been hidden in this illustration.  
Good luck ferreting them out!

## INSPECTION AND INTROSPECTION

*"The human soul is the light, the candle of Adonai, for searching the hidden, innermost self" (Proverbs 20:27).*

The Search for Hametz is not simply a search for leavened bread, but rather an opportunity for us to examine ourselves. On the night before Pesach, when each of us is at home within our own walls, where there is no one else around, and we are not troubled by daily affairs, it is then that we can sit alone and confront all of our outstanding obligations to

God, saying to our soul:

"Let us awaken and arise... let us examine our ways and turn away from all our sins. Let us cleanse and purify ourselves and remove our evil ways from God's sight. Let us become allies, my soul, and stand guard together. We will abjure slumber from our eyes day and night. We will not rest, rather we will be as gatekeepers lest we return to our evil ways. May God be with us as God was with our mothers and fathers..."

Rabbi **Moshe Alsheikh**, Safed Kabbalist, 16th C.

## HIDE AND GO SEEK

A medieval custom perfectly suited to a children's game involves hiding ten pieces of bread throughout the house before the candlelight search for hametz begins. Originally this was done to guarantee that even after the scrupulous cleaning, the ritual search on the last night before Seder would still uncover some hametz. Today it provides an occasion for a game in which ten pieces of bread secured in closed plastic bags are carefully concealed. To enhance the fun for the children, a word, clue or question may be attached to each bag (the words can form a secret message or a Pesach song; the clues hint at the next hiding place; the ten questions constitute a quiz about basic Pesach facts).

Remember that besides finding the pre-hidden bags of hametz, one must genuinely check the typical "hang-outs" of forgotten hametz (like the car's glove compartment, coat pockets, etc.).

# Burning the Hametz בַּעוֹר חָמֵץ

THE MORNING BEFORE THE SEDER

כָּל חָמֵץ וְחִמְיָא דְּאַכָּא בְּרִשּׁוּתִי,

דְּחִזִּיתָהּ וְדָלָא חֲזִיתָהּ,

דְּחִמְתָּהּ וְדָלָא חִמְתָּהּ,

דְּבַעַרְתָּהּ וְדָלָא בַּעַרְתָּהּ,

לְבָטִיל וְלִהְיוּ הַפֶּקֶד כְּעַפְרָא דְּאַרְעָא.

All hametz in my possession,

whether I have seen it or not and

whether I have removed it or not,

shall be nullified and ownerless as

the dust of the earth.

## Meditation

After nullifying the physical hametz, the Sephardic custom is to recite this prayer for purification from spiritual hametz and the power of the evil Yetser [selfish inclination]:

May it be your will, Adonai our God and God of our ancestors, that just as we burned the hametz out of our homes today, so You will help us to burn out the evil inclination from our hearts.

Please God, remove from our hearts the bad part of our ego, and purify us lovingly, empowering the good sides of our ego. Let our souls shine and be empowered with your light, and be connected to You in the highest holiness, which shall be with us always.

The Burning of the Hametz marks the symbolic division between hametz and matza, winter and spring, the evil inclination and the desire for purity.

**Before** approximately 10 a.m. on the day of the Seder, we stop eating hametz and gather the leftovers for a ritual bonfire outside.

**After** the hametz has been burned (or rendered inedible in some other way), repeat the Aramaic formula disowning any undiscovered hametz on the premises. From now on no hametz may be eaten.

Rabbi Yosef Hayim, the "Ben Ish Hai", Baghdad, 19th C.

# קֶעֶרַת הַפֶּסַח

## PREPARING THE SEDER PLATE

### OPTIONAL ADD-ONS FOR YOUR SEDER PLATE

The Seder plate has from time to time included some unusual additions:

**One Brick:** Jewish Union soldiers in the Civil War, fighting a war against slavery themselves, prepared their Seder in the wilderness of West Virginia. Lacking haroset, symbolizing mortar, they literally placed a brick on the Seder Plate.

**Some Brick:** The Jews in Gibraltar prepare their haroset using granules shaved off a real brick! One medieval rabbi condemned this custom as the height of idiocy.

**Prepare haroset recipes from around the globe** and label them. Ask your guests to taste each one and identify the ingredients (see Korekh, pg. 101).

**Vegetarians** often replace the roasted bone with something else that represents God's outstretched arm. Try a sugar cane.

**Sweets:** Add candies to the Seder Plate for the children, to arouse their curiosity.

### Three Matzot

covered in a cloth, under or next to the Seder Plate. This is the food of poor slaves, but also the food of our liberation from Egypt. The three matzot symbolize the entire Jewish community with its three groups: Cohen, Levi and Israel.

### Beitza

roasted, hardboiled egg symbolizing the second sacrifice offered on holidays (often dipped in salt water)

### Zeroa

any bone, roasted symbolizing the sacrificial Pesach lamb and God's outstretched arm which liberated us from Egypt (not to be eaten)

### Maror

bitter herbs symbolizing the bitterness of slavery (often romaine lettuce)

### Karpas

greens for dipping in salt water or any tangy sauce (often celery, parsley or potato)

### Haroset

sweet or tangy condiment symbolizing the mortar of slavery (often including apples, wine and cinnamon)

### Hazeret

more bitter herbs (often horseradish, *khrein*)

**The Seder Plate** combines the various symbols of tonight's story and ritual.

**Some families** make one central Seder Plate, while others make many, ensuring that every participant can see the symbols as tonight's story unfolds.



## Candle Lighting הַדְּלָקַת נֵרוֹת

**בָּרוּךְ** אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר  
קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל  
(שַׁבָּת וְשֶׁל) **יוֹם טוֹב**.

**בָּרוּךְ** אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
שֶׁהַחֲיָנוּ וְקִיַּמָּנוּ וְהַגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה.

Ba-rukhh ata Adonai / Elo-hei-nu me-lekh ha-olam /  
asher kee-d'sha-nu b'meeetz-vo-tav / v'tzee-va-nu l'ha-d'leek ner shel / [Shabbat v'shel] Yom Tov.

Ba-rukhh ata Adonai / Elo-hei-nu me-lekh ha-olam /  
she-he-khee-ya-nu / v'kee-ma-nu / v'hee-gee-anu / la-z'man ha-ze.

**Blessed** are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the  
Universe, who sanctified us by commanding us  
to light the [Shabbat and] **holiday** candles.

**Blessed** are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the  
Universe, who has kept us alive and brought us  
to **this happy moment** in our lives.

Light at least two  
candles before the  
Seder. Some families  
light one candle  
for each family  
member, while  
others prepare two  
candles for each  
woman over bat  
mitzvah age.  
Many add  
the blessing  
*Shehechiyanu* when  
lighting the candles,  
while others recite it  
later with Kiddush.  
A silent personal  
prayer is often said  
after the blessing.  
See contemporary  
prayer on page 7.

## Blessing our Children בְּרַכַּת הַיְלָדִים

יִשְׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּאַפְרַיִם וּכְמִנַּשֶּׁה.

יִשְׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּסָרָה רַבֵּקָה רָחֵל וְלֵאָה.

**יְבָרְכֶךָ** יי וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ.  
יְאֵר יי פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֶךָ.  
יֵשָׁא יי פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ **שָׁלוֹם**.

For male children:

**May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe.**  
(Genesis 48:20 from Jacob's blessing for his grandchildren)

For female children:

**May God make you like Sarah and Rebecca,  
Rachel and Leah.**

(See Ruth 4:11, the women's blessing for Ruth, a Jew by choice)

For all:

**May God bless you and keep you.**

**May God's face shine upon you and favor you.**

**May God's face turn to you and grant you Shalom.**  
(Numbers 6:24-26, the priestly benediction)

The blessing of  
the children is  
recited. Parents and  
grandparents may  
place their hands  
on the head of each  
child (of whatever  
age) and bless them  
in their own words  
and/or using the  
priests' benediction  
of peace.

## A WOMAN'S PRAYER TO REPAIR THE WORLD

O GOD, creator of Heaven and Earth, creator of humankind and of all living things, grant me the power to feel as others feel, the power to listen and to hear, to behold and truly see, to touch and be touched. KEEP fresh within me the memory of my own suffering and the suffering of *Clal Yisrael* (the whole community), not in order to stimulate eternal paranoia, but rather that I may better understand the suffering of strangers. MAY that understanding lead me to do everything in my power to alleviate and to prevent such suffering. Guide me in the ways of *Tikkun Olam*, of mending the world. Enable me to be like Yourself – to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, tend the sick, and comfort the bereaved.

AS I delight in a loving marriage of true minds, may I never forget the thousands of women battered and beaten by their spouses.

AS I rejoice in the bliss of my children and grandchildren, may I never forget the pleading eyes and swollen bellies of starving infants deprived of physical and emotional nourishment.

MAY there always be a place at my table for those who are homeless or hungry.

MAY my woman's capacities for concern, compassion, and caring never be dulled by complacency or personal contentment.

MAY my feelings always lead me to act.

**Alice Shalvi**, professor of Shakespeare, founder of the Israeli women's lobby and of a progressive religious girls' school in Jerusalem.

Everyone must know that within  
them burns a candle  
and no one's candle is identical  
with the candle of another.  
It is our obligation to work hard to  
reveal the light of our candle,  
and make of it a great torch to  
enlighten the whole world.

Rabbi **Abraham Isaac HaCohen Kook**

## A SOUL ON THE RISE

The Seer of Lublin interpreted the priestly blessing, *Veyi-shmer-ekha*, as derived from the Hebrew root *shemarim*, yeast:

"May God create yeast in your soul, causing you to ferment and mature, to rise and elevate, to your highest possibilities, to reach your highest self."



**Karl Gabor**, Swedish *A Different Night Haggadah*

# Signposts for the Seder סִימְנֵי הַסֵּדֶר

All sing:

קִדְּשׁ  
וְרַחֵץ  
כַּרְפָּס  
יַחֵץ  
מַגִּיד  
רַחֲצָה  
מוֹצִיא  
מַצָּה  
מָרֹר  
בּוֹרֵךְ  
שְׁלַחן עֹרֵךְ  
אַפִּיקֹמָן  
בִּרְכַּת  
הַלֵּל  
גִּרְצָה

*Kadesh* First Cup and Kiddush  
*Urkhatz* First handwashing  
*Karpas* First dipping: vegetables and dips  
*Yakhatz* Breaking the middle matza  
*Maggid* Exodus Storytelling  
*Rakhtza* Second handwashing  
*Motzi* First blessing over the matza  
*Matza* Second blessing over the matza  
*Maror* Second dipping: maror in haroset  
*Korekh* Hillel sandwich  
*Shulkhan Orekh* Festive meal  
*Tzafun* Afikoman (dessert)  
*Barekh* Birkat HaMazon (blessing after eating) and Third Cup  
*Hallel* Psalms of Praise and Fourth Cup  
*Nirtza* Concluding poem, songs and "Next Year in Jerusalem"

We review briefly the order of the Seder by singing the medieval poem by Rabbeinu Shmuel of Falaise (France) that summarizes the Signposts of the Seder ("Kadesh Urkhatz").

Now is a good time to preview this year's Seder's "coming attractions," announce the menu, thank those who prepared, and introduce the participants. Invite people to add their own questions, comments and songs.



## FROM SACRIFICE TO SYMPOSIUM

The term "Seder Pesach" once meant the Order of the Passover Sacrifice in the Temple. But after the Temple's destruction in 70 CE, the Rabbis remodeled the Seder after the Greco-Roman symposium (*sym* – together, *posium* – drinking wine). At these Hellenistic banquets, guests would recline on divans while servants poured them wine, washed their hands and served appetizers and dips before the meal. The guests would then take part in a philosophical debate, after which the meal was served. An ancient how-to manual for conducting such a symposium says:

"A symposium is a communion of serious and mirthful entertainment, discourse and actions. It leads to deeper insight into those points that were debated at table, for the remembrance of those pleasures which arise from meat and drink is short-lived, but the subjects of philosophical queries and discussions remain always fresh after they have been imparted." (Plutarch, *Quaestiones*, Greece, 2<sup>nd</sup> C)

Thus the Rabbis prescribed such a banquet for Passover: much wine (four cups); appetizers (*karpas*); reclining on pillows; having our hands ceremonially washed by others; a royal feast; and most importantly – a philosophical discussion on the story of the Exodus and the issues of freedom versus slavery. The Rabbis wanted Pesach to be an experience of freedom and affluence – thus they chose to borrow the dining habits of their aristocratic contemporaries.

However, there is a fundamental difference: The Greco-Roman feast was for the rich only, it exploited slaves, it restricted asking questions and exchanging opinions to the ruling class, men only. But at the Pesach Seder all people, including the spouses and the youngest children, are invited to eat like royalty, to ask questions and to express opinions. Alongside the wine of the rich, there is the bread of poverty. The needy must be invited to share our meal. Stylish banquets may easily turn corrupt, but the Seder encourages us to savor our liberty, without exploiting or excluding others.

## 4 CUPS, 4 PROMISES AND 4 MOTHERS

The Talmud connects the Four Cups of wine drunk at the Seder to God's **Four Promises** to Israel: "Tell the children of Israel: I am Adonai! I will **take** them out... I will **rescue** them... I will **redeem** them... and I will **marry** them taking them as my people and I will be their God" (Exodus 6:6-7, Jerusalem Talmud Pesachim 10:1).

However, two 16th C. mystic rabbis identify the Four Cups with the **Four Matriarchs** of Israel. The Maharal of Prague (famous for the legend of Golem) and Rav Isaiah Horowitz of Tsfat explain:

- (1) The Cup of Kiddush stands for **Sarah** who was the mother of a community of converts, believers by choice.
- (2) The Cup of Maggid is for **Rebecca** who knew how to mother both Esav and Jacob, two opposed natures.
- (3) The Cup of the Blessing after Eating represents **Rachel** whose son Joseph provided the whole family of Jacob with bread in a time of great famine.
- (4) The Cup of Hallel (Praise) is for **Leah** the first woman to praise God (Genesis 29:35).



בשבת:

וַיְהִי עֶרֶב וַיְהִי בֹקֶר יוֹם הַשְּׁשִׁי. וַיְכַלּוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְהָאָרֶץ וְכָל צָבָאָם.  
וַיְכַל אֱלֹהִים בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה  
וַיִּשְׁבֹּת בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מְכָל מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה.  
וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶת יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי וַיְקַדֵּשׁ אוֹתוֹ  
כִּי בּוֹ שָׁבַת מְכָל מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים לַעֲשׂוֹת.

**בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פָּרִי הַגָּפֶן.**

**בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,**

אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל עַם וְרוֹמְמָנוּ מִכָּל לֶשׁוֹן וְקִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו.

וְתַתֵּן לָנוּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּאַהֲבָה (שְׁבֻתוֹת לְמִנוּחָה ו) מוֹעֲדִים לְשִׂמְחָה,

חַגִּים וְזִמְנִים לְשִׂשׁוֹן, אֶת יוֹם (הַשְּׁבֻת הַזֶּה וְאֵת יוֹם) **חַג הַמִּצּוֹת הַזֶּה,**

זִמְן חֲרוּתֵנוּ (בְּאַהֲבָה), מִקְרָא קֹדֶשׁ, זִכָּר לִיצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם.

כִּי בָנוּ בְּחִרְתָּ וְאוֹתָנוּ קִדְּשָׁתָּ מִכָּל הָעַמִּים, (וְשִׁבַּת) וּמוֹעֲדֵי קֹדֶשׁ

(בְּאַהֲבָה וּבְרַצוֹן). בְּשִׂמְחָה וּבְשִׂשׁוֹן הִנַּחְתָּנוּ.

**בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, מְקַדֵּשׁ (הַשְּׁבֻת ו) יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהַזִּמְנִים.**

הבדלה:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא מְאוּרֵי הָאֵשׁ.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם הַמְבָדִיל בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ לְחָל, בֵּין אוֹר לְחֹשֶׁךְ, בֵּין

יִשְׂרָאֵל לְעַמִּים, בֵּין יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי לְשִׁשָּׁת יְמֵי הַמַּעֲשֶׂה. בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ שְׁבֻת לְקֹדֶשׁ יוֹם

טוֹב הַבְּדִלָּה, וְאֵת יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מְשַׁשָּׁת יְמֵי הַמַּעֲשֶׂה קֹדֶשׁ. הַבְּדִלָּה וְקֹדֶשׁ אֶת

עַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּקֹדֶשְׁךָ, בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי הַמְבָדִיל בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ לְחָל.

**בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,**

**שֶׁחֲחִינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְן הַזֶּה.**

The Kiddush sanctifies not the wine, but the holiday. On Pesach we dedicate ourselves to – “Remember the Day of your Exodus from Egypt” (Exodus 13:3).

Don't pour for yourself is the tradition tonight. At our banquet of liberation, let others fill your glass and you offer to pour for them.

When Seder falls on Friday night, we add the texts in shaded font and in parentheses in the body of the Kiddush to commemorate the Creation of the World as well.

Stand to recite the Kiddush, then recline to the left to drink the wine.

When Passover night falls on Saturday night we add a special Havdalah.

**On Shabbat:**

There was evening and there was morning, and the sixth day was over.  
The sky and the earth and all their contents were completed.  
On the seventh day God completed all the work. God ceased on Shabbat  
from all activity. God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy,  
because on that day God ceased from all the work of creation. (Genesis 2:1-3)

**Blessed** are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe,  
who creates the **fruit of the vine**.

**Blessed** are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe,  
who has chosen us from among the nations and the languages,  
sanctifying us by your mitzvot.

Lovingly, You have given us [Shabbat for rest and] **festivals** for  
happiness, including today - [the Shabbat and] **the Holiday of**  
**the Matzot**, the season of our liberation, a sacred day to gather  
together and to commemorate the Exodus from Egypt.

For You have chosen us and sanctified us among the nations.

You have granted us [lovingly the Shabbat and] **joyfully** the holidays.

**Blessed** are You, Adonai, who sanctifies [the Shabbat and] **the people**  
of Israel and the **festivals**.

**Havdalah:** When Seder falls on Saturday night:

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who creates the lights of fire.  
Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who differentiates between the holy and the secular,  
between light and darkness, between Israel and the other nations, between the seventh day and the six days  
of creation, between the sanctity of Shabbat and the sanctity of Yom Tov (the festivals).  
You sanctified the people of Israel with your holiness.  
Blessed are You, Adonai, who **differentiates** between the holiness of Shabbat and the holiness of Yom Tov.

**Blessed** are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe,  
who has kept us alive and brought us to **this happy moment in our lives**.



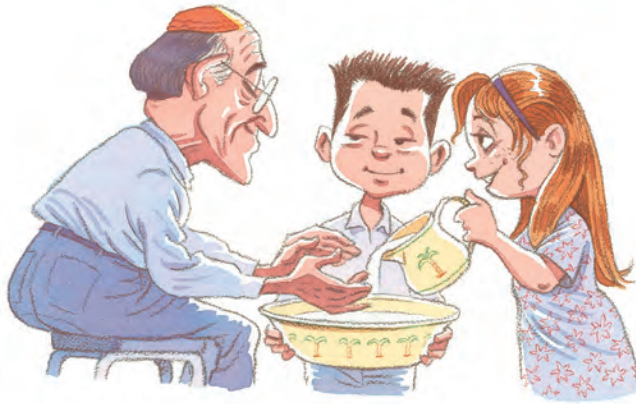
Ba-rukha ata Adonai /  
/ Elo-hei-nu me-lekha ha-olam /  
/ bo-rei pree ha-gafen.

Barukha ata Adonai / Eloheinu Melekh  
ha-olam / asher ba-khar-banu mi-kol am  
/ v'rom'manu mi-kol lashon / v' ki-d'shanu  
b'mitz-votav / va-ti-tein lanu Adonai  
Eloheinu b'ahava / (Shabbatot li-m'nu-kha  
oo) / moadim l'simkha, khagim uzmanim  
l'sason, et yom (HaShabbat hazeh v'et yom)  
/ Hag HaMatzot hazeh / z'man kheiru-teinu  
/ (b'ahava) mikra kodesh  
/ zekher li-tzi-at Mitzraim.  
Ki vanu vakhar-ta / v'otanu ki-dashta mi-kol  
ha-amim / (v'Shabbat) u-moadei kodshekha  
/ (b'ahava uv'ratzon) / b'simkha uv'sason  
hin-khal-tanu.  
Barukha ata Adonai / mika-desh (HaShabbat  
v') haz'ma-nim.

Ba-rukha ata Adonai / Elo-hei-nu me-lekha ha-olam /  
/ she-he-khee-ya-nu / v'kee-ma-nu / v'hee-gee-anu / laz-man ha-ze.

## Urkhatz וְרַחֵץ

### THE FIRST HANDWASHING



The ritual handwashing prepares us for eating finger foods, Karpas, the hors d'oeuvres of the Pesach banquet. Following the priestly tradition of washing hands before eating bread and even vegetables, the ritual handwashing is performed now in order to sanctify the eating of the Karpas. However, no blessing is said for this handwashing.

#### Ask for two volunteers:

one to carry a pitcher of water and to pour water over each guest's hands, and one to carry a basin and a towel. Having our hands washed by someone else is part of the Seder night experience of liberty and nobility.

## Karpas כָּרְפַס

### THE FIRST DIPPING: SPRING GREENS

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
בוֹרֵא פְּרִי הָאֲדָמָה.

**Blessed** are You, Adonai our God,  
Ruler of the Universe,  
who creates the fruit of the earth.

Ba-rukh ata Adonai / Elo-hei-nu me-lekh ha-olam / bo-rei pree ha-ada-ma.



**Distribute Karpas** (a vegetable, often spring greens), dip in salt water (or a tangy sauce), and recite the blessing.

**Originating** from the Greek "*karpos*," meaning "fruit of the soil," this tradition borrows from the Greco-Roman symposium which always began with washing and dipping "*karpos*" accompanied by discussion.

**While some** medieval rabbis strictly forbid eating more than an olive's size of vegetable for Karpas, you may wish to revive the ancient custom of eating extensive appetizers – each with its own dip.

**Continue dipping** and tasting various fresh vegetables and other appetizers during the Seder until sufficiently full to persevere during the extensive storytelling (Maggid), but not so full as to ruin one's appetite for the matza eaten later.



## A SEDER FOR DREAMERS WITH NOTHING TO DIP

In 1974, at the age of 26, I participated in my **first Seder** with a group of Jewish activists in the Soviet Union. Though we knew little about that night's rituals, identifying with the seminal story of freedom's triumph was not particularly difficult for us – especially with KGB agents waiting in a car downstairs.

[The mitzvah to publicly sacrifice the paschal lamb which was considered a god by Egyptians] challenged each Jew to decide whether to smear the blood of the false Egyptian god on his doorpost. By publicly

declaring our desire to emigrate to Israel, each of us refuseniks had chosen to challenge the Soviet god and stand up against tyranny. The same yearning for freedom that once drove our people felt as if it was literally pulsing through our veins.

Some years later, I led my own Seder for the first time. In truth, my memory of the text of the Haggadah was by then rather sketchy, and the Seder itself had none of the traditional trappings. There was [no celery to dip in salt water] and no unleavened bread to eat, no

bitter herbs to taste, no Haggadah to read and I was the only Jew present. In fact, I was the only person in the room. But my outside “guests” didn't seem to mind. I retold the story of Pesach through the small window of my punishment cell to two fellow inmates and they too could immediately identify with its **universal message**.

The reason was simple. This isolated group of dissidents in the Soviet Union had already experienced the power of freedom to transform an individual and understood its power to transform a society. They needed no reminders. **The idea that a nation of slaves could win its freedom and defeat the most powerful empire in the world was to us not an ancient legend, but an eternal truth...**

Such thinking was extremely rare outside the Gulag. Western policymakers had largely forgotten the power of freedom. To them, sentiments about the triumph of liberty may have been inspiring but they were hardly practical. Like a Pesach tale that was nice to read but which no “serious” person would believe, most paid homage to the values of a free society but dismissed as hopelessly naive the notion of an imploding evil empire...

**But history would show that the so-called “realists” were completely divorced from reality.** Their failure to appreciate the awesome power of freedom blinded them to the inevitable collapse of the Soviet superpower. They were the ones exposed as hopelessly out of touch, and **the so-called dreamers proved astute pragmatists.**

**Natan Sharansky**, Soviet refusenik, prisoner of Siberia, and former Israeli Cabinet Minister



## ENTERING THE BROKEN WORLD

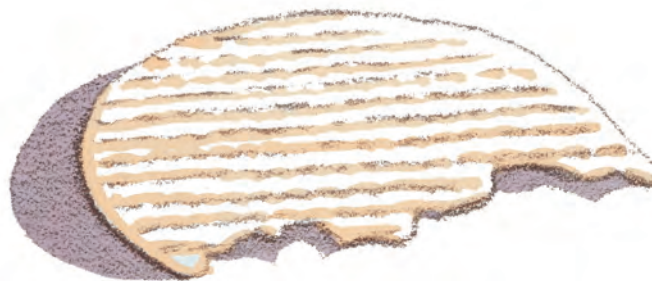
The Pesach story begins in a broken world, amidst slavery and oppression. The sound of the breaking of the matza sends us into that fractured existence, only to become whole again when we find the broken half, the afikoman, at the end of the Seder. This brokenness is not just a physical or political situation.

In Hebrew, Egypt is called *Mitzrayim*, reminding us of the word *tzar*, narrow. Thus, in Hassidic thought, *Mitzrayim* symbolizes the inner straits that trap our souls. Yet even here we can find a unique value, as the Hassidic saying teaches us: "There is nothing more whole – than a broken heart."

Or as Leonard Cohen wrote:

"There's a crack in everything /  
That's where the light comes in."

Some families pass out a whole matza to every Seder participant, inviting them to take a moment to ponder this entrance into a broken world, before they each break the matza themselves.



**Break the middle matza**, place the larger portion, the afikoman, in a napkin to be hidden.

The afikoman game begins now! For instructions and variations of the game, see page 105.

Of the three **matzas**, the top matza is for the usual blessing over bread (*ha-motzi lekhem*).

**The bottom matza** is for the Hillel sandwich (*korekh*) made with matza, maror, and haroset.

**The middle matza** has a dual purpose: The smaller portion will be eaten with the top matza when we begin the meal. The bigger portion will become the afikoman, to be eaten as the last taste of the Seder.

## WHAT IF TOMORROW THERE IS NO BREAD?

Every year, on Seder night, when I break the matza in half and hide the afikoman, I am overcome with emotion as I recall my first day in Israel.

I arrived in Kibbutz Kedma together with other children, all of us new immigrants who had arrived in Israel without our parents after World War II. We were hungry, penniless and exhausted from our wandering and constant hunger.

On the table in the dining room, there were all kinds of delicious foods. There were plenty of vegetables, cheeses and bread, and we could take as much as we wanted. I couldn't believe my eyes. I couldn't believe that at the next meal, we would also have as much bread to eat as we wanted.

There were many days in Europe when I could think of nothing else except bread – of which there was never enough. There were many nights when I went to bed hungry. I would remain awake for hours, with my stomach growling from hunger, dreaming of bread. But now in Israel there was so much food.

What did I do in those first days in the kibbutz, when we sat down at the table, loaded down with so many good foods? I was filled with fear that maybe there wouldn't be any bread the next day. So I would break each slice of bread I received in half; I would eat half, and the other half I would hide in my pocket. I could not forget the days in which I was never sure if there would be bread tomorrow.

Retold by **Bina Talitman**, *Reliving Exodus*

## HA(L)VES AND HAVE NOTS

*Locate yourself in the Statistics on the Distribution of Wealth (2000):*

**If we could** reduce the world's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all existing human ratios remaining the same, the demographics would look something like this:

80 live in substandard housing /  
24 don't have any electricity /  
50 malnourished and 1 dying of starvation and 1 with HIV / 1 with a college education and 7 with Internet access / 5 control 32% of the entire world's wealth, all are US citizens /

**If you have** never experienced war, imprisonment, torture or famine  
You are probably happier than 500 million people in this world.

**If you are** able to go to church, mosque or synagogue without fear of harassment – you are happier than 3 billion people in this world.

**If there is** food in your refrigerator, if you have shoes, a bed and a roof above your head, you are better off than 75% of people in this world.

**If you read** this text, you do not belong to those 2 billion people who cannot read.

**This is** your World! And you are able to make changes! Hasten to do good works!

## BEING POOR

**Being Poor is ...**

having your heat shut off in the winter because your parents can't pay the bill

**Being Poor is ...**

having two blankets for seven people in the family

**Being Poor is ...**

wishing you could eat in a restaurant

**Being Poor is ...**

wearing shoes that someone else threw out

**Being Poor is ...**

lying when someone asks you what your father does for a living

**Being Poor is ...**

pretending that you don't care that you got no gift for your birthday

**Being Poor is ...**

waiting all day in a clinic to see a doctor you don't know

**Being Poor is ...**

a welfare worker asking your mother too many questions and making her cry

**Being Poor is ...**

not being afraid of the dentist because you've never seen one

**Being Poor is ...**

always feeling a little mad because you never have what you need

Based on **Janet Rosenberg**, *Being Poor is...*

*Go around the table, adding your own continuation to the sentence "BEING POOR IS..."*

# Maggid מגיד

## TELLING THE STORY

בְּהֵילּוֹ יֵצְאוּנוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם.

**In haste we left Egypt!**

(based on Deuteronomy 16:3)

Many families act out the Exodus itself, dressing their children, or a dramatically inclined adult, in travelers clothing, with Matza-rations on their shoulder or in a backpack. The "travelers" then go outside, knock at the door, enter and tell their story.

Here is a semi-traditional script that may be used:

**Children:** Knock, knock!  
**Adults:** Where are you coming from?  
**Children:** From the land of Egypt, where we were slaves.  
**Adults:** Where are you going now?  
**Children:** To Jerusalem.  
**Adults:** What is on your shoulder?  
**Children:** That is the dough we brought from Egypt when we rushed out. We had no time to let it rise into bread.  
**Adults:** Tell us about the harsh labor you did in Egypt!  
**Children:** Yes we will, and about the plagues by which God rescued us...

The heart of the Seder is *Maggid* from the term *Haggadah* meaning to tell a story. We retell the Exodus in words but also in drama.

Some families wrap a matza in a napkin, place it on their shoulders, and recite: "The people took their dough before it was leavened, the kneading bowls wrapped in their cloaks upon their shoulders" (Exodus 12:34).

Consider the importance of family memories and storytelling.



Prague Haggadah, 1526

## IN HASTE WE LEFT COMMUNIST RUSSIA

The story of my liberation is the story of my teeth and the ballet "Swan Lake."

In August 1991 I prepared to make aliyah from the Soviet Union: we sold the apartment, I left my job, I was issued a visa for Israel, and I had bought tickets for November. And then, suddenly... I was about to leave the house one morning for a final root canal appointment at the dentist. But when I turned on the television and saw that all the channels were broadcasting the same performance of "Swan Lake," I realized right away that dramatic political events must be happening. The Soviet Union always broadcast "Swan Lake" to cover up when important things were happening. It quickly became clear that a coup was taking place, and that the Communist regime was about to end.

But I was worried – all the borders would probably be closed, and I was afraid I'd be stuck in the Soviet Union. I went to the Jewish Agency representatives and they told me that they had chartered a second plane to Israel that very day! I called home and said, "We're leaving for the airport in two hours, start packing!" We managed to take documents and clothing, but I was forced to leave most of my books behind.

The root canal I should have finished that day left me with a gaping hole in my tooth that caused me great pain, but there wasn't time... I knew what I didn't finish in the crumbling Soviet Union, I would take care of in my own home, in the State of Israel.

Yigal Asnis, Alei Tzameret Haggadah



## A TURTLE'S MEMORY

"Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations." (Deuteronomy 32:7)  
Every year, hundreds of giant green sea turtles swim hundreds of miles from their natural habitat on the Brazilian coast to tiny Ascension Island in the Atlantic Ocean in order to mate.

For years, researcher and pioneer conservation biologist Archie Carr tried to understand how the turtles found their way to the island from so great a distance, when even airplanes had trouble locating it. Carr's conclusions were fascinating: he claimed that the turtles navigate using **genetic memory**. Millions of years ago, when a strip of land bisected the Atlantic, the journey from Brazil to the closest stretch of the eastern shore was only a short swim.

That land was submerged millions of years ago. But the turtles, driven by their genetic memory, still search and find the last remaining remnant of the world that disappeared into the ocean - Ascension Island. **Every year they return to perpetuate the species and the memory.**



## MARGE PIERCY

## MAGGID

The courage to let go of the door, the handle.  
The courage to shed the familiar walls whose very  
stains and leaks are comfortable as the little moles  
of the upper arm; stains that recall a feast,  
a child's naughtiness, a loud battering storm  
that slapped the roof hard, pouring through.

The courage to abandon the graves dug into the hill,  
the small bones of children and the brittle bones  
of the old whose marrow hunger had stolen;  
the courage to desert the tree planted and only  
begun to bear; the riverside where promises were  
shaped; the street where their empty pots were broken.

The courage to leave the place whose language you learned  
as early as your own, whose customs however dan-  
gerous or demeaning, bind you like a halter  
you have learned to pull inside, to move your load;  
the land fertile with the blood spilled on it;  
the roads mapped and annotated for survival.

The courage to walk out of the pain that is known  
into the pain that cannot be imagined,  
mapless, walking into the wilderness, going

barefoot with a canteen into the desert;  
stuffed in the stinking hold of a rotting ship  
sailing off the map into dragons' mouths,

Cathay, India, Siberia, goldenh medina,  
leaving bodies by the way like abandoned treasure.  
So they walked out of Egypt. So they bribed their way  
out of Russia under loads of straw; so they steamed  
out of the bloody smoking charnelhouse of Europe  
on overloaded freighters forbidden all ports -

out of pain into death or freedom or a different  
painful dignity, into squalor and politics.  
We Jews are all born of wanderers, with shoes  
under our pillows and a memory of blood that is ours  
raining down. We honor only those Jews who changed  
tonight, those who chose the desert over bondage,

who walked into the strange and became strangers  
and gave birth to children who could look down  
on them standing on their shoulders for having  
been slaves. We honor those who let go of every-  
thing but freedom, who ran, who revolted, who fought,  
who became other by saving themselves.

## REFUGEES GIVE REFUGE: A RHODE ISLAND MITZVAH

When we retell the story of our flight from Egypt, we come to appreciate all those who have been refugees and fugitives. The oldest standing synagogue in North America was built in 1763 in Newport, Rhode Island, by Spanish-Portuguese immigrants, descendants of persecuted Marrano Jews. They had come to America so they could, for the first time in generations, openly practice their Judaism in their new home. In the center of the synagogue, under the Bima, they built a special hiding place, as a lesson learned from their many years of persecution and their undercover Jewish practice. For a 100 years the congregants retold their story and passed on [the secret of the underground shelter](#).

Thankfully, Jews have never had to use this hideout. But there were other people who came to the synagogue in search of a hiding place

on their way to freedom from oppression: In the years preceding the Civil War and the emancipation of slaves in the United States (1863), many slaves were smuggled from the South to the North, on their way to safety in Canada. The Jewish community put their synagogue and its underground hiding place at the disposal of the refugee slaves, fugitives from injustice, on their way to freedom. In this way they gave a renewed interpretation to the *mitzvah*:

*"If a slave has taken refuge with you from his persecutors, do not hand the slave over to the master. Let the fugitive slave live among you wherever he likes and in whatever town he chooses. Do not oppress the slave."* (Deuteronomy 23:15-16)

## NO FUTURE WITHOUT A PAST

*"A self-made man is as likely as a self-laid egg."*  
Mark Twain

The parent is a story-teller who narrates a world the children never knew. Parents transmit a knowledge of reality outside the child's experience. The father and mother must provide frames of reference rooted in the memories and the history of the covenantal community of Israel.

A primary source for evil according to Jewish tradition is the loss of memory. Those who do not build upon their memory and who are frightened and ashamed of their past may manifest hostility towards others because their sense of worth and dignity is derived only by

manipulation and control of others. The poor people who prevail through difficult struggles to attain wealth, and then block out the memory of their past, become harsh taskmasters. "Self-made men" can be sensitive to others only when they are unashamed to talk about their former destitution. If they cannot bear the thought of their former poverty, they will act with cruelty to those who remind them of their former degradation.

In recalling Egypt, the Jews are exhorted to remember that they were once slaves. Rather than deny it, they are to incorporate that slavery into their consciousness. Thus, "love the stranger because you too were outcasts in

Egypt." Have regard for the poor because you too were once servants; care for the oppressed because you too were persecuted. **Be cautious with power because you have suffered the perversions of another's might.**

The role of parents is to develop in the identity of the child a sense of history, a temporal consciousness, an empathy for a whole world of experience that was not theirs. Whether these memories are relevant and meaningful, and how the child will live by them, are different issues. The mother's and father's task is not to decide how the children will use their memories. Their obligation is to see to it that the child does not enter into the future without a past.

Rabbi **David Hartman**, Jerusalem philosopher

## YOU CANNOT NAVIGATE WITHOUT A POINT OF ORIGIN

I don't think you can be fully a member of the Jewish people and, creatively, a member of humanity, without knowing who you yourself are. **The only way you achieve a deep sense of self is to know your own beginnings.** That's why Torah is important to the Jews. Torah is a Jew's sense of self, the beginning of it, the foundation stones of it. Then you can pick and choose, quarrel with it, discard this, accept that; but at least know where the shoreline is before you begin to row away from it! If you are rowing and there is no shoreline at all, then you're navigating blind, and to navigate blind is to live in dread.

Rabbi **Chaim Potok**, American novelist and scholar



Zion Ozeri, Rehovot, 1981.

# Ha Lakhma הָא לַחְמָא

## THE STORY OF THE MATZA

**הָא לַחְמָא עֲנֵיא**

**דִּי אָכְלוּ אַבְהֵתָנָא**

**בְּאַרְעָא דְּמִצְרַיִם.**

**This** is the bread  
of poverty and persecution  
that our ancestors ate  
in the land of Egypt.

**כָּל דְּכָפִין יִיתִי וְיֵכֵל,**

**כָּל דְּצָרִיד יִיתִי וְיִפְסַח.**

**Let all** who are hungry,  
come and eat.  
**Let all** who are in need,  
come and share the Pesach meal.

**הַשְּׁתָּא הָכָא,**

**לְשָׁנָה הַבָּאָה**

**בְּאַרְעָא דִּישְׂרָאֵל.**

**הַשְּׁתָּא עַבְדֵּי,**

**לְשָׁנָה הַבָּאָה בְּנֵי חוֹרִין.**

**This year** we are still here –  
Next year  
in the land of Israel.

This year we are still slaves –  
Next year **free people**.

Ha la-kh-ma an-ya / Dee-akha-lu av-ha-ta-na / b'ar-ah d'meetz-ra-yeem /  
Kol deekh-feen / yei-tei v' yei-khol / Kol dee-tzreekh, yei-tei v' yee-fsakh /  
Ha-sha-ta ha-kha / I'sha-na ha-ba-ah / be-ar-ah d'Yis-rael /  
Ha-sha-ta av-dei / I'sha-na ha-ba-ah / **b'nei kho-reen.**

Ha Lakhma Anya is essentially the "Story of the Matza." Told in Aramaic, once the everyday language of Talmudic Jews, this story has three parts: **a memory, an action and a hope.** First we point out the Matza, the bread of poverty we ate in Egypt. Then, remembering our poverty in the past, we invite all needy persons to join our table tonight. Finally, we express the hope that while this year human beings are still enslaved in many ways, often lacking a home for themselves, next year we will all be free people, in our own personal and national home.

**Remove the cloth covering the Matzot** so that they are in plain view during the telling of the story, the Maggid.

**Raise** the three Matzot and point out the broken middle Matza (remaining after the Afikoman has been hidden).

**Open** the door, symbolizing our hospitality towards those in need.





**The Wall of Indifference** by Noam Nadav

"Break your bread with the hungry ... Do not ignore your own flesh and blood" (Isaiah 58:7).

## NEEDY BUT NOT POOR

Although they may initially seem redundant, the **two invitations** we issue in *HaLakhma Anya* – "Let all who are hungry, *kol dikhfin*, enter and eat" and "Let all who are in need, *kol ditzrikh*, come and celebrate the Passover" – in reality are not. *Kol ditzrikh* means those who are in need – but not in need of bread. Whoever is in need of bread, *dikhfin*, is hungry. *Kol ditzrikh* refers to one who is alone, who has a lot of Matza and wine but no home or family. There are indeed many ways to be included among the *kol ditzrikh*. The invitation to "all who are in need" is not *yeitei ve-yekhol*, "to eat with us;" rather, it is to spend the Pesach with us, *yeitei ve-yifsakh*, "to celebrate with us." It is an invitation

addressed to unfortunate and lonely people. They might be millionaires; it is completely irrelevant. Whoever is in need should come and celebrate.

*Ha Lakhma Anya* is the renewal of a pledge of solidarity among the Jewish people – solidarity between individual and individual, and between the individual and the Jewish community as a whole. It is a proclamation that we are one people, and that we are ready to help one other. **Pesach night is a time of sharing**; if the sense of solidarity, responsibility, unity, and readiness to share and to participate are not manifested and demonstrated, the whole Seder becomes meaningless.

Rabbi **Joseph B. Soloveitchik**, leading twentieth-century Talmudist and philosopher, was Rosh Yeshiva at Yeshiva University's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary in New York.

## SERVICE WITH A SMILE

If one gives to another all the good gifts of the world, but shows a sour face, in the eyes of the Torah, it is as if nothing had been given. However if one welcomes a person in need cheerfully and kindly, then the Torah regards it as if all the good gifts in the world had been given.

Avot D'Rabbi Natan, elaboration on Pirkei Avot, Israel, 5th Century

## OPENING DOORS: TONIGHT AND THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

David of Levov, a unique and humble Hassidic master, once taught: "If people come to you for assistance and you tell them, '**God will surely help you**,' then you are acting disloyally to God. For you should understand that God has sent **you** to help the needy, not to refer the poor back to God."

Passover has always been a time in which Jews redoubled their efforts to help the needy in their communities: Inviting itinerant guests to the Seder, giving out "*Kimkha DePiskha*" – Pesach flour, or "*Ma'ot Khitim*" – money for buying wheat, organizing Seders in hospitals, old age homes or remote locations. All assistance to the needy – be it material, psychological or spiritual – are all ways in which we can open doors to others.

As we open the door, symbolically inviting others to partake in our meal, invite the participants to answer the question:

*What acts of hospitality and what volunteer work have you witnessed or participated in this year? Is there a Tzedaka project you would like to do this coming year?*



## THE JEWISH MAYFLOWER

Three hundred years ago a ship called the Mayflower set sail to the New World. This was a great event in the history of England. Yet I wonder if there is one Englishman who knows at what time the ship set sail? Do the English know how many people embarked on this voyage? What quality of bread did they eat?

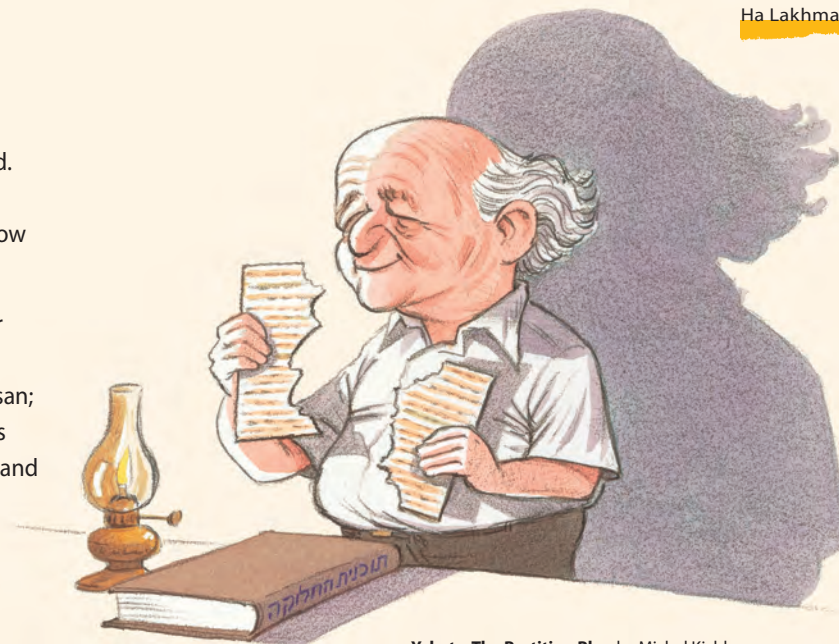
Yet more than three thousand three hundred years ago, before the Mayflower set sail, the Jews left Egypt. Every Jew in the world, even in America or Soviet Russia knows on exactly what date they left - the fifteenth of the month of Nisan; everyone knows what kind of bread the Jews ate - Matza. Even today the Jews worldwide eat Matza on the 15th of Nisan. They retell the story of the Exodus and all the troubles Jews have endured since being exiled, saying:

"This year, slaves. Next year, free!

This year here. Next year in Jerusalem, in Zion, in Eretz Yisrael!"

That is the nature of the Jews.

**David Ben-Gurion**, first prime minister of the State of Israel, from a speech in 1947 before the U.N. Commission on the Partition of Palestine.



**Yahatz: The Partition Plan** by Michel Kichka

## SYNAGOGUE BECOMES FIVE STAR HOTEL

In Toronto's notoriously cold winters, the city's many homeless people must search for an open door, a shelter that will take them in from the cold. In 1995, despite objections from neighbors and members, the city's Holy Blossom Temple opened its doors as a homeless shelter. Some threatened to cancel their membership or refused to bring their children to the Hebrew school if those people were allowed in the Temple. Now however that attitude has changed completely. Over 500 people, aged 6 to 95, sign up annually to volunteer.

From early November until a week before Pesach, the homeless come for Thursday dinner and Friday breakfast. School children conduct clothing drives. Bnei Mitzvah families decorate their table center pieces with baskets of socks

and toiletries later given to the needy. Security guards maintain order as homeless line up.

A strict policy prevents admission of trouble makers and thieves who often plague the homeless themselves in other shelters and on the street. Alcohol, drugs and weapons may not be brought into the building.

**The homeless are always called and treated as guests of the Temple.** Most come to spend the evening and not just for a delicious meal. They enjoy the warm welcome and the respect shown as well as the companionship. Socializing teams provide books and magazines and join the guests in card or board games. Every other week there is an art show.

On an extremely cold night, a very disheveled street person arrived at the program. Speaking with great difficulty, hardly coherent, he asked for food. After he had eaten, he shuffled over to the piano. While the volunteers were still deciding how, without causing offense, they could ask him not to touch the piano, he sat down and played most beautifully works by Bach and Vivaldi. The whole room became hushed. After playing non-stop for about 30 minutes the man got up and, without saying a word, went back out into the cold night.

Guests of "Out of the Cold" show their appreciation in many small ways. But perhaps what gives the volunteers the biggest pleasure is to hear a guest say: "I am not coming back here anymore. I have got myself a good job."

**Walter Seaton**, chairperson of "Out of the Cold," Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto

PRIMO LEVI

## PASSOVER

Tell me: how is this night different  
From all other nights?  
How, tell me, is this Passover  
Different from other Passovers?

Light the lamp, open the door wide  
So the pilgrim can come in, Gentile or Jew;  
Under the rags perhaps the prophet is concealed.  
Let him enter and sit down with us;  
Let him listen, drink, sing and celebrate Passover;  
Let him consume the bread of affliction,  
The Pascal Lamb, sweet mortar and bitter herbs.

This is the night of differences  
In which you lean your elbow on the table,  
Since the forbidden becomes prescribed,  
Evil is translated into good.

We spent the night recounting  
Far-off events full of wonder,  
And because of all the wine  
The mountains will skip like rams.

Tonight they exchange questions:  
The wise, the godless, the simple-minded and the child.  
And time reverses its course,  
Today flowing back into yesterday,  
Like a river enclosed at its mouth.  
Each of us has been a slave in Egypt,  
Soaked straw and clay with sweat,  
And crossed the sea dry-footed.

You too, stranger.  
This year in fear and shame,  
Next year in virtue and justice.

Primo Levi, Auschwitz survivor and novelist, Italy

"We have moved into an era where we are called upon to raise certain basic questions about the whole society. We are still called upon to give aid to the beggar who finds himself in misery and agony on life's highway. But one day, we must ask the question of whether an edifice which produces beggars must not be restructured and refurbished."

Martin Luther King, Jr., 1966



An End to Famine

Israeli stamp by A. Calderon, 1963

## FOUR CUPS OF MILK: A FOLKTALE

Once, before Pesach, a man entered the home of Rabbi Yossi Ber, and asked him a question: "Tell me Rabbi, can I fulfill the commandment of the four cups with milk instead of wine?"

The rabbi asked him, "Are you - God forbid - ill?"

The man answered him, "No, thank God, I am quite healthy, but I cannot afford to buy wine this year."

Rabbi Yossi turned to his wife, and said, "Give this man twenty-five rubles."

The man said, "Honored Rabbi, I came to you to ask a question, not to beg for Tzedaka!"

The rabbi calmed him, saying, "This money is given to you as a loan, until God helps you."

The man took the money, thanked the rabbi and praised him.

After the man left, the rabbi's wife asked him: "Why did you tell me to give him twenty-five rubles? After all, wine costs only two or three rubles."

The rabbi answered, "I understood from the man's question that he does not have enough to prepare anything for the holiday. If he had had enough money for fish and meat, he would not have asked if it is permissible to use milk instead of wine. Milk cannot be drunk at the same meal with meat. That is why I gave him money to buy everything he needs for the holiday."

# מה נשתנה Ma Nishtana

## THE FOUR QUESTIONS

### מה נשתנה הלילה הזה מכל הלילות?

**שֶׁבֶּכַל** הַלֵּילֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין חֶמֶץ וּמָצָה,  
הַלֵּילָה הַזֶּה - כָּלוּ מָצָה.

**שֶׁבֶּכַל** הַלֵּילֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין שְׂאֹר יֵרְקוֹת,  
הַלֵּילָה הַזֶּה - מָרֹר.

**שֶׁבֶּכַל** הַלֵּילֹת אֵין אָנוּ מְטְבִילִין אֶפְלוּ פַּעַם אַחַת,  
הַלֵּילָה הַזֶּה - שְׁתֵּי פְעָמִים.

**שֶׁבֶּכַל** הַלֵּילֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין בֵּין יוֹשְׁבִין וּבֵין מְסַבִּין,  
הַלֵּילָה הַזֶּה - כָּלָנוּ מְסַבִּין.

Why is this night different  
from all other nights?

On all other nights, we eat  
either leavened bread or Matza, but  
on this night we eat only Matza.

On all other nights, we eat other  
kinds of vegetables, but on this  
night we eat Maror (bitter herbs).

On all other nights, we need not dip  
our vegetables even once, but on  
this night we dip twice.

On all other nights, we eat  
either sitting upright or reclining,  
but on this night we all recline.

Pour the second  
cup of wine for  
everyone and  
let the younger  
children sing "Ma  
Nishtana."

Before  
continuing  
with the story,  
we make sure  
the children  
around the table  
are interested  
and involved.  
For example,  
some families  
serve nuts and  
candies to arouse  
the children's  
curiosity and  
to reward their  
participation.

Ma nish-ta-na ha-lai-la ha-zeh / mee-kol ha-lei-lot?

Sheh-b'khol ha-lei-lot / anu okh-leen / kha-metz u-matza / Ha-lai-la ha-zeh / ku-lo matza.

Sheh-b'khol ha-lei-lot / anu okh-leen sh'ar y'ra-kot / Ha-lai-la ha-zeh / maror.

Sheh-b'khol ha-lei-lot / ein anu mat-bee-leen / afee-lu pa-am akhat / Ha-lai-la ha-zeh / shtei-p'ameem.

Sheh-b'khol ha-lei-lot / anu okh-leen / bein yo-shveen u-vein m'su-been / Ha-lai-la ha-zeh / ku-la-nu m'su-been.

## THE STUPIDITY OF HAVING AN ANSWER

A novel does not assert anything; a novel searches and poses questions. I invent stories, confront one with another, and by this means I ask questions. The stupidity of people comes from having an answer for everything. The wisdom of the novel comes from having a question for everything...

The novelist teaches the reader to comprehend the world as a question. There is wisdom and tolerance in that attitude. In a world built on sacrosanct certainties, the novel is dead. **The totalitarian world is a world of answers rather than questions.** There, the novel has no place. In any case, it seems to me that all over the world people nowadays prefer to judge rather than to understand, to answer rather than ask, so that the voice of the novel can hardly be heard over the noisy foolishness of human certainties.

**Milan Kundera**, novelist and anti-Communist activist, Czech Rep.



## BEWARE! I WILL BE FORCED TO THROW CANDIES AT YOU

At the beginning of Seder night, Jerusalem's Professor Reuven Feuerstein, world renowned special needs educator, always warns the children around the table:

"Tonight is Seder night. This is an important occasion and we have much to read, so we cannot be bothered with all sorts of questions. If you ask any questions, I will be forced to punish you: I will throw lots and lots of candies at you. Understood?"

Unsurprisingly, the children spend the rest of the night asking many questions, stopping only to collect the candies thrown at them by the old professor...

This is but one of the many strategies for eliciting questions on Seder night: Prize-bearing quizzes and riddles, or just giving a candy to anyone who asks a question - regardless of the answer! Candies and nuts (like American Cracker Jacks) were used in Talmudic times as an advertising gambit by storekeepers to attract children to enter their stores (Mishna, Baba Metzia 4:12). In the Talmud, these tasty "come-ons" or prizes are mandated to keep the

kids awake and involved in the Seder (Talmud Pesachim 109a). As Maimonides explains in his 12<sup>th</sup> century guidelines for Seder night:

"One should make changes on this night, so that one's children will notice it and ask, "What makes this night different from other nights?" And what changes may be made? Distributing snacks or nuts to the children [in short, serving dessert at the beginning of the meal], clearing the table before anyone has eaten, or by snatching the Matza away from the others, and other games like that." (Maimonides, Laws of Hametz and Matza, Chapter 7:3)

*What tricks and games can you use this year for eliciting questions and participation?*



There is frequently more to be learned from the unexpected questions of a child than the discourses of men.

*John Locke, Something Concerning Education*

## QUESTIONS ARE A PARADOX

The key to Jewish exegesis is to assume that nothing is obvious. Questions are the great cultural paradox. They both destabilize and secure social norms. **Nikita Khrushchev**, onetime leader of the Soviet Union, once explained why he hated Jews. He said, "They always ask why!" Questions tend to democratize. Ease with questions conveys a fundamental trust in the goodwill and the good sense of others. **Autocrats hate questions**. We train children at the Passover Seder to ask why, because tyrants are undone and liberty is won with a good question. It is for this reason that God loves it when we ask why.

Rabbi **Steven Greenberg**, *Wrestling with God and Men*

Consequently we celebrate challenging the Torah to make sense, and above all to be a defensible expression of Divine goodness... When we ask good questions the Torah is given anew on Sinai at that very moment.



Tribute to **Dr. Seuss**

## NO QUESTIONS, NO CLASS

A story is told of Rabbi Joseph Dov Soloveitchik, the legendary teacher at Yeshiva University - a great philosopher and a great Talmudist - who demanded that his students prepare rigorously for each class. Often he began his class by asking if any of the hundreds of students crowding his lecture hall had any questions on the assigned text. Many of the students had reviewed the material and yet they feared to ask, lest the questions reveal their ignorance to their teacher. Once, when not one of the hundreds of students dared ask a question, Rav Soloveitchik demonstratively slammed his Talmud closed and walked out saying: "No questions? No class." Learning begins with questions. **Learning requires the courage to expose your ignorance, so the teacher or parent can address the real issues.**

## ELIEZER SEGAL

### UNCLE ELI'S HAGGADAH

Why is it only, on Passover night  
we never know how, to do anything right?  
We don't eat our meals, in the regular ways,  
the ways that we do, on all other days.

'Cause on all other nights we may eat  
all kinds of wonderful good bready treats,  
like big purple pizza that tastes like a pickle,  
crumbly crackers and pink pumpernickel,  
sassafras sandwich and tiger on rye,  
fifty felafels in pita, fresh-fried,  
and toasted whole-wheat bread with liver and ducks,  
and crumpets and dumplings, and bagels and lox,  
**Yes - on all other nights we eat all kinds of bread,**  
**but tonight of all nights we munch matzah instead.**

And on all other nights we devour  
vegetables, green things, and bushes and flowers,  
lettuce that's leafy and candy-striped spinach,  
fresh silly celery (have more when you're finished!)  
daisies and roses and inside-out grass  
and artichoke hearts that are simply first class!  
Sixty asparagus tips served in glasses  
with anchovy sauce and some sticky molasses -  
**But on Passover night you would never consider**  
**eating an herb that wasn't all bitter.**

And on all other nights you would probably flip  
if anyone asked you how often you dip.  
On some days I only dip one Bup-Bup egg  
in a teaspoon of vinegar mixed with nutmeg,  
but sometimes we take more than ten thousand tails  
of the Yakkity-birds that are hunted in Wales,  
and dip them in vats full of Mumbegum juice.  
Then we feed them to Harold, our six-legged moose.  
Or we don't dip at all! We don't ask your advice.  
**So why on this night do we have to dip twice?**

And on all other nights we can sit as we please,  
on our heads, on our elbows, our backs or our knees,  
or hang by our toes from the tail of a Glump,  
or on top of a camel with one or two humps,  
with our foot on the table, our nose on the floor,  
with one ear in the window and one out the door,  
doing somersaults over the greasy k'nishes  
or dancing a jig without breaking the dishes.  
**Yes - on all other nights you sit nicely when dining -**  
**So why on this night must it all be reclining?**



ये रात दूसरी रातों से आलग क्यों है?

ทำไมคืนนี้ไม่เหมือนคืนอื่นๆ

ਇਹ ਰਾਤ ਦੂਜੀ ਰਾਤਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਅਲਗ ਕਿਉਂ ਹੈ?

Διότι η νύχτα η νύχτα διαφέρει από άλλες νύχτες

¿Por que es diferente esta noche de las demas noches?

Чем отличается эта ночь от всех других ночей?

Bu gece neden bütün diğer gecelerden farklıdır?

Wat is het verschil tussen deze avond en alle andere avonden?

بماذا تختلف هذه الليلة عن كل الليالي الأخرى؟

為什麼今晚與其他的夜晚不同？

どうして 今夜は他の夜と異なるのでしょうか？

מה שיש הבדל בין לילה זה לבין כל הלילות האחרים?

## TORAH SPEAKS THE LANGUAGE OF PEOPLE

Since *Ma Nishtana* was created to reflect children's actual questions about Seder night, it has been customary to encourage children and adults who do not know Hebrew to ask their questions in their native tongue - in Yiddish, Arabic, Ladino and a hundred other languages. This reflects the saying of the midrash that God spoke the Torah in 70 languages, so that each person could understand.

In that spirit, Murray Spiegel and Rickey Stein have collected *300 Ways to Ask the Four Questions*, the *Ma Nishtana* in different languages.

Above are a few samples.

Can you guess where they are from?

Can anyone around the table translate *Ma Nishtana* into another language?

## YEHUDA AMICHAÏ

Seder night reflections: "What is the difference?" we asked, "What makes this night different from all other nights?"

And most of us grew up and don't ask any more, while others

Continue to ask their whole lives just like they ask

"How are you?" or, "What time is it?" while continuing to walk on

Without hearing the answer. "What's the difference?" Every night

Like an alarm clock whose tick-tock calms and tranquilizes.

"What's the difference?" Everything changes. **Change is God.**

Seder night thoughts: "The Torah speaks of four sons

One who is wise, one who is wicked, one who is simple, and one

Who does not know how to ask. But it does not speak

About one who is good, nor about one who loves.

And this is a question that has no answer and if it did have an answer

I wouldn't want to know it. I, who have passed through all of the sons

In various combinations have lived my life, the moon has shone

Upon me without apparent cause and the sun has run its course and Passovers

Have passed without an answer. "What's the difference? What has changed?"

**Change is God**, and Death is his prophet.

## HOW AM I DIFFERENT TONIGHT ?

After asking how this night is different from all other nights, you might want to take this opportunity to go around the table and have people share: How am I different tonight and this year from previous years? What has changed this year?

This can be a wonderful way to mark the changes and differences in and around us, as well as a way to "catch up" with the many guests at the Seder table.

# We Were Slaves עֲבָדִים הָיִינוּ

RETELLING OUR STORY

עֲבָדִים הָיִינוּ לַפַּרְעֹה בְּמִצְרַיִם,  
וַיֹּצִיאֵנוּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִשָּׁם  
בְּיָד חֲזָקָה וּבְזְרוֹעַ נְטוּיָה.

When, in time to come, your children ask you:

"What is the meaning of the decrees, laws, and rules that  
Adonai our God has enjoined upon you?"

You shall say to your children:

**We were slaves** to Pharaoh in Egypt

and Adonai freed us from Egypt

with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.

Adonai produced before our eyes great and awful signs  
and wonders in Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his  
household. God freed us from there, so that God could  
take us and give us the land that had been promised on  
oath to our ancestors" (Deuteronomy 6:20-23).

**The storytelling**  
begins by re-entering  
the universe of  
slavery, as we ask  
ourselves: What was  
slavery like then?  
What is it like today?

**Avadim Hayeenu** is  
taken from Moshe's  
farewell speech to  
the Jewish people, as  
he prepares them for  
their arrival in the  
Promised Land. He  
commands them to  
retell their story of  
slavery and liberation  
in order to pass their  
identity on to the  
children of the next  
generation. That is  
what we do tonight.

## LET MY PEOPLE GO | An African-American Spiritual

When Israel was in Egypt's land,

"Let My people go" (Exodus 5:1).

Oppressed so hard they could not stand,

"Let My people go."

Go down, Moses,

way down in Egypt's land,

Tell old Pharaoh:

"Let My people go."

Thus said the Lord, bold Moses said,

"Let My people go."

If not, I'll smite your first-born dead,

"Let My people go."

Go down, Moses...

No more shall they in bondage toil,

"Let My people go."

Let them come out with Egypt's spoil,

"Let My people go."

Go down, Moses...







## THE FIRE OF CONCERN: MOSHE'S BURNING BUSH

Moses lived in a period of dictatorship. His people were slaves. The bosses made them work under a speed-up system, and committed horrible atrocities. Young Moses became curious about the Hebrew slaves, and one day went to the brickyards and saw an Egyptian boss hitting a Hebrew laborer. Moses was a powerful young man, and he lost his temper. He hit the boss and killed him! A fire had been kindled in Moses' heart, a fire of concern about his people and their suffering.

The next day he went back to the hot brickyards. Then he learned two things that those who try to help their fellow men often discover: first, that slaves often spend as much time and energy fighting each other as they do fighting their common oppressors, and second, that slaves do not always welcome their deliverers.

Moses found two Hebrews fighting each other. When he rebuked them, they turned on him and said, 'Who made you our boss? Do you mean to kill us as you did that Egyptian yesterday?'



Leon Baxter

Moses feared that they would tell the Egyptians that he killed the boss. He concluded that it might not be healthy to stay around those parts, so he ran away. In his new home he settled down to a nice comfortable life, raising a family and feeding the flocks of his father-in-law.

Only, after a while, God came into the picture, with a bush that burned and burned and did not stop burning. Moses had had a fire kindled in his heart once, but it went out, or at least died down. God is the Being whose heart does not stop burning. What was God all burned up about? The voice that came out of the bush said, "I have seen the affliction of my people that are in Egypt and have heard their cry by reason of their oppressors."

And the proof that God had entered into Moses was that he had to go back and identify himself with his enslaved people – organize them into Brickmakers' Union Number One – and lead them out of hunger and slavery into freedom and into "a good land, and a large one, a land flowing with milk and honey."

Abraham Johannes Muste (1885-1967), the grand old man of American radicalism and pacifism

## THE DEPTH OF DEGRADATION

The degradation, the wrongs, the vices that grow out of slavery, are more than I can describe. They are greater than you would willingly believe.

My master met me at every turn, reminding me that I belonged to him. He told me I was his property; that I must be subject to his will in all things. My soul revolted against the mean tyranny. But where could I turn for protection? There is no shadow of law to protect the slave girl from insult, from violence, or even from death. All these are inflicted by fiends who bear

the shape of men.

When they told me my new-born babe was a girl, my heart was heavier than it had ever been before. Slavery is terrible for men; but it is far more terrible for women. Superadded to the burden common to all, they have wrongs, and sufferings, and mortifications peculiarly their own...

God gave me a soul that burned for freedom and a heart nerved with determination to suffer even unto death in pursuit of liberty. The slave owners seem to satisfy their consciences with

the doctrine that God created the Africans to be slaves. What a libel upon the heavenly Father, who "made of one blood all nations of men!" Slavery is a curse to the whites as well as to the blacks. It makes the white fathers cruel and sensual; the sons violent and licentious; it contaminates the daughters, and makes the wives wretched. And as for the colored race, it needs an abler pen than mine to describe the extremity of their sufferings, the depth of their degradation...

Harriet Jacobs, *Life of a Slave Girl, An Autobiography*, 1861. Born a slave in 1813 in North Carolina.

## WE WERE SIXTIES REBELS

The authors of injustice and oppression in America are Pharaohs:

We name the Pharaohs in Congress who multiply the weapons.

We name the Pharaohs who condemn Black babies to die at twice the rate of whites.

We name the Pharaohs who poison the land and water.

In America we [Jews] have been both coerced and cajoled into abandoning the prophetic legacy. The American lifestyle tries to remake us in one dimension - bureaucratic, programmed, technological... flat... [But we demand] the survival of Judaism, not merely of a brood of suburban Bar Mitzvah boys and girls.

Arthur Waskow, *The Freedom Haggadah*, 1969

## WE WERE ZIONIST PIONEERS

"We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt,"  
to King Farouks and Nassers in Egypt.  
But "we went out from there" – with a  
popular national uprising,  
"with a strong hand" - working and  
laboring,  
"with an outstretched arm" – liberating  
ourselves.

And if our ancestors had not been  
liberated, "we and our children and  
our children's children, would still be  
slaves" – in exile.

Yitzhak Tabenkin, *Kibbutz Ein Harod Haggadah*,  
1953

## THE WAY WE WERE

20th Century Adaptations of "We were slaves"

Jews have seen the key to Jewish and universal  
liberation in many modern movements, and  
often wrote their own ideological adaptations of  
the Haggadah. Did these movements contribute  
to freedom or create new forms of enslavement?  
How would we write our own adaptation today?

## WE WERE COMMUNISTS

We were slaves to Capital, until the October Revolution [the Russian  
Bolshevik Revolution of 1917] "redeemed us with a strong hand" from  
the land of slavery.

If it weren't for the October Revolution,  
then we and our children and our children's children would still be  
slaves to Capital.

Today the revolution is only here, next year – a world revolution.

The Red Haggadah, 1927

## WE WOMEN ARE STILL SLAVES

To our body image – guilt eating  
into our bodies and souls.

To our "super woman" ideals that  
scatter our energies everywhere.

To a selective memory of history  
that erases our foremothers.

To recalcitrant husbands who  
imprison us in dead marriages.

To our desire to be considered  
good little girls.

To society's concept of success  
– competitive, autonomous...  
and lonely.

To our misconception that  
feminism is just for and about  
women, that it denies deep and  
healthy relationships with the  
men in our lives.

Tanya Zion Waldoks, 2006

## WE WERE POLITICIANS

We were slaves to our passions for power, for career  
advancement, for political office, for secure income, and  
therefore we were slaves also to our voters.

Every party teaches its voters to recite: "All of us are wise."

"Blessed is God, the Place of the World" – for all of this is to keep  
our place of work, a soft chair and a high office.

*The Non Political Haggadah*, Tel Aviv, 1947

# More Storytelling כָּל הַמְרָבָה

THE LONGER, THE BETTER

וְאִלּוּ לֹא הוֹצִיא הַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא  
אֶת אֲבוֹתֵינוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם,  
הָרִי אָנוּ וּבְנֵינוּ וּבְנֵי בְנֵינוּ  
מִשְׁעָבָדִים הָיִינוּ לְפָרְעָה בְּמִצְרַיִם.

וְאִפְלוּ  
כָּלֵנוּ חֲכָמִים,  
כָּלֵנוּ נְבוֹנִים,  
כָּלֵנוּ זִקְנִים,  
כָּלֵנוּ יוֹדְעִים אֶת הַתּוֹרָה,  
מִצְוָה עָלֵינוּ לְסַפֵּר בִּיצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם.

וְכָל הַמְרָבָה לְסַפֵּר  
בִּיצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם הָרִי זֶה מְשֻׁבָּח.

If God had not taken  
our ancestors out of Egypt,  
then we would still be enslaved  
to Pharaoh in Egypt, along with our children,  
and our children's children.

Even if  
all of us are wise,  
all of us discerning,  
all of us veteran scholars, and  
all of us knowledgeable in Torah,  
it is still a mitzvah for us to retell  
the story of the Exodus from Egypt.

So, the more and the longer,  
one expands and embellishes the story,  
the more commendable it is.

## STORYTELLING IDEAS

The Haggadah recommends that parents go beyond the text of the Haggadah and improvise dramatically in retelling the story of the Exodus. However, the traditional Haggadah does not include a script for the storyteller nor does it even bring the appropriate Biblical chapters. So some parents tell the story in their own words. Others ask the children to retell what they have learned in school under three major headings:

**What** was it like to be a slave?

**What** do you know about Moshe as a baby and as a young man?

**How** did the Jews finally become free?

Before the Seder ask the children to prepare drawings to illustrate these themes and then to show and tell what they drew. Or look at the pictures and create a dialogue among the characters represented.



## BIBLIODRAMA: FIRST-PERSON ACCOUNTS OF THE EXODUS

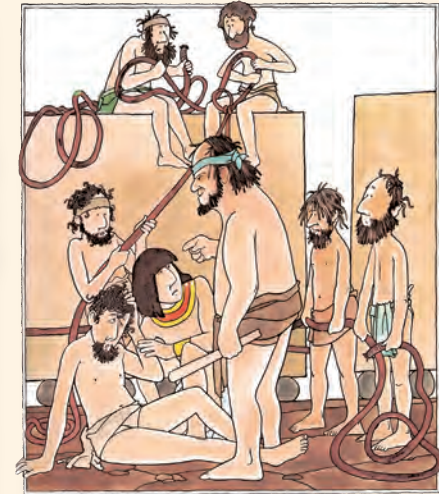
Though we all know the story of the Exodus, we need to bring it alive tonight. Invite the participants to think of a person or an object, then to retell part of the story from their character's/prop's point of view. For example: an Egyptian official during the plague of darkness, a Jewish child crossing the Red Sea, Moses' staff or basket, etc.

Here is one story of Moses' basket, as told to Peter Pitzele, creator of the Bibliodrama method:

*"I am the reed ark that carried Moses down the Nile."*  
*"Tell me more about yourself."*  
*"Well, what do you want to know?"*  
*"Who made you?"*  
*"Moses' mother made me."*  
*"Did she talk to you while she was making you? Or could you read her thoughts?"*  
*"Not her thoughts, her feelings. She was sad, and angry."*  
*"I see. And did you know what you were being made for?"*  
*"Yes. To carry the little infant down the Nile."*  
*"How did you feel about this assignment?"*  
*"It was a huge responsibility. I wanted Moses' mother to be very careful. To weave me well and to caulk me well. I did not want to leak, or tilt over."*  
*"And did she build you well?"*  
*"Yes, very well."*  
*"Yes. I want you to know what it felt like to carry him down the river. It was like being his mother."*

And another group member said, "I never thought about the ark of papyrus, the basket, before as a kind of second mother, a womb. It made me realize how many times Moses was mothered and passed on. The little ark is like a metaphor for how transient his childhood must have felt for him."

Peter Pitzele, *Scripture Windows*



Leon Baxter



# It was the Finger of God!

by the Religion Editor, Sigmund Freud, author of the forthcoming  
*Moses and Monotheism*

The head of the Egyptian priests admitted publicly that the plagues are an act of the Jewish god, according to a report by the Akhenaten Association. This is the first time the priests have acknowledged the existence of a divine power other than themselves. What began as the Israelites' struggle for freedom might lead to a religious revolution, whose international ramifications remain to be seen.

## TOMBS DESECRATED

The Egyptian Antiquities Authority (EAA) reported today that two mummies were stolen from Ramses' tomb – Tsofnat Paneiakh (alias Joseph) and a daughter of Ramses II. The EAA spokesperson says the Israelites are the main suspects in the theft.

## LAND O'GOSHEN BAKERY

When time flies and the bread won't rise  
**INSTANT MATZA!**

## JOSHUA, THE CAMPING KING!

Big spring sale on all trekking equipment

Ask about our special desert survival kit:

- 2 packages of bitter waters desalination pills ■ Unleavened trail mix - from Gorp - the trail mix master ■ Anti reflection UV coated sunglasses, guaranteed to block out even Divine rays ■ Battery operated GPS - don't wander without it!

## Weekly Horoscope



### Leo: Nachshon Ben-Aminadav

head of the tribe of Judah, first to cross the Red Sea, is a classic Leo, determined and brave even though they are also reckless and hasty!

Leos jump to the head of the pack, making them natural leaders, yet drawing them into dangerous or embarrassing situations. After they leap without looking, they can find themselves knee-deep in mud, but the move can also be one that makes history!

## Pest Control

*Frogs, gnats and lice getting you down? Call Amenhetop for a free estimate today.*

## CONDO DEVELOPMENT

Get in on the ground floor of this new condo conversion project. Lovely views of the pyramids. Goshen area. Former slave dwellings can become your luxury home!

**Call Ramses for details.**



# The HieroglyphTimes

16 Nisan, 2560 | published in Egypt for 210 years | Cost: 1 dinar in Goshen | "All the news that is permitted to print" – by Ramses II

## THE EXODUS BEGINS!

### Final approval from the Pharaoh: Go!

**The most heated meeting to date was concluded just yesterday between Moses Ben-Amram and the Pharaoh.**

### Egypt to the Israelites: Return the stolen gold!

A class action lawsuit has been filed in international court against the Israelites by the Egyptians, who claim that the Jews used the confusion created by the "plague of the first-borns," to steal large quantities of gold on their way out of the country. The Israelites' attorney said that the gold represents token compensation for years of enslavement at the hands of the Egyptians.

Our legal reporter adds: "When you set a slave free, do not send him empty handed."

(Deuteronomy 15:13-15)

### Everything Must Go!

Great prices on household furnishings and heavy equipment!  
Moving away sale - bargains aplenty!  
Call now, ask for Aaron.

Hebrew sources revealed that the Pharaoh, in a familiar tactic, tried to renege on his agreement. It appeared that negotiations had reached a stalemate. Then came the fateful night of the 14th of Nisan. A mysterious plague left every Egyptian firstborn lifeless. An unearthly howl went up, never heard before.

"Out!" shouted the Egyptian people. "Out before we are all dead! Take our jewelry, take our dresses. But get out – Now!"

The palace capitulated and this morning more than 3,000,000 slaves headed for Egypt's border. After 210 years of slavery, drowning babies, deceit, and desperation, the Jews are free! Neither the Egyptians nor the Jews will forget this night.

### Situation Wanted

Speech therapist available  
afternoons and evenings. I got  
Moses to say "Let my People Go."  
I can get you to speak up too!  
Nefrititi - Therapist to the Stars.



# Five Rabbis מַעֲשֵׂה בְּרַבִּי אֱלִיעֶזֶר

## THE LONGEST SEDER

מַעֲשֵׂה בְּרַבִּי אֱלִיעֶזֶר וְרַבִּי יְהוֹשֻׁעַ  
וְרַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן עֲזַרְיָה וְרַבִּי עֲקִיבָא  
וְרַבִּי טַרְפוֹן שֶׁהָיוּ מְסַבִּין בְּבֵנֵי  
בְּרַק, וְהָיוּ מְסַפְּרִים בִּיצִיאַת  
מִצְרַיִם כָּל אוֹתוֹ הַלַּיְלָה, עַד שֶׁבָּאוּ  
תַלְמִידֵיהֶם וְאָמְרוּ לָהֶם: "רַבּוֹתֵינוּ,  
הֵגִיעַ זְמַן קְרִיאַת שְׁמַע שֶׁל שַׁחֲרִית".

אָמַר רַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן עֲזַרְיָה: הֲרִי אֲנִי כְּבֶן  
שִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה, וְלֹא זָכִיתִי שֶׁתֹּאמַר יְצִיאַת  
מִצְרַיִם בַּלַּיְלֹת עַד שֶׁדִּרְשָׁה בֶּן זֹמַא, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר:  
"לִמְעַן תִּזְכֹּר אֶת יוֹם צֵאתְךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם כָּל  
יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ"  
"יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ" - הַיָּמִים, "כָּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ" - הַלַּיְלֹת.  
וְחֻכְמָיִם אוֹמְרִים: "יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ" - הָעוֹלָם הַזֶּה,  
"כָּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ" - לְהַבִּיא לִימּוֹת הַמָּשִׁיחַ.

A tale is told of Rabbi Eliezer, Rabbi Yehoshua, Rabbi Elazar son of Azarya, Rabbi Akiva and Rabbi Tarfon who dined (reclined) at the Seder in Bnai B'rak. The whole night long they spent retelling the story of the Exodus from Egypt, until their students arrived and announced to them: "Our masters, it is already time to recite the morning Sh'ma!"

Rabbi Elazar son of Azarya said: Even though I am like a man of seventy, I had never understood why the Exodus from Egypt should be mentioned at night-time [in the Sh'ma], until Ben Zoma explained it to me using the verse:

"That you may remember the day when you came out of Egypt all the days of your life"

(Deuteronomy 16:3).

"The days of your life" means just the days, BUT "all the days of your life" means the nights as well! However the Rabbis explain: "The days of your life" means this life, BUT "all the days of your life" means the days of the Messiah as well!

(Mishna Brachot 1:5)

After we do our own storytelling, the Haggadah now recounts the story of the longest Seder ever, as a model for our own Seder.

This is an opportunity to recount other stories of successful and memorable Seders, throughout Jewish history, as well as in our own family experiences. Invite participants to share a special Seder memory from home or from their most unusual Seder.





## SONGS OF FREEDOM IN A SYRIAN PRISON

On Thursday, April 2, 1970, an Israeli Phantom jet was shot down over a Damascus suburb. The pilot **Pini Nahmani** was imprisoned in the al-Mazza Prison in Damascus. In his secret diary he describes his Festival of Freedom:

It's hard to imagine the holiday atmosphere here: in the morning, we gave the cell a thorough scrubbing, something the concrete floor had never had. We drew a Seder plate on a piece of cardboard, with a Magen David in the middle, and a different item at each of the star's points. In the afternoon, we managed to give ourselves baths in ice-cold water, and then we put on our cleanest clothes.

These were difficult hours of soul searching. When you are a prisoner of war, the memories rise up and choke you. You think about home, trying to sense the smells and the holiday feeling at twilight. You know that your family and children, that the entire Jewish people, are waiting and hoping, while you're still here, tossing and turning, helpless, on your stinking mattress. Time crawls by at its own pace.

Two Haggadahs and some matza crumbs sent by the Chief Rabbi of Zurich gave us the feeling of a real Passover. When Boaz, the youngest among us - almost a kid - sang the four questions, tears welled up in my throat. But then came the singing! It was such a strange scene. In the most heavily-guarded prison of an enemy state, three Israeli prisoners are singing songs

of the ancient holiday of liberty.

While we were still celebrating and reading the Haggadah, the guards appeared and demanded that we stop. It seemed that our singing had disturbed the ousted Syrian president in the next cell, Nur al-din Atassi. He had thrown us in jail and declared that "the Israeli pilots would grow old in a Syrian prison!" Now [after Hafez al-Assad, father of the present leader of Syria, seized power in a military coup] Nur was in the same boat we were. At any rate, we refused to stop, even when they threatened to throw us into solitary confinement as a punishment for making noise, for even that awful threat could not silence the sound of freedom.

We finished the Haggadah with *Had Gadya*, and went on singing other Israeli songs - Naomi Shemer's "Jerusalem of Gold" - just to continue the celebration long into the night and to avenge ourselves a little bit... I had never taken part in such a long Seder. We had to be taken prisoner in order to fulfill the Haggadah's description of the five rabbis in Bnai Brak: "The whole night long they spent retelling the story of the Exodus."



## THE LAST ETHIOPIAN SEDER, 1991

From the eyewitness report of Micha Odenheimer, journalist and director of a program for Ethiopian olim.

**"I brought you to Me on eagles' wings"** (Exodus 19:4)

On Friday night, May 24, 1991, fourteen thousand four hundred Jews from Beita Yisrael crowded into the Israeli Embassy compound in Addis Ababa, the capital. They were caught between a nightmare and a dream, the danger of slaughter by the rebel army that encircled the capital and the opportunity to make aliyah to Israel at the last possible moment before the invasion by the rebels.

Months earlier the Jews of Ethiopia who had lived for centuries as farmers in the Gondar region abandoned their homes, sold their property and migrated – often by foot – 700 km south to the slums of the capital of the Marxist regime, hoping to leave from there to Israel.

Eight weeks earlier the priests (called *kesim*) celebrated at the Israeli Embassy their last Passover in Ethiopia. After purifying themselves in water they laid their hands on ten one-year-old sheep, blessed them, and then ritually slaughtered and roasted them. When the *kesim* honored me by offering me – an Ashkenazi Orthodox Jew – a piece of the lamb, I hesitated for a moment because their kashrut is different than my own. Yet I knew that eating the Pesach lamb has always been the symbol of inclusion in the Jewish community, so I expressed my solidarity with their Exodus and ate my first Paschal sacrifice.

Now, only weeks after Pesach, the final Exodus was to begin under the title "Operation Solomon." The Marxists who ruled the capital had made a deal with Israel for a \$35,000,000 bribe

(paid by American Jewish philanthropists) to release the Jews in a massive airlift just days before the government fell.

At the Israeli embassy, 14,400 Jews spent all night long in darkness and exceptional calm and discipline. They experienced a mixture of fear and hope (reminiscent of the children of Israel in Egypt on the first Seder night).

That night the Ethiopian Jews passed from one station to another at the embassy grounds. First the head of the household's identity card was checked and his children counted off and given a sticker with the number of their bus to wear on their forehead. Then all their local money had to be thrown into a box, as demanded by the Ethiopian government. Afterwards all their possessions were relinquished, for lack of space in the planes. Only what they wore – their nicest clothes and gold jewelry – came with them, along with bread which was wrapped in their flowing garments.

I remembered the Biblical verses describing a similar "Night of Vigil" in which no one slept, on Passover evening in Egypt: *"The people took their dough before it was leavened...wrapped in their cloaks upon their shoulders. That was...a Night of Vigil"* (Exodus 13:9). Even the numbered stickers on the foreheads reminded me of the command, *"This shall serve you as a sign upon your hand and as a reminder on your forehead... that the Lord freed you from Egypt with a mighty hand."* (Exodus 13:9).

**In less than 24 hours  
El Al passenger  
planes and Hercules  
transports took  
14,400 people in  
the largest, longest,  
and fastest airlift  
of refugees in the  
history of the world;  
40 journeys over  
1,560 miles and back  
in 24 hours.**



On April 8, 1946, I received the following telegram from Italy:

*"We are 1100 Jewish refugees. We sailed from Spezia for Palestine - our last hope. Police arrested us on board. We won't leave the ship! We demand permission to continue to Eretz-Israel. Be warned: we will sink with the ship if we are not allowed to continue to Palestine, because we cannot be more desperate."*

The next day, the refugees went on a hunger strike. We asked them to stop because of the harsh conditions on board, and decided that we would take their place and fast until the ship was allowed to sail to Palestine. On the second day of the hunger strike, **every Jew in Palestine over the age of 13 fasted**. We suddenly felt that we were a single, united, people.

The third day of the hunger strike was Pesach Eve. Thousands of people carrying flowers came to Jerusalem to show their support. The chief rabbis, who joined our fast and presided over the unusual Seder, decided that everyone would eat a single piece of matza, no bigger than an olive. We put out cups of tea rather

## THE HUNGER STRIKE SEDER, 1946

Golda Meir, Israel's first female prime minister, tells of one memorable Pesach Seder in the midst of the struggle against the British Mandate's restrictions on Jewish immigration.

than wine for the hunger strikers.

We read from the Haggadah: *"Every generation must see itself as the one that left Egypt... the Lord saved not only our ancestors, but us, as well."* We repeat these words at Seder every year, but this time they took on a new meaning.

I will never forget my children joining me at the Jewish Agency for the Seder, which may have been **their most important lesson in the suffering of the Jews, the love of Judaism, and the resilience of the Jewish people**.

The day after the Seder, we were notified that the refugees had been allowed to enter Palestine. So, on the first day of Passover, the 101-hour fast ended.

## DREAM FREEDOM, 2002

This is the story of how Jewish middle school students in Los Angeles became abolitionists – today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century:

It all began as a program to make the holiday of Passover more meaningful for the students at our school. The entire school, students and teachers, read Sonia Levitin's book *Dream Freedom* which chronicles the modern problem of slavery in Sudan, where Muslim gangs with army support take over Christian villages and sell men, women and children as slaves. Two weeks before Passover, the school convened to meet Francis Bok, a Sudanese slave who escaped to America. One student wrote: *"Before meeting Francis Bok, slavery seemed like*

*a horrific nightmare, but I never imagined that the nightmare would stand right in front of me. To witness a slave was an enlightening experience, and I thank God every day that I am free. The whole concept of selling people like property and treating them like animals is the most horrendous and disturbing problem that faces our world today. I learned that 27,000,000 people are enslaved today. Now all my problems seem so miniscule. Today I am helping to free several in bondage."*

It costs only \$36 to free a slave, to buy their

freedom from the Sudanese captors. Many students made bracelets engraved with the name of a slave who had been recently captured. Others wrote a prayer for their Seder tables to remind us that we who were once slaves need to work for the freedom of others. In two weeks, the middle school students collected a whopping \$14,700 - enough to free 411 slaves! As Jews, we know that we cannot remain silent while others have been abandoned into bondage.

Rabbi **Leah Kroll**, Milken Community High School of Stephen S. Wise Temple, Los Angeles

## Four Children אַרְבַּעַה בָּנִים

בָּרוּךְ הַמָּקוֹם, בָּרוּךְ הוּא.  
בָּרוּךְ שֶׁנָּתַן תּוֹרָה לְעַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל,  
בָּרוּךְ הוּא.

Blessed be God, Blessed be that One.  
Blessed be the Giver of the Torah  
to the people Israel,  
Blessed be that One.

כְּנֶגֶד אַרְבַּעַה בָּנִים דְּבָרָה תּוֹרָה:

The Torah alludes to Four Children:

אֶחָד חָכָם

One Wise or Thoughtful

וְאֶחָד רָשָׁע

One Wicked or Rebellious

וְאֶחָד תָּם

One Simple or Innocent

וְאֶחָד שְׂאִינוּ יוֹדֵעַ לִשְׁאֹל.

One Who Does Not Know How to Ask.

The midrash of the Four Children invites us to listen to each child's question and identify different character types.

Then the Rabbis turn the commandment of *v'heegadta* ("you shall tell") into a **mitzvah of dialogue** – with give and take on both sides. Successful dialogue means that each side, and especially the side anxious to "pass on the message," be keenly attentive to what the other is saying and feeling – to the particular personality of the child and his or her needs.

## QUESTIONS OF THE FUTURE

In a future generation when/if [כִּי] your children ask:

"What do you mean by this Passover rite?" (Exodus 12:26-27).

The Rabbis read this verse as a "good news, bad news" joke:

"At that moment, bad news was brought to the Israelites: that the Torah would be forgotten. Some say that good news was brought to them: that they would have children and children's children!" (Mekhilta)

The good news arises if we read the Hebrew word כִּי as "when your children ask you," and not as "if your children ask you." There is an assurance of generations to come.

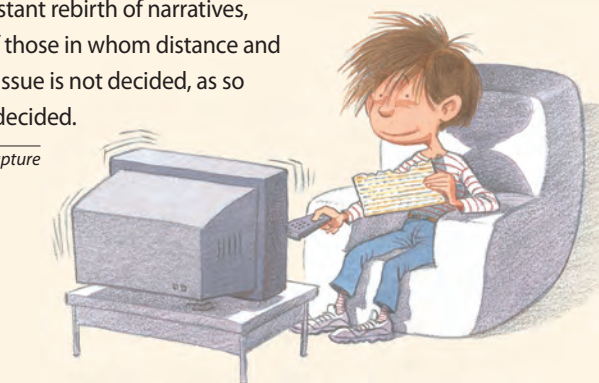
The bittersweet nature of questions has to do with forgetting and the desire to know. Without forgetting, there would be no questions.

Is this – the inevitability of forgetting – bad news? Or is it good news, implying the constant rebirth of narratives, responses to the questions of those in whom distance and forgetting create desire? The issue is not decided, as so many true questions are not decided.

Aviva Zornberg, *The Particulars of Rapture*



The Four Israeli Sons by Michel Kichka, 2004



## TOO QUICK TO CATEGORIZE

It is tempting, and at times not altogether inappropriate, to sort people into a few well-chosen "types." But I urge a sense of the complexity of people on myself and on the reader. William Carlos Williams, the American poet, once talked of the "zeal" with which we "take to labels of all kinds." "We crave certainty; we love to put a period at the end of a sentence, and that is that. But take a look at people, a real close look, and you'll find inconsistencies and contradictions - and that's where a closer look is needed, not a category or a definition that tells you, that reassures you: all right, you've got it!"

Robert Coles, educator, *The Call of Service*



## THE FOUR CHILDREN

WE are always proud, forever speaking of the wise one, the wise child. What about the bad one (recalling, of course, Father Flanagan's "There's no such thing as a bad kid")?

If we have none of those, why are so many rabbis making rounds in the Big Houses across our fair land?

Who are these ghosts in the minimum, medium, and maximum prisons? Figments?

(We had our Uncle Simcha who hid out with Grandpa for a few weeks. I think it was Prohibition and he was mixed up with some, shall we say, undesirable fellows.)

NOW comes the hard part, the special two - "simple" and "unable-to-ask."

You may say "simple" means nice or "easygoing," the kid who likes everything, is happy, and makes no demands. It's the one you refer to now that he or she is grown up when you say, "Joe (or Nancy) was an easy child." All right, then - that's three out of four.

But that still leaves "the one who doesn't know how to ask." I think the pictures in the Haggadah are wrong, painting children so small.

They shift; they mislead. It doesn't mean: "so young they can't formulate the words."

It means . . . We know what it means.

And if we just say it, with the pride of the first, maybe this year more can come out of their hiding places.

Danny Siegel, poet and Tzedakah educator



# The Wise Child

# הַחֶכֶם

חֶכֶם מָה הוּא אוֹמֵר:

"מָה הָעֵדוּת  
וְהַחֲקִים וְהַמִּשְׁפָּטִים,  
אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֶתְכֶם?"

וְאִךְ אַתָּה אֹמֵר-לוֹ כְּהִלְכוֹת הַפֶּסַח:

"אֵין מִפְטִירִין אַחֲרֵי הַפֶּסַח אֶפִּיקוֹמָן."

Narrator:

What does the wise child say?

Wise or Thoughtful Child:

"What are the testimonies,  
the statutes, and the laws  
which Adonai our God has  
commanded you?" (Deuteronomy 6:20)

Narrator:

So, you teach the child all the  
laws of Pesach, till the last one:

First Parent:

"We do not conclude the eating  
at the Pesach Seder with the  
afikoman."

(Last Mishna in Pesachim, Chapter 10)

NOTE about the Parents' Answer:

Actually today we do conclude the Seder with the afikoman, the matza we hid. But then, in the days of the Mishna, "afikoman" meant in Greek the custom of making after-dinner celebrations. The Rabbis prohibited that kind of "afikoman."

This is, as you see, a sophisticated answer, fitting a wise child.



Otto Geismar, 1923

The midrash of the four children provides the script for a dialogue. Let each character in the dialogue be played by a different Seder participant.

The cast is as follows:  
Narrator / Each of the four children / Four parents who answer.

Look at the parent or child to whom you are speaking. Try to add facial expressions, hand gestures and tone of voice to portray your character.

The truly wise question the wisdom of others – because they question their own wisdom as well; the foolish – because it is different from their own.

Rabbi **Leopold Stein**, *Journey into the Self*, Germany, 19<sup>th</sup> C.

## THE WISE CHILD'S REAL QUESTION

"What are the statutes and decrees and laws which Adonai our God commanded you?" (Deuteronomy 6:20)

The wise son's question is a *real question*. On one level, it asks for information, it questions the meanings of a detailed list of laws. What makes [the wise child's question] a *real question*, however, is not its encyclopaedist categories of laws, but precisely the awkward word, *etchem* – "commanded you." This is awkward because it seems akin to the wicked son's terminology – "What is this ritual to you?" The wise son, too, asks a disturbing question, in which he opens up a distance between his father and himself.

The father and his generation were there; he was not. This distinction between generations is always true.

The wise son, however, articulates his question with exquisite care: ... "which *our* God commanded you." As Rashi says, "He does not exclude himself by the word, 'you,' because he says, '*our* God.'" "**Our God**" is the expression of relationship, of responsibility for the Other. He is both inside and outside, committed to God and His commandments, but not directly present at the original site of commandment.

Aviva Zornberg, *The Particulars of Rapture*



The Four Daughters by Michel Kichka, 2006

# The Wicked Child הַרְשָׁע



Narrator:

What does the wicked child say?

Wicked or Alienated Child:

"Whatever does this service mean to you?" (Exodus 12:26)



Narrator:

This child emphasizes **"you"** and not him or herself! Since the child excludes him or herself from the community and rejects a major principle of faith, you should set his or her teeth on edge and say:

Second Parent:

"It is because of this, that Adonai did **for me** when I went free from Egypt." (Exodus 13:8)



Narrator:

**"Me"** and not that one over there! Had that one been there, s/he would not have been redeemed.



The Four Marx Brothers  
by Richard Codor, 1981

רָשָׁע מֶה הוּא אוֹמֵר:

"מֶה הָעֲבֹדָה הַזֹּאת לָכֶם?"

'לָכֶם' - וְלֹא לוֹ.

וְלִפִּי שֶׁהוֹצִיא אֶת עַצְמוֹ מִן הַכָּלָל - בְּפֶר  
בְּעֶקֶר.

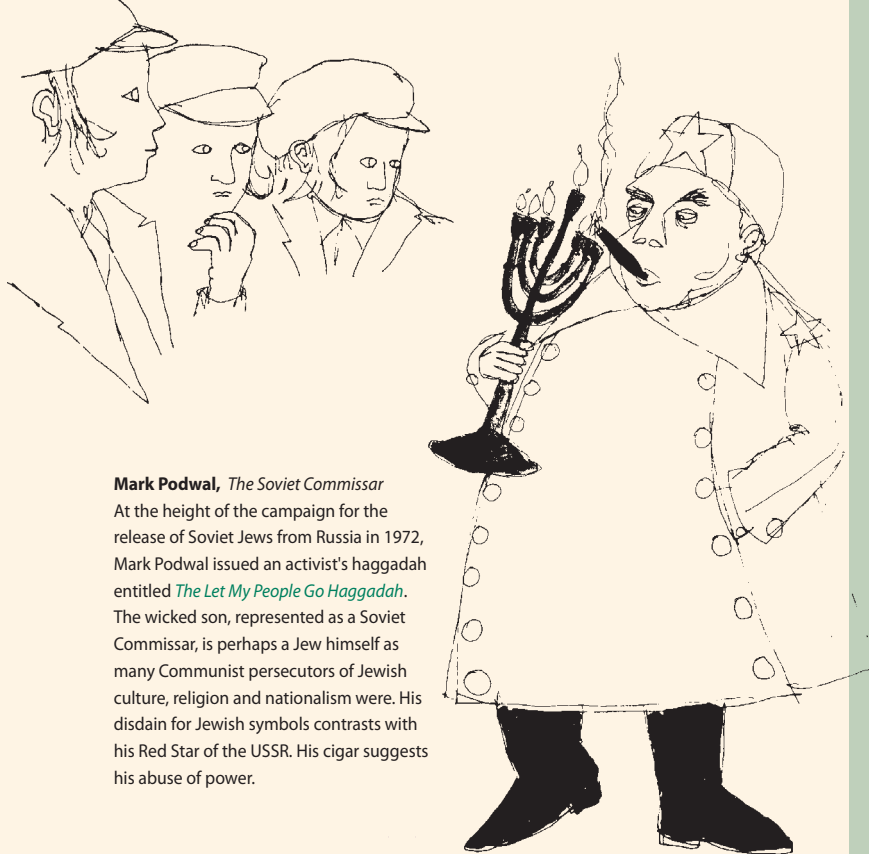
וְאִם אַתָּה הַקֹּהֵל אֶת שְׁנֵי וְאָמַר לוֹ:

"בְּעֶבֶר זֶה עָשָׂה יי לִי בְּצֵאתִי מִמִּצְרַיִם."

לִי' - וְלֹא לוֹ.

אִלּוּ הָיָה שָׁם, לֹא הָיָה נִגְאָל.





**Mark Podwal, *The Soviet Commissar***

At the height of the campaign for the release of Soviet Jews from Russia in 1972, Mark Podwal issued an activist's haggadah entitled *The Let My People Go Haggadah*. The wicked son, represented as a Soviet Commissar, is perhaps a Jew himself as many Communist persecutors of Jewish culture, religion and nationalism were. His disdain for Jewish symbols contrasts with his Red Star of the USSR. His cigar suggests his abuse of power.

## THE ARROGANT CHILD

This child is not asking a question like the others but **making a statement** as it says in the Torah: "When your children come to tell you: What is this service to **you**?" (Exodus 12:26) The tone is arrogant and the intent is to ridicule the ceremony. Instead of asking "why," the child asks sarcastically: What is this service for? This tiresome, bothersome Haggadah ruins the festive atmosphere and postpones the meal!

Rabbi **Shimon Chavillo**, Italy, 17<sup>th</sup> C

## ASKING THE UNASKABLE QUESTION

"Thinking again?" the Duchess asked, with another dig of her sharp little chin. "I have a right to think," said Alice sharply, for she was beginning to feel a little worried. "Just about as much right," said the Duchess, "as pigs have to fly."

Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*

In many social worlds asking certain questions would be considered traitorous, bait for the enemy. Such questions no one is permitted to ask. In my first year at Yeshiva, a fellow student asked such a question. He wanted to know whether the whole received tradition, written and oral, had actually been given at Sinai. The rabbi's answer was "**Well, where do you think you are, young man?** The Reform rabbinical seminary?" Like the "wicked son" at the Passover Seder, the questioner was responded to in anger and disdain.

Certain questions demonstrate that the questioner is marginal to the community. He would have never made it out of Egypt. They mark one as an outsider precisely because insiders don't ask this sort of question. And such threatening questions are not unique to traditional environments. They can be asked in the boardroom, in the university classroom, and in the halls of state. One infraction might be ignored, but repeated commitment to asking an inappropriate why is an invitation to social marginalization and potentially to eviction from the community.

Rabbi **Steve Greenberg**, *Wrestling with God and Men*

## WHO ARE YOU CALLING "WICKED"?

The very term "*rasha*"—is difficult to translate: "wicked" and "evil" are very harsh, uncompromising terms for a child. "Rebellious," "mischievous," "recalcitrant," "chutzpadik," "impolite," "*vilde khaya*," "naughty," "troublesome," "difficult," "problematic" or "alienated" are also possible.

What would you suggest? What different kinds of children are portrayed by the various translations? Do you think the harsh parent described in the Haggadah would behave differently had the label been different?



## The Simple Child

## הַתָּם

תָּם מַה הוּא אוֹמֵר:

"מַה זֹאת?"

וְאָמַרְתָּ אֵלָיו:

"בְּחֹזֶק יָד הוֹצֵאתָנוּ יְיָ מִמִּצְרַיִם, מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים."

Narrator:

What does the simple child ask?

Simple or Naïve Child:

"What is this?" (Exodus 13:14)

Narrator:

And you say to that child:

Third Parent:

[Let me tell you an awesome tale.]

"With a mighty hand Adonai  
brought us out of Egypt,  
out of the house of bondage."

(Exodus 13:14)



## LOOSE CONNECTIONS

The simple child who is clueless about Judaism may have a "loose connection." The Jerusalem theater-educator Joyce Klein once directed a musical play about Israeli teenagers who have an undefined sense of Jewish identity, an amorphous question with no firm answer. She was inspired by a house call by her Israeli electrician who was summoned to fix her flickering light fixture. While standing on her dining room table examining the short circuit and the frayed wires, he pronounced his diagnosis: "You have a problem: Loose connections!" Then he began to philosophize: "Actually all of us Jews share that problem of loose connections, poor communication among people and a disrupted flow of energy between our past and our future." Joyce turned that insight into a performance in which a teenager is asked: "What connects you to the Jewish people?"

"Perhaps holidays? Holocaust? Israel? Family? Ethics?"  
"I don't know," shrugged the teenager.

*Can you answer that simple yet profound question? To what do you connect?*

## BEWARE OF SOPHISTICATION

One must keep one's distance from people who are wise in their own eyes and think they know great wisdoms of how to serve God. For all these are great foolishness and are not needed in order to worship the Creator. For the main thing is purely naivete, simplicity, and faith in God...even though simple ones must be sure not to act like fools. One can achieve great happiness through naivete, faith and complete simplicity.

Rebbe **Nahman of Bratzlav**, Ukraine, 19<sup>th</sup> C.



## BACK TO ALEPH BET

When a child learns the shapes of the Hebrew letters for the first time, there is a **fresh revelation** in Heaven concerning these letters. And this fresh revelation, occurring in Heaven through the child's learning of the letters, is drawn downwards, so the child draws down upon himself a fresh revelation as to the meaning of the shapes of the letters.

**This is not the case with adults, who are too familiar** with the shapes of the letters. When we look at them we are not learning anything new, so we do not have God teaching us anything directly.

When the Talmud describes "children" who explain the mystical meanings in the shapes of the letters, it is actually referring to holy people who can still **approach the text as children**. They bring out new revelations even in the shape of the letters, and not just in the meaning of the text. They can still learn like children, and so are able to look at the *alef* and *beth* and *gimmel* and ask, "Why is the leg of the *gimmel* stretched out toward the *dalet*?"

Rabbi **Kalonymus Kalman** of Pieasezna, the Hasidic Rebbe of the Warsaw Ghetto

## LOVE QUESTIONS WITHOUT ANSWERS LIKE LOCKED DOORS

Be patient towards all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the **questions themselves** like locked rooms and like books written in a foreign language. Do not now look for the answers. They cannot now be given to you because you could not live them. It is a question of experiencing everything. At present you need to *live* the questions now. Perhaps you will gradually, without even noticing it, find yourself experiencing the answer, some distant day.

**Maria Rainer Rilke**, *Letters to a Young Poet*, Austria, 1922

# The Child Who Does Not Know How to Ask

## שְׂאִינוּ יוֹדֵעַ לְשַׁאֵל

וְשְׂאִינוּ יוֹדֵעַ לְשַׁאֵל

Narrator:

As for the child who does not know  
how to ask,

אַתָּה פֶּתַח לוֹ,

**you should prompt the child.**

שְׁנֵאמֶר: "וְהַגַּדְתָּ לְבִנְךָ

The Torah says: "You shall tell your  
child on that day."

בְּיוֹם הַהוּא לֵאמֹר,

[Don't wait for the child to take the  
initiative. Start the story, your story, and  
hopefully this silent child will listen,  
absorb and identify with you].

בְּעִבּוּר זֶה עָשָׂה יי לִי

Fourth Parent:

"It is because of this, that Adonai did  
for me when I went free from Egypt."

בְּצֵאתִי מִמִּצְרַיִם.

(Exodus 13:8)





## WHERE DID YOU GO? OUT. WHAT DID YOU DO? NOTHING

The title of Robert Paul Smith's classic book *Where Did You Go? Out. What Did You Do? Nothing* captures the withdrawal and boredom that **adult questions** so frequently evoke in children. Both on the street and in the classroom, adults assume that it is their right to engage children in questions: *How are your parents? What grade are you in now? What caused the destruction of the Second Temple? Who was the first Jew?* and the ubiquitous, *What did you do on your summer vacation?* Parents who speak this way regularly find that their children respond as if to an interrogation and consequently tell as little as possible. Children are placed on the defensive. Tension is raised which stands in the way of thinking and communication.

The child who does not want to communicate is perhaps the **Fourth Child**. This child may not ask because the child wants to avoid painful conversations with the parent. If that child neither asks nor answers but sits silently as the parents lecture, then he or she avoids greater embarrassment and tiresome interrogation. Perhaps that child has been silenced by those in authority, probing and testing for faults. Questions are often threats to authority or ways to assert authority. They play on a field of power relations between parent and child, ruler and subject. That is why they often lead not to dialogue or exploration of knowledge but to rhetorical putdowns and defensive shutting down of information exchanges. The fourth child sidesteps these battles.

Based on **Joseph Lukinsky** and **Lifsa Schachter**

## A THUNDEROUS SILENCE

Open up the children who have not learned to ask. Lead them on the path to becoming a questioning personality, one who inquires about the way of the world. Open them up so they can formulate their own questions. **For without questions your ready-made answers remain inert and there is no common ground between you.** The silence of the child can be thunderous. The silence of the one who does not know how to ask may be the result of not having found an appropriate address to express queries. Deeply meaningful silences can issue forth secrets that resound throughout the whole world. Model for the child; show them adults who know how to ask of themselves questions. As the Rabbis said: "If the child and the spouse are unable to ask, let the parents ask themselves" (T.B. Pesachim 115a). Then there is a good chance that the child will learn to ask as well.

**Yariv Ben Aharon**, kibbutz author and educator



The Four Books by David Wander, 1988

## IN PRAISE OF THE UNQUESTIONING PERSONALITY

No! I don't agree with the advice of the Haggadah here. The Haggadah says open the child up to critical thinking. In my judgment the parent should be silent. Just kiss this child on the forehead for faithfully maintaining loyalty to those sanctified traditions. The love of knowledge, the philosophical quest is important, but the supreme wisdom is to accept the treasures of the past without second guessing, without evaluating their historical origins and their pragmatic utility. It is essential to cherish and preserve that kind of respectful wisdom and not to tarnish it with unnecessary talk.

**Zeev Jabotinsky**, founder of the Revisionist Zionist Movement (later the Likud)

# Four Generations

## FOUR GENERATIONS IN ISRAEL

While the Haggadah urges us to create dialogue and continuity from parent to child, the ideological changes in Jewish life over the last 100 years in Israel have often involved revolting against one's parents' ideals in belief, in dress and even in body image. Each child is identified not by what they ask but what they read. The so-called wise child, the stereotype of the pre-Zionist ultra Orthodox, is a woman not concerned with a slim figure or stylish eyeglasses. Her daily reading is Psalms. The rebellious child is the Zionist intellectual reading the modern novelist Amos Oz. The simple child is of the third generation, which lacks knowledge and ideology. Her reading matter is a newspaper that says in the words of the Haggadah – "Ma Zot - What is this?" Last and still least is the little girl under the table who does not know how to read. She holds her potty training book upside down. Its name – *Pot of Pots* – is a pun on the Biblical love songs read on Pesach – *Song of Songs*.

Illustration by Michel Kichka



## FOUR GENERATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

One might identify four generations – since the great emigration of Eastern European Jews to the New World began in the 1880s. The first generation of immigrants is the **WISE** child who knows and feels comfortable with Jewish tradition. The second generation is the **REBEL** who in the name of progress and Westernization rejects their parents' Judaism after having imbibed it at home. The third generation is assimilated. There is little knowledge and little resentment, but there is still **SIMPLE** curiosity about the customs of their grandparents. Finally, a fourth generation, without

knowledge or even mild acquaintance, is born. They **DO NOT KNOW HOW TO ASK**. They might be called "orphans in history" lacking any of the resources of Jewish wisdom against which to struggle and from which to draw personal meaning.

As a child, growing up on Manhattan's East Side, I lived among Jewish WASPs. My father had changed his name from "Cohen" to "Cowan" when he was 21. So I was brought up to think of myself as a "Cowan" – the Welsh word for stonecutter, not a "Cohen" – a member of the Jewish priesthood. My family celebrated Christmas and always gathered for

an Easter dinner of ham and sweet potatoes. Though they never converted to Christianity my parents sent me to an Episcopal prep school with a mandatory chapel service. In those years, I barely knew what a Passover Seder was. I didn't know anyone who practiced "archaic" customs such as keeping kosher or lighting candles Friday night. When I fell in love and married Rachel, a New England Protestant whose ancestors came here in the 17th century, it didn't matter in the least that we were formally an interfaith marriage. I had become an orphan without a history.

Paul Cowan, *An Orphan in History*, courtesy of his wife, Rabbi Rachel Cowan, Institute for Jewish Spirituality.

# Four Biblical Daughters

Rabbi **Einat Ramon**, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, Israel

The Torah speaks of Four Daughters: one possessing wisdom of the heart, one rebellious, one naïve and one who cannot ask questions.

## **MIRIAM, the daughter possessing wisdom of the heart, what does she say?**

According to the Midrash, young Miriam confronted her father Amram who had vowed to refrain from procreation because of Pharaoh's decree to destroy all male newborns (Talmud Bavli, Sotah 12).

"Father, your decree is harsher than Pharaoh's. He will destroy all the males, but you will destroy all the females and males. The decree of the wicked Pharaoh may or may not be fulfilled, but your decree will for sure be realized." Miriam's father heeded his daughter. SO we will follow in her steps with drums and dancing, spreading her prophecy among the nations.

## **TAMAR, the rebellious daughter, what does she say?**

Tamar was accused of adultery. She had been married to two of Judah's sons who died without producing offspring, so Judah was obligated to give her his third son in marriage so she could give life to her heirless husbands. But Judah refused, so Tamar dressed as a prostitute, Judah solicited her and without realizing it made his daughter-in-law pregnant, thus guaranteeing the tribe's survival. However Judah sought to have Tamar burned as a prostitute.

"Father-in-law," said Tamar, "recognize" the tyranny of man's rule over women and the hypocrisy of double standards. She rebelled against authority and Judah admitted: "*She is more righteous than I.*" SO we can enjoy no freedom until we have challenged unjust ways (Genesis 38:26).

## **RUTH, the simple and pure daughter, what does she say?**

"Naomi, my mother-in-law: *Wherever you go, I shall go, and wherever you rest your head, there I will rest mine. Your people are mine, and your God my God*" (Ruth 1:16).

SO we must demonstrate simple and ingenuous loyalty.

## **THE BEAUTIFUL CAPTIVE, the daughter who cannot ask, who will speak for her?**

The Torah permits a soldier conquering an enemy to take a woman captive as a wife, but only after she has been allowed to mourn the loss of her mother and father. Only her silent weeping is heard, as it is says, "*and she wept for her father and mother*" (Deuteronomy 21:13).

SO we will be her mouthpiece and she will be our judge. So we will return her to her mother's house and we will "*proclaim liberty in the land for all its [enslaved] inhabitants*" (Leviticus 25:10). The silent weeping that erupts from this dark reality is a call to action for the cause of freedom and liberty of every man and woman born in the image of God.

## STARTER CONVERSATIONS: THE PARENTS' FOUR QUESTIONS

*The Haggadah suggests various types of children that ask questions of their parents. Tonight let us reverse the process and ask our children about **how they feel and think**.*

*To get started, imagine you have just overheard a snippet of a parent-child exchange.*

*Ask a pair of volunteers to read responsively one exchange. Now open the forum to anyone who wishes to step in and speak to or in the name of the child or the parent.*

Children begin by loving their parents, after a time they judge them, rarely, if ever, do they forgive them.

Oscar Wilde, 1890

### DEAR CURIOUS CHILD

**Parent:** You are always asking such great questions. You are so curious and eager to learn about Judaism and about your family history. But I have a question or two for you. First, what or **who turned you on to learning?** Second, is it a secret burden to be the family's "good kid"?

**Wise child:** First, Grandma was my inspiration to learn something new every moment. She was so patient – listening to me and looking things up. Together we wondered about the mysteries of the world. Second, I guess I can reveal to you that it is not always easy to be the studious "goody goody." **Sometimes I just want to be ordinary.** I try to sidestep unwanted praise – being spoken about in proud superlatives is embarrassing. I do not want to be a *nakhas*-producing machine. But **I do appreciate your quiet pride in my achievements.**

### DEAR ANGRY CHILD

**Parent:** Okay, maybe I have gone overboard with my "tough love." Perhaps I have followed the Haggadah's parents in excluding their "wicked" child. But I know how **hurt** parents feel because you too have spoken to me at times with such *hutzpah*, putting down "your whole Seder thing." But I do not know how you feel beneath the skeptical façade. Talk to me – I promise not to be judgmental. After all, I too was a rebel against my parents and their Judaism.

**Angry child:** Your Judaism is fine for you, but not for me! You still do not hear me: I do not want to be here, at this table. **This you call the "Holiday of Freedom"?** Huh? Freedom for whom? Not for me! I am here because you make me, and to tell you the truth many of the adults at this table right now feel the same way! **This is your Seder, not mine!**

### DEAR SWEET CHILD

**Parent:** I must tell you what a joy (and a relief) it is to have a child as easy as you. I am always happy to listen to your questions. Still sometimes I worry: will you ever become more critical and independent minded like your older siblings?

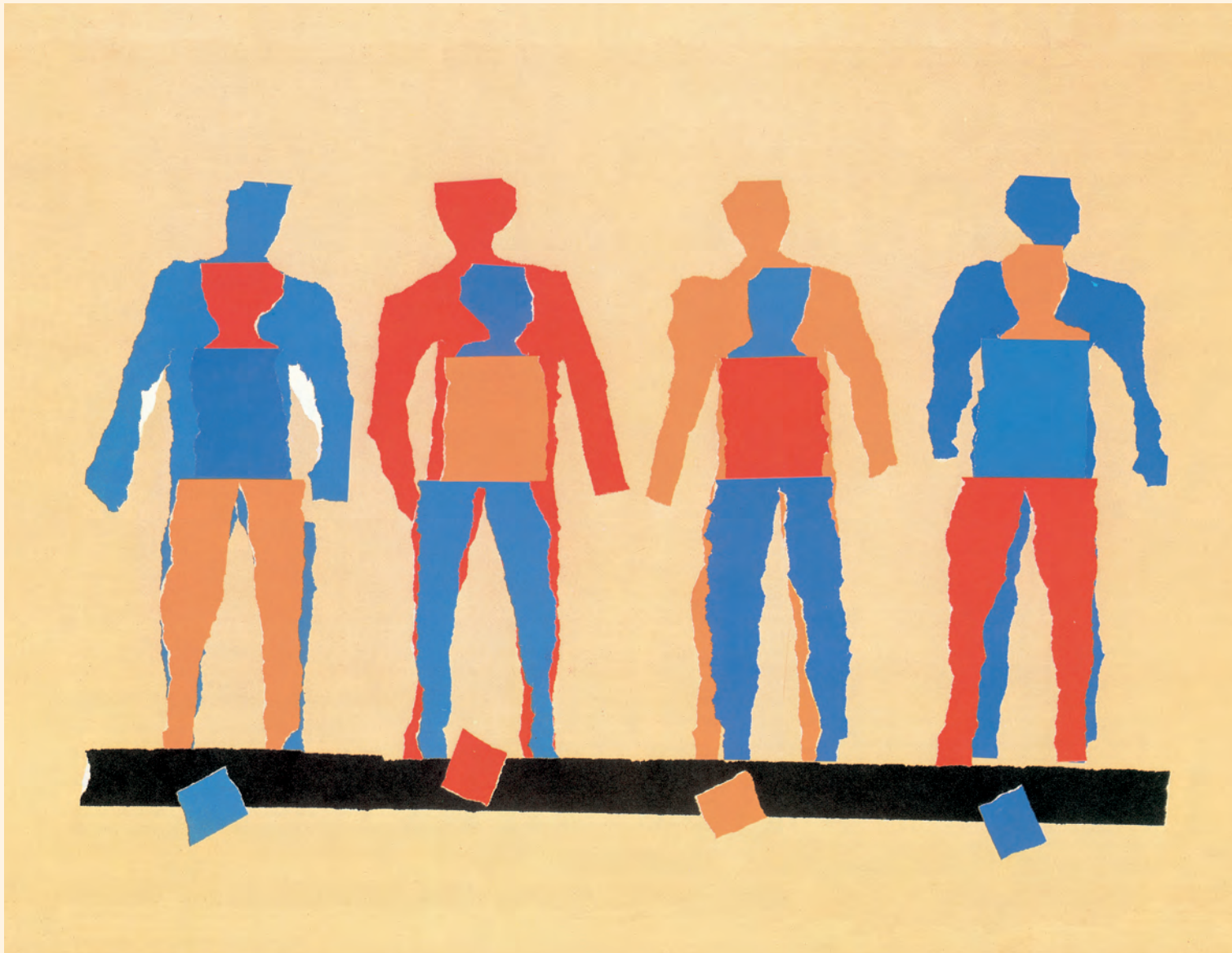
**Simple child:** I love you too, but it is not always so simple to be your "simple" child. In many Jewish families kids like me are considered a disappointment. But not all of us can be "the best and the brightest." I cannot read the Hebrew and probably never will. So please do us both a favor and stop asking me to read out loud at every Seder. I see what my siblings have achieved, but I have my own way of doing things. **Please do not compare us, neither positively nor negatively.**

### DEAR QUIET CHILD

**Parent:** Talking comes so easily to me that I don't always understand what is hidden in your head and in your heart. How do I get through to you?

**The child who does not know how to ask:** If I were suddenly to open my mouth I would tell you: Remember, still waters run deep. At this table verbal dueling dominates too often. I would ask you to learn my language in which I am quite articulate. I am comfortable in the physical language of art and dance... Listen to me speaking the language of movement, of music, or color. **Can you learn the eloquence of silence?** You may discover that I too am a "wise" child whose deepest insights can never be reduced to words.





Dan Reisinger, 1982

**"We each have all the four children within us"**

Rabbi **Israel Salanter**, founder of the Musar Movement, Lithuania, 19th C.

# וְהַגַּדְתָּ לְבִנְךָ

YOU SHALL TELL YOUR CHILD

"וְהַגַּדְתָּ לְבִנְךָ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לֵאמֹר:  
'בַּעֲבוּר זֶה עָשָׂה יי לִי בְצֵאתִי מִמִּצְרַיִם'."

"וְהַגַּדְתָּ לְבִנְךָ" – יָכוֹל מֵרֵאשִׁית חֹדֶשׁ?  
תִּלְמֹד לֹאמֵר "בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא".  
אִי "בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא", יָכוֹל מִבְּעוֹר יוֹם?  
תִּלְמֹד לֹאמֵר "בַּעֲבוּר זֶה" –  
"בַּעֲבוּר זֶה" לֹא אִמְדַּתִּי, אֲלֹא בִּשְׁעָה  
שֵׁישׁ מִצָּה וּמְרוֹר מְנַחִים לְפָנֶיךָ.



"You shall tell your child *on that day*: 'It is *because of this*, that Adonai did for me, when I went free from Egypt.'" (Exodus 13:8)

Could this verse mean that you should begin to tell the story at the beginning of the month of Nisan?

No, for the verse explicitly states

"*on that day*" (of the Exodus).

Could that mean that we start when it is still daytime?

No, for the verse explicitly states:

"*because of this.*"

"*This*" must refer to a time when matza and maror are laid before you [only on Seder night].

**When** is the best time for telling the Exodus story? The answer is implicit in the verse used to answer the fourth child. The best time is Passover night itself, for the parent can use edible and visual aids to tell the story.

**A great storyteller** uses an animated style and appeals to all of the child's senses. This is how the Haggadah wants the Exodus story to be told.



## COMMUNICATION ACROSS THE GENERATION GAP

*Tomorrow, when your child asks you.* (Exodus 13:14)

Tomorrow's generation is always so unpredictably different than today's. The Torah spoke to immigrants who passed in a mere three generations from slavery in Egypt, to wandering in the desert, and then became farmers and shepherds in the Promised Land. God commanded parents to tell their children stories of what it was like back in the old country, "**back when I was a child.**" But it would also be good for parents to ask their children what is unique about the "tomorrow" generation.

*What are the generational gaps between those at the table?  
How has childrearing changed? Women's roles? Political and  
economic experience? Technology? Jewish life? What can we  
learn from and about one another from these gaps?*

## A LEGACY OF LUGGAGE

Judaism imposes a vital task on the parents: to tell the children their people's story. What the child does with this past, no parent can decree. **Parents provide their children with luggage.** Whether the child will open up the suitcases and use their contents is beyond the reach of parents. They have no right to enter the child's future. Parents must aim at instilling memories that haunt the child an entire lifetime; their bequest is a weight of generations, an awareness that one's biography began with Abraham and Sarah.

Rabbi **David Hartman**, Jerusalem philosopher

Grandfather and grandson prepare for their Exodus from their home in Tbilisi, Georgia, Former Soviet Union, to Israel. Over 2,000,000 Jews from the Former Soviet Union have made this journey since 1990.

Photographer: **Aliza Orbach**, 1991

## YEHUDA AMICHAJ

My father was a god and did not know it. He gave me  
The Ten Commandments neither in thunder nor in fury; neither in fire nor in cloud  
But rather in gentleness and love. And he added caresses and kind words  
And he added "I beg you," and "please."  
And he sang "keep" and "remember" the Shabbat  
In a single melody and he pleaded and  
cried quietly between one utterance and the next,  
"Do not take the name of God in vain," do not take it, not in vain,  
I beg you, "do not bear false witness against your neighbor."  
And he hugged me tightly and whispered in my ear  
"Do not steal. Do not commit adultery. Do not murder."  
And he put the palms of his open hands  
On my head with the Yom Kippur blessing.  
"Honor, love, in order that your days might be long  
On the earth." And my father's voice was white like the hair on his head.  
Later on he turned his face to me one last time  
Like on the day when he died in my arms and said,  
**I want to add Two to the Ten Commandments:**  
The eleventh commandment – "Thou shall not change."  
And the twelfth commandment – "Thou must surely change."  
So said my father and then he turned from me and walked off  
Disappearing into his strange distances.

# מִתְחִלָּה עֹבְדֵי עֲבוֹדָה זָרָה

FROM SERVING IDOLS TO SPIRITUAL LIBERATION

מִתְחִלָּה עֹבְדֵי עֲבוֹדָה זָרָה הָיוּ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ,

וְעַכְשָׁיו קָרְבָנוּ הַמָּקוֹם לְעִבְדָתוֹ, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר:

”וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶל כָּל הָעָם:

כֹּה אָמַר יי אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל –

בְּעֶבֶר הִנֵּהר יֵשְׁבוּ אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם מֵעוֹלָם

– תֵּרַח אָבִי אֲבִרְהָם וְאָבִי נַחֲוֹר –

וַיַּעֲבֹדוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים.

וְאַתָּה אֵת אֲבִיכֶם, אֵת אֲבִרְהָם,

מֵעֶבֶר הִנֵּהר

וְאוֹלָךְ אוֹתוֹ בְּכָל אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן;

וְאַרְבָּה אֵת זִרְעוֹ וְאַתָּן לוֹ אֵת יִצְחָק.

וְאַתָּן לְיִצְחָק אֵת יַעֲקֹב וְאַתָּה עָשׂוּ.

וְאַתָּן לַעֲשׂוֹ אֵת הַר שְׁעִיר לְרֶשֶׁת אוֹתוֹ,

וַיַּעֲקֹב וּבָנָיו יָרְדוּ מִצְרָיִם.”



In the beginning our ancestors were **idol worshippers**.

But now God has brought us near to serve Adonai.

The leader:

**Joshua said** to the people: “Thus said Adonai, the God of Israel: Long ago, your ancestors, including Terah, father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates and worshipped other gods. But I took your father **Abraham** from beyond the Euphrates and led him through the whole land of Canaan and multiplied his offspring. I gave him Isaac, and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau... Then Jacob and his children went down to Egypt.”

“Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and brought plagues on Egypt after which I freed you – I freed your ancestors – from Egypt. Now, therefore, serve Adonai with undivided loyalty... Or, if you are loath to serve Adonai, choose this day other gods to serve. But I and my family will serve Adonai.”

All:

In reply, the people declared, “Far be it from us to forsake Adonai and serve other gods!

For it was Adonai our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, the house of bondage, and who performed these miracles before our very eyes...”

Now we too will serve Adonai, for Adonai is our God” (Joshua 24: 1-18).

The Haggadah offers two versions of the Exodus story. The Talmudic Rabbi, Shmuel, emphasized political enslavement (“We were slaves in Egypt”). Now we turn to his colleague, Rav, who tells a story of spiritual servitude.

Rav’s version is drawn from Joshua’s farewell speech to the nation of Israel. Joshua feared that the new generation in Israel might assimilate into the local pagan cultures. So he told them the story of Abraham’s liberation from idolatry. That personal struggle for freedom and enlightenment can be relevant to each of us.







## FREEDOM BEGINS WITH IMAGINATION

I think the first thing I smelled in literature was freedom. You could contemplate other realities freely. When you're with a book nobody butts in... So I think that in the beginning, I came to literature because it fed the need for a more capacious environment. As Saul Bellow says, "Look at me, going everywhere!" You didn't have to stay on Leslie Street in Newark. You didn't have to stay in your bedroom at home; you could be anywhere. You could go wherever you wanted and you could be whatever you wanted to be. And that's pretty wonderfully heady.

Philip Roth, American novelist

## A FRIGHTENED PERSON CANNOT BE FREE

Contemporary man is an unfree being because he is insecure. Man is a social animal and cares about public opinion. Modern man does all he can in order to win favor in the eyes of the public. Even those who are legally free men, who are not slaves, are in bondage to nature, to society, to restrictive phobias, superstitions, and prejudices.

There is only one way for man to free himself from all his restrictions, from all his fears, from all his phobias. Surrender to God frees man from his serfdom to his fellow man. Modern man is not free – a frightened person cannot be free. Terror and fear mean captivity for man.

Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, *Festival of Freedom*

## WHY HAVE YOU CHANGED THE HOLY WAYS OF YOUR FATHER?

Once a young Hassidic rebbe inherited the leadership of his father's hassidim. He immediately made many changes and innovations in the group's practice. The elders hastened to send a delegation of dignitaries to the young rabbi, to talk some sense into him. "Why have you changed the holy ways of your father?"

"On the contrary – I am following directly in my father's path: just as he, upon inheriting the leadership, made many changes from his father's path, so have I!"

There is a delicate balance between continuity and innovation between generations. On one hand, we want to conserve our parents' memory and traditions, their values and stories. On the other, we have over the years made many changes from their way of life – be it by open revolt or in gentle steps.

*What have I changed, and what have I conserved, from my parent's path?*

So show me a person who is not a slave!  
One is addicted to passions, another to  
money, a third to honor and all of them to fear.

Seneca, Stoic philosopher and political leader, Rome, 1<sup>st</sup> C.



## BREAK, THEREFORE I AM A JEW

Before I even knew how to read, I could already recite by heart the story of Avraham shattering the idols. The story was a great hit at my kindergarten. Many times, we put on the story of the great idol “boutique” of father Terah with the stupid people who came to buy idols from the brave and “wise son” Avraham who made fun of everybody, shattered the idols and escaped to the forest where he found the true God. The role of Avraham was, of course, my favorite. Why? Not only because of the opportunity to laugh at the stupid grown ups but in the main, because of the license to break, shatter and hit in the middle of this rather prim and proper kindergarten. Avraham is not just “a good Jewish boy” who is simply

following the path laid out for him by God. Each of us loves our rebellious ancestor differently and re-imagines him in our own fashion: The monotheists among us see in our Avram the inventor of monotheism. The rebels among us see in him the father of all young rebels and iconoclasts. The revolutionaries among us see in him the young man who first conceived the idea of building a new world. The yeshiva boys among us see in him someone who left the vanities of this world for a life of learning Torah in the legendary Beit Midrash of Shem and Ever. And the *halutzim* [Zionist pioneers] among us see in him the first young Zionist who left his parents’ home, a promising career and a homeland and went to

redeem the Promised Land.

I break, therefore, I am a Jew. I leave my homeland and my parents’ home, therefore I am a rooted Jew.

Today I am no longer young, but I don’t give up on my obligation to create from within the tradition, and my right to rebel against it from its depths. There is a rich creative life after the death of my childhood God. There is no more complete God than a broken God. It is a great pleasure “to renew our days of old” and to return to our bookshelves filled with broken tablets and shattered idols. It is a great pleasure to make puzzles from all these pieces of ourselves, who have been created – thank God – in the broken image of God.

Ari Elon, Israeli educator and midrash writer



# בְּרוּךְ שׁוֹמֵר הַבְּטָחָתוֹ לְיִשְׂרָאֵל

K E E P I N G   T H E   P R O M I S E

## בְּרוּךְ שׁוֹמֵר הַבְּטָחָתוֹ

לְיִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּרוּךְ הוּא.

שֶׁהִקְדֹּשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא חָשַׁב אֶת הַקֵּץ,

לַעֲשׂוֹת כְּמָה שֶׁאָמַר לְאַבְרָהָם אָבִינוּ

בְּבְרִית בֵּין הַבְּתָרִים, שְׁנֵאָמַר:

"וַיֹּאמֶר לְאַבְרָם: יָדַע תֵּדַע

כִּי גֵר יִהְיֶה זֶרְעֲךָ

בְּאֶרֶץ לֹא לָהֶם.

וְעִבְדוּם, וְעָנּוּ אֹתָם - אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה.

וְגַם אֶת הָגוֹי, אֲשֶׁר יַעֲבֹדוּ, דָּן אֲנִכִּי.

וְאַחֲרֵי כֵן יֵצְאוּ בְּרִכְשׁ גָּדוֹל."

Blessed is the One who keeps  
the Promise to Israel. The Holy  
One calculated the end of our  
exile and acted just as promised  
to Abraham our Father at the  
Covenant between the Pieces:

"God said to Abram: You should  
know that **your seed will be  
strangers in a land not their  
own**. The people (of that land)  
will enslave and afflict them  
for four hundred years. But that  
nation, whom they serve, I will  
judge. Afterwards (your seed)  
will go out with great wealth."

(Genesis 15: 13-14)

After recalling  
Abraham's spiritual  
journey to God (p. 56)  
and his ascent to Eretz  
Yisrael, the Haggadah  
will recount the  
descent of his great  
grandchildren to  
Egyptian slavery  
("The Wandering  
Aramean," p. 64). But  
first the Haggadah  
reassures us, as God  
did to Abraham,  
that there is a Divine  
pledge to maintain  
Jewish continuity  
whatever the ups and  
downs of history.



## WHEREVER A JEW IS PERSECUTED – THAT MEANS YOU

A Jew, in my vocabulary, is someone who regards himself as a Jew, or someone who is forced to be a Jew. A Jew is someone who acknowledges his Jewishness. If he acknowledges it publicly, he is a Jew by choice. If he acknowledges it only to his inner self, he is a Jew by the force of his destiny. If he does not acknowledge any connection with **the Jewish people** either in public or in his tormented inner being he is not a Jew, even if religious law defines him as such because his mother is Jewish. A Jew, in my unhalakhic opinion, is someone who chooses to share the fate of other Jews, or who is condemned to do so. Moreover: to be a Jew almost always means

to relate mentally to **the Jewish past**, whether the relation is one of pride or gloom or both together, whether it consists of shame or rebellion or pride or nostalgia.

Moreover: to be a Jew almost always means to relate to **the Jewish present**, whether the relation is one of fear or confidence, pride in the achievement of Jews or shame for their actions, an urge to turn them away from their path or a psychological need to stick to their path.

And finally: to be a Jew means to feel that wherever a Jew is persecuted for being a Jew – that means you.

**Amos Oz**, Israeli novelist

## NEXT YEAR...

I remember my grandfather's house, when we lived in Turkey. We would celebrate a big, splendid Passover. When grandfather read *"Blessed is the One who keeps the promise..."* in the Haggadah, he would get up and open the window. He would stick out his head and look left and right, as if he were seeing the view for the first time. Afterwards, he would pull his head back in, sigh, and say to the family: *"Another year in exile..."*

**Yaakov Shneor**, Kibbutz Be'erot Yitzhak



Abraham's  
Promise: Children  
like the Stars in  
the Sky  
(Genesis 15:5)  
by **Ephraim  
Moses Lilien**

## THE GENERATION OF THE EXODUS AND OUR GENERATION

Experience of the world must always be brought to the reading of Torah. This century's history makes it far more difficult to read the opening chapters of Exodus with composure... The parallels between ancient Israelites and ourselves in respect to the demands of history are striking – far more so, in fact, than most of us would wish. Like us, the Children of Israel faced (and had to face down) a reality that was nothing short of terrifying. Pharaoh tried

to erase their existence, and in a variety of ways – culminating at the Sea – attempted to block the Israelites' path to Sinai. Hitler came dangerously close a mere half century ago to annihilating the Jews, killing many of our own ancestors, relatives, and friends in the process. ...The Israelites of course did manage with God's assistance to reach the place of faith and covenant, and if we too get there nonetheless, it is thanks in large part to the fact that we,

like they, have been witness to a remarkable liberation. For me, as for many Jews of this generation, Jewish history has meant above all Holocaust and Israel. The latter does not justify the former. Israel can never make sense of the Holocaust, but it does help me to overcome its impact. Both have been crucial to the formation of my adult Jewish identity.

**Arnold Eisen**, Chancellor, Jewish Theological Seminary

# וְהִיא שְׁעֵמֶדָה

STANDING UP FOR US

וְהִיא שְׁעֵמֶדָה לְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְלָנוּ.  
שֶׁלֹא אֶחָד בְּלִבָּד עָמַד עֲלֵינוּ לְכַלּוֹתֵנוּ,  
אֶלָּא שְׁבָכָל דּוֹר וָדוֹר עוֹמְדִים עֲלֵינוּ לְכַלּוֹתֵנוּ,  
וְהַקְדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא מְצִילֵנוּ מִיָּדָם.

V'hee she-am-da,  
la-a-vo-tei-nu v'la-nu,  
sheh-lo eh-khad beel-vad,  
amad alei-nu l'kha-lo-tei-nu  
eh-la sheh-b'khol dor va-dor  
om-deem a-lei-nu l'kha-lo-tei-nu,  
v'ha-ka-dosh ba-rukh hu  
ma-tzee-lei-nu mee-ya-dam.



This promise **has stood**  
us and our parents in  
good stead .

For not only has one  
enemy **stood** over us to  
annihilate us.

But in every generation  
**enemies have stood over**  
**us to annihilate us.**

Yet the Holy One keeps  
the promise to save us  
from their hands.

Cover the matza,  
raise your cup  
and sing together,  
acknowledging God's  
commitment to our  
survival.

Afterwards, set  
the cup down and  
uncover the matza for  
the continuation of  
Maggid.

## IN EVERY GENERATION OUR ENEMIES SEEK TO ANNIHILATE US

**1400 -1200 BCE** Slavery in Egypt **722 BCE** Kingdom of Israel destroyed and Ten Tribes exiled by Assyria **586 BCE** First Temple destroyed and exile by Babylonia (Tisha B'Av) **167 BCE** Religious persecution by Antiochus, Greek-Syria (Hanukkah) **70 CE** Second Temple destroyed by Romans **135** Bar Kochba Revolt suppressed by Rome **627** Arabian Jewish tribes killed by Mohammed **873** Forced baptism of Byzantine Jews **992** Limoges' Jews expelled from France for witchcraft **1007** Egyptian Jews persecuted because Arabic translation of the Haggadah praises the drowning of the Egyptian ruler (Pharaoh) **1096** First Crusade: Jews murdered **1141** Forced conversion of Jews of Spain by Muslim tribes **1144** First blood libel in Norwich, England **1147** Second Crusade **1189** Third Crusade **1215** Pope Innocent III orders Jews to wear distinctive badge or clothes **1242** Talmud burned in Paris **1290** Jews expelled from England **1306** Jews expelled from France **1348** Black Plague blamed on the Jews **1391** Spanish Inquisition, riots and forced conversions **1492** Jews expelled from Spain by Ferdinand and Isabella **1495** Jews expelled from Lithuania **1496** Jews expelled from Portugal **1500** Jews expelled from Provence **1510** Jews expelled from Napoli **1536** Jews expelled from Saxony, Germany **1597** Jews expelled from Milan **1648** Ukrainian Jews slaughtered in Cossack's Rebellion led by Chmielnitzki **1736** Iranian Jews killed or forcibly converted **1840** Blood libel of Damascus **1881** Wave of pogroms in Russia **1894** Alfred Dreyfus arrested in France as spy **1903** Pogroms in Kishinev, Russia **1929** Pogroms in Mandate Palestine **1935** Nuremberg Laws in Germany **1938** Kristallnacht – synagogues burned, leaders deported to Dachau in Germany **1942** Wannsee Conference in Berlin decides on the Final Solution.



# Arami Oved Avi אַרַמִי אֹבֵד אָבִי

## THE WANDERING JEW: A SYMPOSIUM

### "אַרַמִי אֹבֵד אָבִי"

וַיֵּרֶד מִצְרַיִמָּה וַיֵּגֶר שָׁם בְּמִתִּי מַעֲט,

וַיְהִי שָׁם לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל, עָצוּם וְרַב.

וַיֵּרְעוּ אֹתָנוּ הַמִּצְרַיִם וַיַּעֲנוּנוּ,

וַיִּתְּנוּ עָלֵינוּ עֲבָדָה קָשָׁה.

וַנִּצְעַק אֶל יי אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹתֵינוּ,

וַיִּשְׁמַע יי אֶת קִלְנוּ,

וַיֵּרָא אֶת עֲנֵינוּ וְאֶת עֲמָלָנוּ וְאֶת לַחֲצֵינוּ.

וַיֹּצִיאֵנוּ יי מִמִּצְרַיִם בְּיָד חֲזָקָה וּבְזֶרַע נְטוּיָה,

וּבְמָדָא גָּדֹל, וּבְאֹתוֹת וּבְמִפְתִּים.

וַיְבִיאֵנוּ אֶל הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה;

וַיִּתֵּן לָנוּ אֶת הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת,

אֶרֶץ זָבֶת חֶלֶב וּדְבַשׁ."

"Today I want to tell Adonai, our God, how I have come to be in the land Adonai promised our ancestors, to give to us." (Deuteronomy 26:3).

All:

"My ancestor was a wandering Aramean. He descended to Egypt and resided there in small numbers.

He became a nation – great, powerful and numerous.

Then the Egyptians treated us badly. They persecuted us and subjected us to hard labor.

We cried out to Adonai, the God of our ancestors. God heard our voice. God saw our persecution,

our labor and our oppression.

God took us out of Egypt – with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, with awesome power, signs and wonders.

Then God brought us to this place and gave us this land,

a land of milk and honey." (Deuteronomy 26:1-10).

Tonight's script is the telling of our national autobiography as wandering Jews. We go from migration down to exploitation, and then up from rags to riches and finally to homecoming.

The text we use was once recited by heart by every Jew, when bringing first fruits of the homeland to the Temple.







**Michel Kichka:** To the Land of Milk (3% fat) and Honey

Historically, the Promised Land was known for goat milk and date honey. But the artist takes the more popular understanding and identifies this Divine prophecy with Israeli products found daily in every grocery store.

Can you identify the various stages of the Pesach story in this illustration?

## THE SEDER AND THE TEACHING COMMUNITY

The Seder is celebrated by a community within which one shares not only one's material goods, but also one's selfhood, spiritual treasures, knowledge, experiences, aspirations, and hopes.

The Seder community is a teaching community that practices the highest form of *hesed* [love, kindness and giving]... To foster this community, Hazal, the Sages, demanded that Torah be taught at every meal (Mishna Avot 3:3)... On the Seder night, every Jewish home becomes a teaching community, a didactic fellowship, a school where a class of disciples is instructed in Judaism.

Rabbi **Joseph B. Soloveitchik**,  
*Festival of Freedom*

יֵא וְלָמַד מֶה בִּקֵּשׁ לָבֶן  
הָאֲרָמִי לַעֲשׂוֹת לִיעֲקֹב אָבִינוּ:  
שְׁפָרְעָה לֹא גִזַּר אֱלֹא עַל הַזְּכָרִים  
וְלָבֶן בִּקֵּשׁ לַעֲקֹר אֶת הַכֹּל,  
שְׁנֵאמַר:  
"אֲרָמִי אֲבִד אָבִי."

**Go out and learn**  
what (awful) plans  
Lavan the Aramean  
had for Jacob our  
Father:  
While Pharaoh  
intended to kill only  
the boys,  
Lavan sought to  
uproot the whole of  
Jacob's family, the  
children of Israel.  
This is the hidden  
meaning of the verse,  
the Aramean (Lavan)  
sought to exterminate  
my father (Jacob).

(Deuteronomy 26:5)

"Go out and learn" is the official invitation to Jewish study, to the rabbinic symposium which we are encouraged to join this evening. Recapitulating phrase by phrase the story of migration recited on the previous page, we add rabbinic elaborations (Midrash).

**Some families** read every word, some skip to the Ten Plagues p.78, and others choose just one phrase and one theme to trigger their own discussions about one of these themes:

**Assimilation and Identity** p. 69

**Birth and Genocide**  
p. 71

**Oppression and Resistance** p. 73

**Women and Liberation**  
p. 75





## THE ETHIOPIAN JOURNEY TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL

Shlomo Gronich and the Sheba Choir, the Ethiopian Immigrant Band

Words: Chaim Idissis

The moon is watching from above  
On my back is a light bag of food  
The desert beneath me has no end ahead  
And my mother promises my little brothers  
"A little more, a little more  
lift up your legs, a last push  
towards Jerusalem"

The moonlight stood fast  
Our bag of food was lost.  
The endless desert  
Cries of jackals  
And my mother comforts my little brothers  
"A little bit more, a little more  
soon we'll be redeemed  
we won't stop going  
to the land of Israel"

And at night bandits attacked  
With a knife and a sharp sword  
In the desert, the blood of my mother  
The moon is my witness and I promise my brothers  
"A little bit more, a little more  
The dream will be fulfilled  
One last effort before we get to Jerusalem"

## THE EXODUS – TAKE TWO

During the 1980's, the Jews of Ethiopia sought to emigrate to Israel, though it was illegal, by crossing the border to the Sudan on a long journey on foot. Police guards, thieves and the desert often made this a **march of death**. The popular Israeli song (above) describes this courageous migration toward the Promised Land.

Later in 1991, during Operation Solomon (named after King Solomon who hosted the Queen of Sheba, which is today's Ethiopia), Israeli Air Force Hercules cargo planes picked up almost 15,000 Ethiopian Jews from the capital city of Addis Ababa. Several months later, there were still stragglers

from distant agricultural areas bringing up the rear of this massive Exodus. Here they are shown carrying all their possessions and their younger children on their backs on a fifteen day trek to a collection center.

Photograph by **Aliza Orbach**, 1992

**"וַיֵּרֶד מִצְרַיִם וַיָּגֵר שָׁם בְּמֹתֵי מֶעֶט,  
וַיְהִי שָׁם לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל, עָצוּם וָרֹב."**

### **וַיֵּרֶד מִצְרַיִם**

אָנוּס עַל פִּי הַדְּבֹר.

### **וַיָּגֵר שָׁם**

מִלְמִד שֶׁלֹּא יֵרֶד יַעֲקֹב אֲבִינוּ לְהִשְׁתַּקֵּעַ בְּמִצְרַיִם - אֲלֵא לְגוֹר שָׁם.

שְׁנַאמֶר: "וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל פַּרְעֹה: 'לְגוֹר בְּאֶרֶץ בְּאֵנוּ,

כִּי אֵין מְרֻעָה לַעֲבָדֶיךָ, כִּי כָבֵד הָרַעַב בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן.

וְעַתָּה יֵשְׁבוּ נָא עֲבָדֶיךָ בְּאֶרֶץ גִּשְׁן."

### **בְּמֹתֵי מֶעֶט**

כְּמֵה שְׁנַאמֶר:

"בְּשִׁבְעִים נֶפֶשׁ יָרְדוּ אֲבוֹתֶיךָ מִצְרַיִם,

וְעַתָּה שְׂמֶךְ יי אֱלֹהֶיךָ כְּכֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם לְרֹב."

### **וַיְהִי שָׁם לְגוֹי**

מִלְמִד שֶׁהָיוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל מִצְיָנִים שָׁם.

**"Israel (Jacob) descended to Egypt, resided there in small numbers, and there became a nation – great, powerful and numerous."**

(Deuteronomy 26:5)

### **"ISRAEL DESCENDED TO EGYPT"**

compelled by the Divine word, to fulfill the prophecy of God to Abraham that "your descendants will be strangers in a land not their own, where they will be enslaved and persecuted..."

(Genesis 14:13).

### **"ISRAEL RESIDED THERE"**

temporarily. Jacob our Father never intended to settle permanently in Egypt. Jacob's family made that clear from the onset. "They said to the Pharaoh (who reigned in the days of Joseph): *we have come merely to reside in this land, for there is no pasture for your servants' sheep. For the famine in the land of Canaan is very heavy. Therefore, please permit your servants to stay in the land of Goshen (within Egypt, where grazing is good)*" (Genesis 47:4).

### **"IN SMALL NUMBERS"**

Jacob arrived in Egypt. Moshe reminds us that: "with only seventy persons, your ancestors descended to Egypt. Yet now Adonai your God has made you as numerous as the stars of the sky" (Deuteronomy 10:22).

### **"THERE ISRAEL BECAME A NATION"**

recognizable, distinctive, standing out from the others.



# Assimilation and Identity

"I, as practically all Soviet Jews, was absolutely assimilated. I knew nothing about our language, about our history, about our religion. But the pride of being a Jew, the pride for our State of Israel after the Six Day War, made me feel free from that big Soviet prison."

Nathan Sharansky, former Prisoner of Zion and Israeli Minister

## GOY GADOL – WHAT IS A "GREAT NATION"?

One aspect of a *goy gadol*, a great nation, is that it distinguishes itself in the area of righteousness: "*And what goy gadol is there that has statutes and ordinances so righteous as this law?*" (Deuteronomy 4:8). The people as such, as well as the individuals who comprise it, possess a developed sense of and fine sensitivity to justice. Instinctively, they cannot tolerate evil; they hate discriminatory practices and chicanery. If a nation is emotionally capable of approving of injustice, it cannot lay claim to greatness, no matter how powerful it is militarily and economically, or however ingenious it is in matters of science and technology. Real greatness consists in the innate quality of fairness and righteousness, in the spontaneous indignation whenever one is confronted with hypocrisy and selfishness...

If asked what characterizes Jewish morality, I would answer with a single Yiddish word: *rahmanus*. The English translations of mercy, compassion, sympathy, or empathy do not capture its full meaning. *Rahmanus* refers to the exceptionally tender and warm approach of one individual to another. The word *rahamim* in Hebrew is derived from *reham*, the womb; it means the love of a mother for her child. The fact that in Egypt the Jews were exposed to all kinds of chicanery and humiliation, the fact that they were treated there like objects, not people, engendered in the Jewish people sensitivity and tenderness toward their fellow man.

Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, *Festival of Freedom*



## BEING A STRANGER

Imagine the life of an immigrant. Ask those who have been a stranger in a new location to retell their story: How does one feel after being uprooted? About being a newcomer? What aspects of the identity of origin are preserved, hidden or changed? Do you ever feel really at home?

Freedom never comes on a silver platter. It's never easy...  
Whenever you break out of Egypt you better get ready for stiff backs.  
You better get ready for some homes to be bombed.  
You better get ready for some churches to be bombed.  
You better get ready for a lot of nasty things to be said about you,  
because you are getting out of Egypt.

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## גָּדוֹל, עָצוּם

כְּמָה שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר:

"וַיִּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כְּרֹם וַיִּשְׂרְצוּ וַיִּרְבּוּ וַיַּעֲצֻמוּ בְּמֵאֹד מְאֹד  
וַתִּמְלֵא הָאָרֶץ אֹתָם."

## וַיִּרְבּוּ

כְּמָה שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: "רִבְבָּה כְּצֶמַח הַשָּׂדֶה נִתְהַיָּךְ,  
וַתִּרְבִּי וַתִּגְדְּלִי וַתִּבְאִי בַעֲדֵי עֲדָיִים,  
שְׂדֵים נִכְנּוּ וּשְׁעָרָהּ צִמְחָה, וְאֵת עֶרְסָהּ וְעָרְיָה."

"וַיִּרְעוּ אֹתָנוּ הַמִּצְרִים וַיַּעֲנוּנוּ,

וַיִּתְּנוּ עָלֵינוּ עֲבָדָה קָשָׁה."

## וַיִּרְעוּ אֹתָנוּ הַמִּצְרִים

כְּמָה שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: "הָבָה נִתְחַכְמָה לוֹ;  
כֵּן יִרְבֶּה, וְהָיָה כִּי תִקְרְאֵנָה מִלְחָמָה -  
וְנוֹסֵף גַּם הוּא עַל שְׂנְאֵינוּ  
וְנִלְחַם בָּנוּ וְעָלָה מִן הָאָרֶץ."

## "A NATION – GREAT AND POWERFUL"

emerged at an incredible pace. "The children of Israel were fruitful and swarmed, and multiplied and became very, very powerful. The land was filled with them" (Exodus 1:7).

## "A NUMEROUS NATION" also means "full-grown."

The prophet captures God's nurturing of Israel in Egypt with graphic imagery. "I let you grow like the plants of the field. You continued to grow up until you attained womanhood, until your breasts became firm, and your hair flourished. Yet you were still naked" (Ezekiel 16:7) – (spiritually).

"The Egyptians treated us badly, they persecuted us and imposed hard labor on us" (Deuteronomy 26:6).

## "THE EGYPTIANS TREATED US BADLY" –

they "bad-mouthed" our loyalty. Pharaoh set the ominous tone when exhorting his people: "Let us outsmart them so that they may not increase. Otherwise, in the event of war, they will join our enemies, fight against us and expel us from the land" (Exodus 1:10).

# Birth and Genocide

## SEXTUPLETS

*"And the children of Israel were fruitful and swarmed and multiplied and increased very, very, very much. The land was filled with them"* (Exodus 1:7).

This is an explosion of life, an almost surrealistic description of the spawning of a nation. It is a celebration of the fullness of life, burgeoning and uncontained. This reading is a fulfillment of God's promise to Jacob: *"Fear not to go down to Egypt, for I will make you there into a great nation"* (Genesis 46:3).

The redundant expressions of fertility have been read as denoting multiple births. In the midrashic readings, there is a miraculous, even a whimsical sense of the outrageous victory of life over death: these, for instance, take the six expressions of fertility (they were fruitful, they swarmed, they multiplied, they increased, very, very much) to indicate that each woman gave birth to **sextuplets** ("six to a belly").

The affirmation of life contained in these pounding synonyms intimates, in its very excess, a transcendent order of meaning: *"Even though Joseph and his brothers died, their God did not die, but the children of Israel were fruitful and multiplied..."* The midrash here wants to decipher the cascade of births not only as blessing but as the "survival of God." In some way that is not fully explained here, God expresses His undimmed vitality in the language of physical fertility.

Aviva Zornberg, *The Particulars of Rapture*

## WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

*"In every generation we [women] must look upon ourselves as if we [were the women who] came out of Egypt."*

The actions of the women of the Exodus story, the "righteous women of that generation," are memorable and praiseworthy; but they are not extraordinary, not limited merely to a few heroines of the past. We all have seen the strength of women in adversity. Women fight to keep their families together in times of war, economic deprivation, and epidemics. Retacent, dependent women "who never balanced a checkbook" turn into superwomen when they have to nurse ailing husbands or raise their families alone because of widowhood or divorce. All the strengths and talents that have been invisible – even to the woman herself – start coming to the fore. It is as if women are turned inside out by trouble: when the going gets tough, it seems, women get going.

Tikvah Frymer Kensky, Bible scholar and educator

## NO MORE JEWISH CHILDREN

February 5, 1942:

*Today the Gestapo in Vilna announced:*

**"FROM TODAY ON, NO MORE JEWISH CHILDREN ARE TO BE BORN"**

*The impact of the order on the ghetto is indescribable. Everyone cited the first Sedrah in Exodus in which Pharaoh had forbidden the birth of male children. The Pharaoh of the twentieth century is far more cruel – no births whatsoever!*

When I came to the ghetto later I found that my wife had had a baby in a ghetto hospital. But I saw the hospital surrounded by Germans and a black car standing before the door...

In the evening when the Germans had left, I went to the hospital and found my wife in tears... When she had had her baby, the

Jewish doctors of the hospital had already received the order that Jewish women must not give birth; and they had **hidden the baby**, together with other newborn children, in one of the rooms.

But when the Germans came to the hospital, they heard the cries of the babies. They broke open the door and entered the room. When my wife heard that the door had been broken, she immediately got up and ran to see what was happening to the child. She saw one German holding the baby and smearing something under its nose. Afterwards he threw it on the bed and laughed. When my wife picked up the child, there was something black under his nose. When I arrived at the hospital, I saw that my baby was dead. He was still warm.

Poet **Abraham Sutzkever**, testimony before the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, February 27, 1946.

### וַיַּעֲבֹדוּ

כַּמָּה שָׁנָאֵמַר: "וַיִּשְׁמְרוּ עָלֵינוּ שָׂרֵי מִסִּים לְמַעַן עֲנֹתוּ בְּסִבְלָתָם. וַיִּבְנוּ עָרֵי מִסְכְּנוֹת לַפָּרֹעַ: אֶת פִּתּוֹם וְאֶת רַעַמְסֵס."

### וַיִּתְּנוּ עָלֵינוּ עֲבֹדָה קָשָׁה

כַּמָּה שָׁנָאֵמַר: "וַיַּעֲבֹדוּ מִצְרַיִם אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּפָרָד."

"וַנִּצְעַק אֶל יי אֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, וַיִּשְׁמַע יי אֶת קִלְנוּ, וַיֵּרָא אֶת עֲנִינוּ וְאֶת עֲמָלָנוּ וְאֶת לַחֲצֵנוּ."

### וַנִּצְעַק אֶל יי אֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ

כַּמָּה שָׁנָאֵמַר: "וַיְהִי בַיָּמִים הָרַבִּים הָהֵם - וַיָּמָת מֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם. וַיֵּאָחֲזוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִן הָעֲבֹדָה וַיִּצְעֲקוּ: וַתַּעַל שׁוֹעַתָם אֶל הָאֱלֹהִים מִן הָעֲבֹדָה."

### וַיִּשְׁמַע יי אֶת קִלְנוּ

כַּמָּה שָׁנָאֵמַר: "וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶת נַאֲקָתָם, וַיִּזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים אֶת בְּרִיתוֹ, אֶת אַבְרָהָם, אֶת יִצְחָק וְאֶת יַעֲקֹב."

### "THEY PERSECUTED US"

"They put task masters over Israel to conscript their labor in order to persecute them with their burdens. They built for Pharaoh the garrison cities of Pitom (House of the god Atum) and Ra-meses (Domain of the Son of the Sun god, Ra)" (Exodus 1:11).

### "THEY IMPOSED HARD LABOR ON US"

"The Egyptians worked the children of Israel harshly (be-farekh)" (Exodus 1:13) – degrading us with back-breaking and spirit-crushing labor.

"We cried out to Adonai, the God of our fathers, God heard our voice, saw our persecution, our labor, and our oppression" (Deuteronomy 26:7).

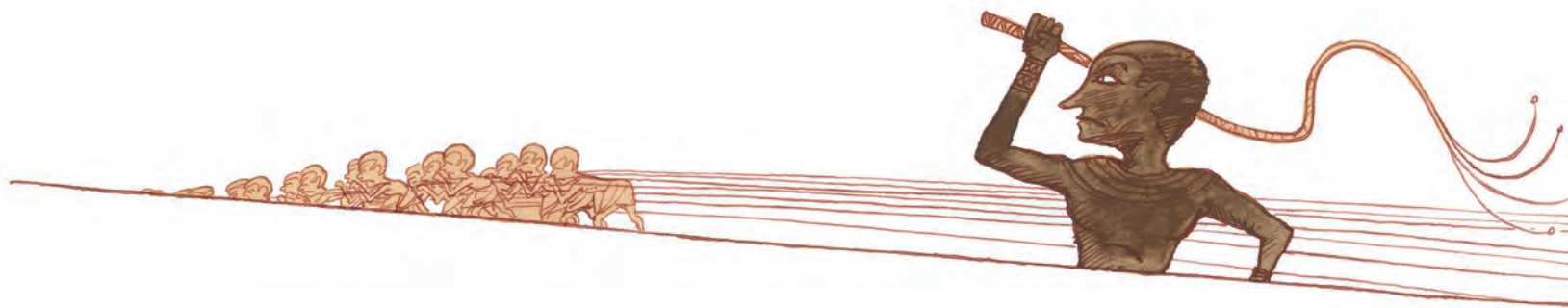
### "WE CRIED OUT TO ADONAI"

This was the turning point:

"After many, many days, the king of Egypt died. The children of Israel groaned from under the labor and CRIED OUT in protest. Their cry for help rose up to God from their labor" (Exodus 2:23).

### "GOD HEARD OUR VOICE"

just as it says in Exodus: "God HEARD their moans and God remembered the Divine covenant with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob" (Exodus 2:24).





# Oppression and Resistance

## PICK YOUR DEFINITION OF SLAVERY/FREEDOM

Review the quotes, pick one that speaks to you and share your choice with others:

To be free, to be able to stand up and leave everything behind – without looking back. To say Yes!

**Dag Hammarskjöld**, United Nations Secretary General, 1953

No man can put a chain about the ankle of his fellow man without at last finding the other end fastened about his own neck.

**Frederick Douglass**, former slave, Washington, DC, 1883

We have confused the free with the “free and easy.”

**Adlai Stevenson**, Presidential contender, 1956

It is often safer to be in chains than to be free.

**Franz Kafka**, *The Trial*, Prague, 1925

To be liberated – that is easy. To be a free person – that is very hard.

**Andre Gide**, French author, 20<sup>th</sup> C

Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it.

**George Bernard Shaw**, Irish playwright, 20<sup>th</sup> C

None are more hopelessly enslaved than those who falsely believe they are free.

**Goethe**, German poet, *Faustus*, 19<sup>th</sup> C

No human being is free who is not master of himself.

**Epicetitus**, Greek philosopher, Rome, 1<sup>st</sup> C

## OPPRESSION AND RESISTANCE

### Slavery is like Playing Checkers

Risky...very risky. For a slave woman to love anything that much was dangerous, especially if it was her children she had settled on to love. The best thing was to love just a little bit; everything, just a little bit, so when they broke its back, or shoved it in a croaker sack, well, maybe you'd have a little love left over for the next one...

**Men and women were moved around like checkers.** Anybody [the grandmother] Baby Suggs knew, let alone loved, who hadn't run off or been hanged, got rented out, loaned out, bought up, brought back, stored up, mortgaged, won, stolen or seized. So Baby's eight children had six fathers. What she called the nastiness of life was the shock she received upon learning that nobody stopped playing checkers just because the pieces included her children. Halle, she was able to keep the longest. Twenty years. A lifetime. Given to her, no doubt, to make up for hearing that her two girls, neither of whom had their adult teeth, were sold and gone and she had not been able to wave goodbye. To make up for coupling with a straw boss for four months in exchange for keeping her third child, a boy, with her – only to have him traded for lumber in the spring of the next year and to find herself pregnant by the man who promised not to and did. That child she could not love and the rest she would not. “God take what He would,” she said. And He did, and He did, and He did...

**Toni Morrison**, African-American novelist, Nobel laureate, *Beloved*

## “GO OUT AND LEARN” FROM PHARAOH’S DAUGHTER

Go out and learn: What did Pharaoh’s daughter wish to teach the children of Israel when she felt compassion for one of the Hebrew boys and brought him up as her son?

That all who raise an orphan boy or girl in their homes is regarded by the Torah as if they gave birth to that child” (Talmud Megillah 13a).

Therefore the Holy One said to Pharaoh’s daughter: “Moshe was not your son, yet you raised him, so too you are not my daughter by birth but I will call you my daughter, Bat-ya.”

(Midrash Leviticus 1:3)

From this we learn that “there are **righteous Gentiles** who have a portion in the world-to-come” (Tosefta Sanhedrin 13:2). In every generation the Divine *Shekhina* spreads its wings over us and raises up men and women from the Jewish people and from the nations of the world whose courage and spiritual strength save us from arbitrariness, from terror and from indifference that “rise against us to annihilate us.”

Rabbi **Einat Ramon**, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, Jerusalem

## וַיֵּרָא אֶת עֲנָנִיו

זו פְּרִישׁוֹת דֶּרֶךְ אֶרֶץ, כָּמָה שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: “וַיֵּרָא  
אֱלֹהִים אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֵּדַע אֱלֹהִים.”

## וְאֵת עַמָּלָנוּ

אֱלֹהֵי הַבָּנִים,

כָּמָה שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: “כָּל הַבֶּן הַיְלֹד הַיֵּאֲרָה  
תִּשְׁלִיכֶהוּ וְכָל הַבַּת תִּתְחַיֵּן.”

## וְאֵת לַחֲצֵנוּ

זֶה הַדְּחָק,

כָּמָה שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: “וְגַם רָאִיתִי אֶת הַלַּחֲץ  
אֲשֶׁר מִצָּרִים לַחֲצִים אֹתָם.”

## “GOD SAW OUR PERSECUTION”

The root “oni” (persecution) is similar to “ona” (marital intimacy), thus hinting at Pharaoh’s policy of enforced abstention from “ona” (sexual intercourse).

Perhaps that is delicately intimated when it says that: “*God saw the children of Israel, and God knew*” (Exodus 2:25) (their marital suffering, for knowledge has sexual overtones as in “*Adam knew his wife Eve*” [Genesis 4:1]).

## “OUR LABOR”

refers to the sons – the lost fruits of our “labor” who were drowned in Egypt. Pharaoh proclaimed: “*Every son who is born shall be cast into the Nile, while every daughter shall live*” (Exodus 1:22).

## “OUR OPPRESSION”

refers to “the pressure which the Egyptians applied to them” (Exodus 3:9).

# Women and Liberation



Simon Solomon, *Miriam's Mission* (England, 1860).

Rushing river of days,  
Cradle every parent's child in your waters.  
We launch our babes in fragile baskets,  
Moses multiplied by millions, released from muddy shores.  
We squint to see around your bends  
As our hearts are carried away.  
We toss small sticks to float behind baskets, our prayers.

Meg Riley

## PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER DILEMMA

*Why did God give the responsibility of Moses' rearing to an Egyptian woman and the daughter of Pharaoh? Who was this woman?*

I can imagine a young woman dissatisfied with the life and values bequeathed her by her father. It is a life without substance, though every physical need was filled and every material desire satisfied. She has reached that critical moment in life where dissatisfaction has become unbearable and action is required. The only problem (and it is always the problem): she doesn't know what to do. It is at such times that God presents us with an opportunity to act, if we recognize it as such. She sees a basket among the reeds beside the river. The closed basket looks like a tiny coffin. Does it contain the body of a dead Jewish boy? *She does not turn and walk away* from the possible horror, but orders the basket brought to her. The midrash records that one of the slave girls said: "Your Highness, it is the general rule that when a king makes a decree, his own family will obey that decree even if everyone else transgresses it. But you are flagrantly disobeying your father's command?" Yes, because her need for an identity separate from her father's was much greater.

The basket is brought to her and instead of ordering the slave girl to open it, Batya knows that she must be responsible for her act, and the text records this remarkable line: "*And she opened it, and saw it, even the child.*" (Exodus 2:6) To open is one of the most important and difficult spiritual acts we are asked to do. *Only when we open can the new present itself.* But opening means forsaking the comfort of the familiar to enter the unknown.

Julius Lester, African-American convert, social activist and professor of Jewish Studies

**"וַיּוֹצֵאֵנוּ יי מִמִּצְרַיִם! בְּיָד חֲזָקָה וּבְזֵרַע נְטוּיָה,  
וּבְמַרְא גָדֹל, וּבְאִתּוֹת וּבְמִפְתִּים."**

### **וַיּוֹצֵאֵנוּ יי מִמִּצְרַיִם**

לֹא עַל יְדֵי מַלְאָךְ, וְלֹא עַל יְדֵי שָׂרָף, וְלֹא עַל יְדֵי שְׁלִיחַ,  
אַל־אֵלָּהּ הַקְדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא בְּכַבֹּדוֹ וּבְעֶצְמוֹ, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: "וְעָבַרְתִּי בָאָרֶץ  
מִצְרַיִם בְּלִילָה הַזֶּה, וְהָכִיתִי כָּל בְּכוֹר בָּאָרֶץ מִצְרַיִם מֵאָדָם וְעַד  
בְּהֵמָה, וּבְכָל אֱלֹהֵי מִצְרַיִם אֶעֱשֶׂה שְׁפָטִים. אֲנִי יי."

"וְעָבַרְתִּי בָאָרֶץ מִצְרַיִם בְּלִילָה הַזֶּה" - אֲנִי וְלֹא מַלְאָךְ,  
"וְהָכִיתִי כָּל בְּכוֹר בָּאָרֶץ מִצְרַיִם" - אֲנִי וְלֹא שָׂרָף,  
"וּבְכָל אֱלֹהֵי מִצְרַיִם אֶעֱשֶׂה שְׁפָטִים" - אֲנִי וְלֹא הַשְׁלִיחַ,  
"אֲנִי יי" - אֲנִי הוּא וְלֹא אֲחֵר.

### **בְּיָד חֲזָקָה**

זו הַדְּבָר, כִּמָּה שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: "הִנֵּה יָד יי הוֹיָה בְּמִקְנֶךָ אֲשֶׁר בַּשָּׂדֶה,  
בַּסּוּסִים, בַּחֲמֹרִים, בַּגְּמִלִים, בַּבָּקָר וּבַצֹּאן, דָּבָר כְּבֵד מְאֹד."

### **וּבְזֵרַע נְטוּיָה**

זו הַחֲרֵב, כִּמָּה שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: "וַחֲרָבוֹ שְׁלֹפָה בְּיָדוֹ, נְטוּיָה עַל יְרוּשָׁלַיִם."

### **וּבְמַרְא גָדֹל**

זֶה גְּלוּי שְׂכִינָה, כִּמָּה שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: "אוֹ הִנֵּסָה אֱלֹהִים לָבֹא לְקַחַת לּוֹ גּוֹי  
מִקְרֵב גּוֹי בְּמִסֹּת בָּאִתּוֹת וּבְמוֹפְתִים וּבְמִלְחָמָה  
וּבְיָד חֲזָקָה וּבְזֵרַע נְטוּיָה וּבְמוֹרָאִים גְּדֹלִים,  
כָּל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לָכֶם יי אֱלֹהֵיכֶם בְּמִצְרַיִם לְעֵינֶיךָ."

**"God took us out of Egypt, with a strong hand and  
an outstretched arm, with awesome power, signs and  
wonders"** (Deuteronomy 26:8).

### **"GOD TOOK US OUT"**

Not by the hands of an angel, Not by the hands of a messenger,  
But the Blessed Holy One alone. Just as the Torah says, *"I will pass through  
the land of Egypt, and I will strike down every first born in Egypt, both human and  
beast, I will execute judgment on all the gods of Egypt, I am God"* (Exodus 12:12).

### **"WITH A STRONG HAND"**

refers to an epidemic of animal disease (*dever*)  
– the fifth plague. *"The hand of Adonai will strike  
your livestock in the fields – the horses, the donkeys, the  
camels, the cattle, and the sheep – with a very severe  
disease"* (Exodus 9:3).

### **An Outstretched Arm:**

According to an Afghani  
Jewish custom, the leader  
of the Seder raises the  
bone (*zeroa*) from the Seder  
plate as a symbol of God's  
outstretched arm (*zeroa*).

### **"WITH AN OUTSTRETCHED ARM"**

refers to God's sword [as a metaphor for the plague of the first born] just  
as it does elsewhere: *"David woke up and saw the angel of Adonai standing  
between heaven and earth, with a drawn sword in his hand, outstretched against  
Jerusalem"* (1 Chronicles 21:16).

### **"WITH AWESOME POWER"**

refers to the revelation of God's power to our very eyes. That is just what  
Moshe tells Israel: *"Did a god ever before attempt to come and extract one nation  
for himself from the midst of another nation by prodigious acts, by signs and  
wonders, by war, by a strong hand, an outstretched arm and awesome power, as  
Adonai your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes?"* (Deuteronomy 4:34).



## וּבְאִתּוֹת

זֶה הַמַּטֵּה, כְּמָה שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: "וְאֵת הַמַּטֵּה הַזֶּה תִּקַּח בְּיָדְךָ, אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשֶׂה בּוֹ אֵת הָאֵתוֹת."

## וּבִמְפִתִּים

זֶה הַדָּם, כְּמָה שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: "וְנִתְּנִי מוֹפְתִים בְּשָׂמִים וּבְאֲרָזִים..."  
"... דָּם וְאֵשׁ וְתִימְרוֹת עֶשֶׂן."

דָּבָר אַחֵר: "בֵּיד חֹזֶק" - שְׂפִימִים; "וּבְזֹרַע נְטוּיָה" - שְׂפִימִים;  
"וּבִמְרָא גָדֹל" - שְׂפִימִים; "וּבְאֵתוֹת" - שְׂפִימִים; "וּבִמְפִתִּים" - שְׂפִימִים.

## "WITH SIGNS"

refers to the staff, as God told Moshe: "Take the staff in your hand to do signs with it" (Exodus. 4:17).

## "WITH WONDERS"

refers to the plagues of blood, fire and smoke that are recalled by the prophet Joel: "Before the great and terrible day of Adonai comes, I will set wonders in the sky and on earth . . . blood, fire, pillars of smoke! *Da-am* (drop of wine) *va-eish* (drop) *v'teemrot ashan* (drop)! The sun shall turn to darkness and the moon into blood" (Joel 3:3).

## God's Finger and the Sixteen Drops

It is a medieval custom to dip one's finger in the Seder's second cup of wine and to remove sixteen drops of wine. As each plague is recited we decrease our own joy, drop by drop, as we recall the enemy's pain. Besides the ten plagues, the extra six drops correspond to the three prophetic plagues mentioned by the prophet Joel – blood, fire and smoke – and the three word abbreviation of the ten plagues invented by Rabbi Yehuda – *d'tzakh*, *adash*, *b'akhab*.

"No slave ever escaped Egypt" (Midrash Mekhilta).

What makes release possible? What is the turning point in the history of this unarticulated misery? And what is the secret of redemption?

Aviva Zornberg

## THE HUMAN ROLE IN THE REDEMPTION

History, Judaism says, cannot move or progress without the individual. God waits for man if there is something to be done. He does nothing until man initiates action. God waits for man, for a single person, to accept responsibility and initiate the process of *ge'ulah*, of redemption. It is strange. On the one hand, God is the *Go'el Yisrael*, our redeemer and liberator; however, God wills man to become His *shali'ah* [his messenger or representative] in the drama of *ge'ulah*, the personalistic *shali'ah* with whom God will walk.

God will not desert him, but God alone does not want to take the initiative. The Jewish people have been waiting a long time for the *Mashi'ah* – a human being like us who will initiate the process of *ge'ulah*. God wants an individual great in knowledge, in morality, in prophecy, to be a participant in the drama of *ge'ulah*. God wills man to emerge as a great being through his acceptance of the *shelihut*, mission. Not the collective, but the individual, seizes the initiative. "It came to pass in the course of those many days, that the king

of Egypt died, and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage and their cry rose up to God ... and God saw their affliction, and God knew" (Exodus 2:23-25). God was ready, the people were ready, the time had passed, *ge'ulah* was possible, and God could have taken them out in a split second. But God had to wait for someone. Immediately, in the next verse, Moses is mentioned: "Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro" (Exodus 3:1).

Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, *Festival of Freedom*

# The Ten Plagues

# עֶשֶׂר הַמַּכּוֹת

אלו עֶשֶׂר מַכּוֹת שֶׁהָבִיא  
הַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא עַל הַמִּצְרִים  
בְּמִצְרַיִם, וְאֵלוֹ הֵן:

The Blessed Holy One  
brought **Ten Plagues**  
on the Egyptians in Egypt.  
These are the ten:

It is customary to spill  
a drop of wine from  
our cup of joy for each  
plague that God had to  
bring on the stubborn  
Egyptian oppressors  
until they agreed to  
release Israel from  
slavery.

The Rabbis debated  
about our attitude to  
the Ten Plagues:  
On the one hand,  
they were a necessary  
instrument of liberation  
and a just punishment  
for Egyptian cruelty.  
Yet, on the other, they  
involved the suffering  
of fellow human  
beings, Divine creations  
in the image of God.  
"We celebrate the  
Exodus from Egypt,  
not the downfall of the  
Egyptians," said Rabbi  
Simcha Cohen.

דָּם	Da-am	Blood
עֲפָרְדֵּי	Tz'far-dei-ah	Frogs
כִּנִּים	Kee-neem	Lice
עֲרוֹב	Ah-rov	Wild beasts
דֶּבֶר	Deh-ver	Cattle plague
שִׁחִין	Sh'kheen	Boils
בָּרָד	Ba-rad	Hail
אַרְבֶּה	Ar-beh	Locusts
חֹשֶׁךְ	Kho-shech	Darkness
מַכַּת בְּכוֹרוֹת.	Ma-kat B'kho-rot	Death of the Firstborns

רַבִּי יְהוּדָה הָיָה נוֹתֵן בָּהֶם סְמָנִים: Rabbi Yehuda used to abbreviate them as an acrostic:

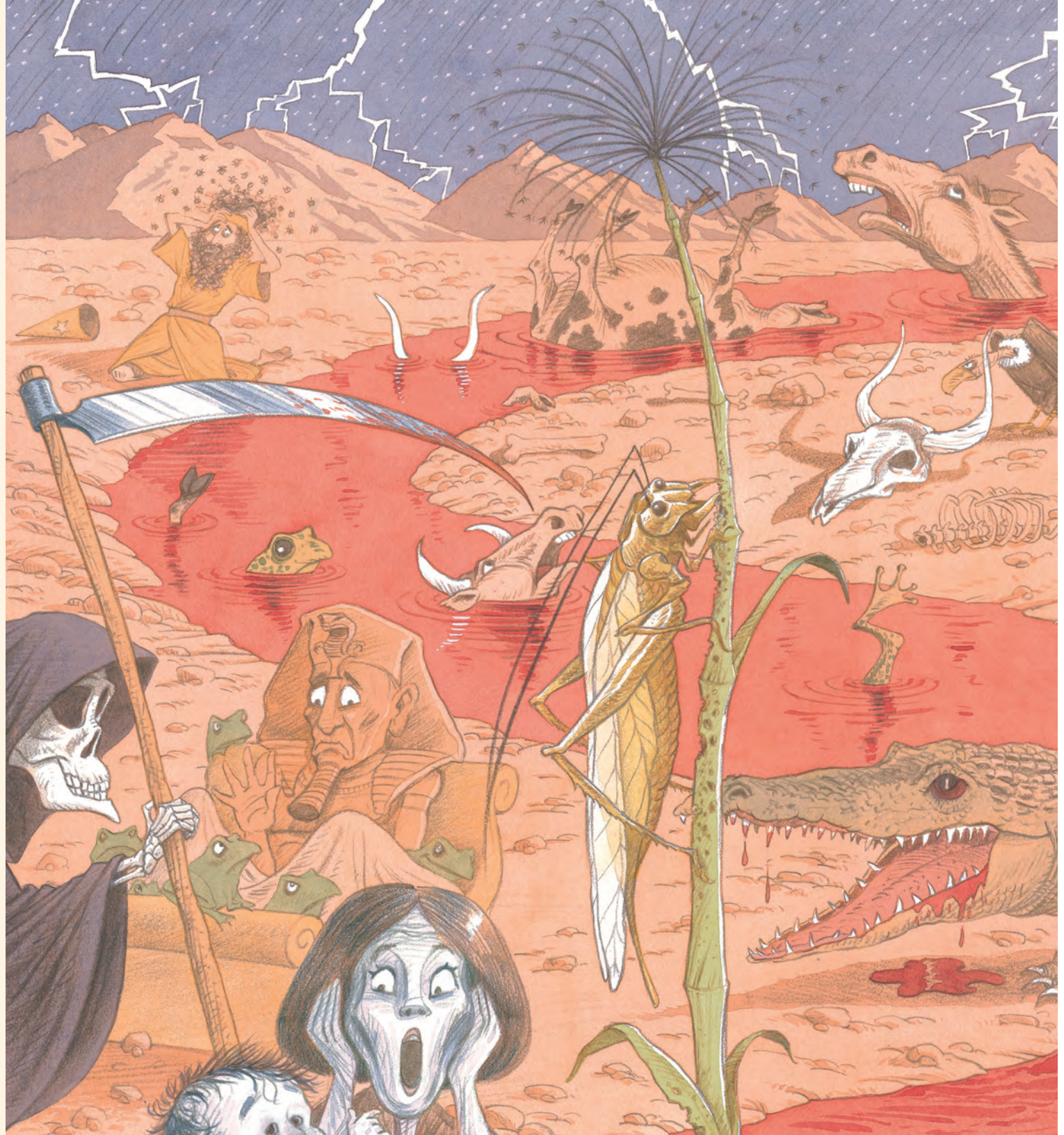
דַּע"ךְ    עַד"ש    בַּאֲח"ב.  
D-Tza-Kh (drop)    A-Da-Sh (drop)    B'-A-Kha-B (drop)



### Ten Horrors

The artist has integrated all ten plagues into one simultaneous collage. Two plagues are represented by details of famous contemporary painters. Can you find them?

*Can you discover which plague was accidentally left out?*





# כמה מכות לקו המצרים על הים?

## MULTIPLYING THE TEN PLAGUES: THREE NUMERICAL RIDDLES

**רבי יוסי הגלילי** אומר: מנין אתה אומר שלקו המצרים במצרים עשר מכות ועל הים לקו חמשים מכות?  
במצרים מה הוא אומר – "ויאמרו החרטמים אל פרעה: אצבע אלהים הוא", ועל הים מה הוא אומר – "וירא ישראל את ה' הגדלה אשר עשה יי במצרים, וייראו העם את יי, ויאמינו ביי ובמשה עבדו". כמה לקו באצבע? עשר מכות. אמר מעתה: במצרים לקו עשר מכות ועל הים לקו חמשים מכות.

**רבי אליעזר** אומר: מנין שכל מכה ומכה שהביא הקדוש ברוך הוא על המצרים במצרים היתה של ארבע מכות?  
שנאמר: "ישלח בם חרון אפו, עברה וזעם וצרה, משלחת מלאכי רעים". "עברה" – אחת, "זעם" – שנים, "וצרה" – שלש, "משלחת מלאכי רעים" – ארבע. אמר מעתה: במצרים לקו ארבעים מכות ועל הים לקו מאתיים מכות.

**רבי עקיבא** אומר: מנין שכל מכה ומכה שהביא הקדוש ברוך הוא על המצרים במצרים היתה של חמש מכות?  
שנאמר: "ישלח בם חרון אפו, עברה וזעם וצרה, משלחת מלאכי רעים". "חרון אפו" – אחת, "עברה" – שנים, "זעם" – שלש, "וצרה" – ארבע, "משלחת מלאכי רעים" – חמש. אמר מעתה: במצרים לקו חמשים מכות ועל הים לקו חמשים ומאתים מכות.

**RABBI YOSSE** the Galilean posed the riddle: "How do you know that God struck the Egyptians with only 10 blows in Egypt, while God struck them with 50 blows at the Red Sea?"

**Solution:** In Egypt God used 1 finger just as "the Egyptian magicians said to Pharaoh: This (plague) is the finger of God" (Exodus 8:15). But at the Red Sea, God used the whole hand. "Israel saw the great hand that God used against Egypt" (Exodus 14:31). Logically, if 1 finger produced 10 plagues in Egypt, then a whole hand (5 fingers) produced 50 plagues at the Red Sea.

**RABBI ELIEZER** posed the riddle: "How do you know that each of the 10 plagues in Egypt was really 4 plagues rolled into one?"

**Solution:** In Psalms 78:49 God's burning anger at the Egyptians is described with 4 extra synonyms: (1) "wrath;" (2) "indignation;" (3) "trouble;" and (4) "a band of deadly messengers." Each of the plagues must have 4 dimensions. In sum, God struck 40 blows (4x10) in Egypt (using just one finger) and 200 blows (4x10x5) at the Sea (using his whole hand).

**RABBI AKIBA** posed the riddle: "How do you know that each of the 10 plagues in Egypt was really 5 plagues rolled into one?"

**Solution:** In Psalms 78:49 5 synonyms for anger one expressed in each plague: "(God) inflicted: (1) God's burning anger upon them; (2) wrath; (3) indignation; (4) trouble; and (5) a band of deadly messengers." In sum, God struck 50 blows (5x10) in Egypt (using just one finger) and 250 blows at the Red Sea (using God's whole hand).



## THE TEN FEARS

The plagues God visited on the Egyptians in Egypt seem to me to be a parade of people's greatest fears. They are a mythological show of the power of the living vs. primal fear.

Starting from the blood of birth and of death, through primal human fears of small creatures (lice) and large ones (wild beasts), fear of financial ruin (locusts), fear of the dark (losing direction and meaning), we face the greatest fear: the fear for our children's lives – loss of the future.

Tonight, a night to commemorate the past, we seek the mercy of God's protection, look out from our places at a world full of fears and dangers – and pray for another quiet year.

**Shai Zarhi**, Israeli educator

### FROGS ON PHARAOH'S HEAD

One morning when Pharaoh awoke in bed  
There were frogs on his head and frogs on his bed  
Frogs on his nose and frogs on his toes  
Frogs here, frogs there,  
Frogs were jumping everywhere.

**Shirley Cohen**



## PESACH MATH RIDDLES: COMPUTE IN YOUR HEAD

A = Number of Moshe's siblings x number of years in desert x (number of days Moshe spent on Mount Sinai without eating – number of tablets of law)

B = (Books of Torah – number of tribes) x (number of plagues x number of days of *bris*) + (number of cups x number of questions x number of children)

*Bonus Question:*

C = number of rabbis in all-nighter in Bnei Brak (squared) + (months Moshe was hidden by his mother x number of animals mentioned in Had Gadya) + number of verses in Dayenu

See answers on page 148-149.

# Dayeinu דיינו

כַּמָּה מַעֲלֹת טוֹבוֹת לַמָּקוֹם עָלֵינוּ!

**אלו** הוֹצִיאָנוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם, וְלֹא עָשָׂה בָּהֶם שְׁפָטִים,

דיינו.

Ee-lu ho-tzee-anu mee-Meetz-ra-yeem,  
v'lo asa va-hem sh'fa-teem, Da-yeinu

**אלו** עָשָׂה בָּהֶם שְׁפָטִים, וְלֹא עָשָׂה בְּאַלְהֵיהֶם,

דיינו.

Ee-lu asa va-hem sh'fa-teem,  
v'lo asa vei-lo-hei-hem, Da-yeinu

**אלו** עָשָׂה בְּאַלְהֵיהֶם, וְלֹא הָרַג אֶת בְּכוֹרֵיהֶם,

דיינו.

Ee-lu asa vei-lo-hei-hem,  
v'lo ha-rag et b'kho-rei-hem, Da-yeinu

**אלו** הָרַג אֶת בְּכוֹרֵיהֶם, וְלֹא נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת מָמוֹנָם,

דיינו.

Ee-lu ha-rag et b'kho-rei-hem,  
v'lo natan la-nu et ma-mo-nam, Da-yeinu

**אלו** נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת מָמוֹנָם, וְלֹא קָרַע לָנוּ אֶת הַיָּם,

דיינו.

Ee-lu natan la-nu et ma-mo-nam,  
v'lo kara la-nu et ha-yam, Da-yeinu

## Dayeinu

commemorates a long list of miraculous acts God did for us, any one of which would have been pretty amazing just by itself. For example, "Had God only taken us out of Egypt but not punished the Egyptians - it would have been enough." Dayeinu, translated liberally, means, "Thank you, God, for overdoing it."

[illegible]

**אֱלֹהֵינוּ** קָרַע לָנוּ אֶת הַיָּם, וְלֹא הֶעֱבִירָנוּ בְּתוֹכוֹ בַּחֲרֻבָּה,

**Ee-lu** ka-ra la-nu et ha-yam, v'lo he-eh-vee-ra-nu  
b'to-kho beh-kha-ra-va, **Da-yeinu**

**אֱלֹהֵינוּ** הַעֲבִירְנוּ בְּתוֹכוֹ בְּחֶרֶבָה, וְלֹא שָׁקַע צַרֵּינוּ בְּתוֹכוֹ,

**Ee-lu** heh-eh-vee-ra-nu v'to-kho beh-kha-ra-va,  
v'lo shee-ka et tza-rei-nu b'to-kho, **Da-yeinu**

**אֱלֹהֵינוּ** שָׁקַע צָרֵינוּ בְּתוֹכוֹ, וְלֹא סָפַק צָרָנוּ בַּמַּדְבָּר אַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה,

**Ee-lu** shee-ka et tza-rei-nu b'to-kho, v'lo see-peik tzor-kei-nu  
ba-meed-bar ar-ba-eem shana, **Da-yeinu**

**אֱלֹהֵינוּ** סִפֵּק צָרָפֵנוּ בַּמַּדְבָּר אַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה, וְלֹא הֵאכִילָנוּ אֶת הַמֶּן.

**Ee-lu** see-peik tzor-kei-nu ba-meed-bar  
ar-ba-eem sha-na, v'lo heh-eh-khee-la-nu et ha-man,  
**Da-yeinu**

**אֵלֵינוּ** הָאֵכִילֵנוּ אֶת הַמֶּן, וְלֹא נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת הַשֶּׁבֶת,

**Ee-lu**    heh-eh-khee-la-nu et ha-man,  
v'lo na-tan la-nu et ha-Shabbat                      **Da-yeinu**

**אלו** נתן לנו את השבת, ולא קרבתנו לפני הר סיני,

**דיינו.**

**Ee-lu** na-tan la-nu et ha-Shabbat,  
v'lo ker-va-nu leef-nei har See-nai,

**Da-yeinu**

**אלו** קרבתנו לפני הר סיני, ולא נתן לנו את התורה,

**דיינו.**

**Ee-lu** ker-va-nu leef-nei har See-nai,  
v'lo na-tan la-nu et ha-Torah,

**Da-yeinu**

**אלו** נתן לנו את התורה, ולא הכניסנו לארץ ישראל,

**דיינו.**

**Ee-lu** na-tan la-nu et ha-Torah,  
v'lo heekh-nee-sa-nu l'Eretz Yisrael,

**Da-yeinu**

**אלו** הכניסנו לארץ ישראל, ולא בנה לנו את בית הבחירה,

**דיינו.**

**Ee-lu** heekh-nee-sa-nu l'Eretz Yisrael,  
v'lo ba-na la-nu et beit ha-b'khee-ra,

**Da-yeinu**

על אחת כמה וכמה, טובה כפולה ומכפלת למקום עלינו:  
שהוציאנו ממצרים, ועשה בהם שפטים, ועשה באלהיהם, והרג  
את בכוריהם, ונתן לנו את ממונם, וקרע לנו את הים, והעבירנו  
בתוכו בחרבה, ושקע צרינו בתוכו, וספק צרכנו במדבר  
ארבעים שנה, והאכילנו את המן, ונתן לנו את השבת, וקרבתנו  
לפני הר סיני, ונתן לנו את התורה, והכניסנו לארץ ישראל,  
ובנה לנו את בית הבחירה לכפר על כל עונותינו.

Each one of these good things would have been enough to earn our thanks. **Dayeinu!** GOD took us out of Egypt, punished the oppressors, and humiliated their gods, exposing their futility. God killed their first born (when the Egyptians refused to release Israel, God's first born) and gave us some of the Egyptians' wealth, just reparations for our forced labor. God divided the Red Sea for us, bringing us across on dry land, while drowning our pursuers in the sea. God supplied our needs for forty years in the desert - feeding us manna. God granted us the Shabbat and brought us to Mount Sinai to receive the Torah. God ushered us into Eretz Yisrael and later built us a Temple, the chosen place to atone for our crimes and misdemeanors.





## THE AFGHANI ONION FREE-FOR-ALL

From our seat around the Seder table, it's easy for us to sing "Dayeinu" and claim that "each one of these good things would have been enough to earn our thanks." But for those who are in the middle of the process of liberation it is much harder to constantly be appreciative, especially during 40 years of desert wanderings. In fact, our ancestors were infamous for their lack of appreciation, their **selective memory** about the slavery in Egypt, their stubbornness and complaints:

"We fondly remember the fish that we could eat in Egypt **at no cost**, along with the cucumbers, melons, **leeks, onions** and garlic. But now our spirits are dried up, with nothing but the manna before our eyes..." (Numbers 11:5-6)

Some families, following the Afghani and Persian custom, pull out **green onions** and the occasional leek, and – upon getting to the ninth stanza about the manna – whip each other lightly with the green onion stalks, every time they sing the refrain "Dayeinu." It is doubtful that this custom will ease our ancestral stubbornness, but it'll definitely give the participants a lively and memorable evening!

# let my people



Dan Reisinger

# פסח מצה ומרור Pesach, Matza and Maror

S O U V E N I R S F R O M T H E S E D E R

רַבֵּן גַּמְלִיאֵל הָיָה אוֹמֵר:

כָּל שֶׁלֹּא אָמַר שְׁלֹשָׁה דְּבָרִים אֵלוֹ בְּפֶסַח,

לֹא יֵצֵא יָדֵי חוּבָתוֹ, וְאֵלּוֹ הֵן:

פֶּסַח, מַצָּה וּמְרֹר.

פֶּסַח שֶׁהָיוּ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ אוֹכְלִים בְּזֶמֶן

שְׁבִית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ הָיָה קָיָם, עַל שׁוֹם מָה?

עַל שׁוֹם שֶׁפֶּסַח הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא

עַל בְּתֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ בְּמִצְרַיִם, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר:

"וְאִמַּרְתֶּם: זָבַח פֶּסַח הוּא לִי,

אֲשֶׁר פֶּסַח עַל בְּתֵי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמִצְרַיִם

בְּנִגְפוֹ אֶת מִצְרַיִם – וְאֵת בְּתֵינוּ הִצִּיל.

וַיִּקַּד הָעָם וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ."

Rabban Gamliel used to say:

"All who have not explained the significance of three things during the Pesach Seder have not yet fulfilled their duty."

The three are:

the **Pesach** lamb, the **matza** and the **maror**."

Leader points at (but does not raise) the roasted bone:

"*Pesach Al Shum Ma?*" – The **Pesach** lamb (that our ancestors ate in the days of the Temple) – why did we used to eat it?

All:

To remind ourselves that God passed over our ancestors' houses in Egypt (at this very hour on this very date). Moshe instructed us: "*When your children ask you, 'What do you mean by this ceremony?' you shall say: 'It is the Passover offering to Adonai, because God passed over the houses of Israel in Egypt when God struck the Egyptians, but saved our houses!'"* (Exodus 12:26-27).

Before leaving the Maggid, we go over the major themes of the story one more time, as mandated by Rabban Gamliel, the leader of the Jewish people in the time that the Haggadah was composed. These themes are epitomized in three of Pesach's strongest symbols: The Pesach lamb, the matza and the maror. More than just symbolic table decorations for the centerpiece, these are "edible symbols," essential foods, whose significance must be internalized verbally, and later orally, by all the participants in the Seder.

**Why these three?** The Pesach lamb, matza and maror constituted the original menu in the Egyptian Seder: "They shall eat the meat (of the lamb) . . . roasted over the fire, with matza and with maror" (Exodus 12:8).

Ask a participant to become the "Quiz master," asking the questions, while the others all reply together.

**Rabban Gamliel's Souvenir Kiosk**  
 Rabban Gamliel, the main framer of the Rabbinic Seder, returns to the Haggadah as a jovial beach-bum, a souvenir-shop-owner in the Sinai desert, now a major tourist destination. To make sure one never forgets that long "vacation" in Egypt, he is selling souvenirs, just as what we eat at the Seder are edible tokens of the past – Pesach, matza and maror. Gamliel offers diet matzas, family size manna, organic maror and a *Bedikat Hametz* kit with flashlight and feather for finding crumbs of *hametz*.



## THE SHARED MEAL: BUILDING A COMMUNITY

*"If the household is too little for a lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it"* (Exodus 12:3-4).

A new fellowship was formed around the paschal lamb; a new community sprang into existence. Being together, living with each other, sharing something many possess in common was made possible by the ceremonial of the paschal lamb. The Halakhah coined the term *havurah* with reference to the group gathering for this ceremonial. Eating together is a great medium of communication between individuals. Therefore, everything is shared.

The slave suddenly realizes that the little he has saved up for himself, a single lamb, is too much for him. The slave spontaneously does something he would never have believed he was capable of doing, namely, he knocks on

the door of the neighbor he had never noticed, inviting him to share the lamb with him and to eat together. No wonder our Seder commences with the declaration, "*Ha lahma anya*, This is the bread of poverty." Whatever we possess, even if it is just the bread of the poor, is too much for us, and we invite all to come and eat with us: "Let all who are hungry come and eat."

Planned meals in which many participate are the mold in which togetherness, community-mindedness, and relatedness are fashioned... I want the thou to share my joy and the pleasure I derive from partaking of the food given to me by the Almighty. In the invitation, there is sympathetic

understanding for and response to the other self's needs and cravings. It demonstrates that I think not exclusively of myself, that while I am driven by a biological impulse to some action, I refuse to take this action alone. Rather, I take it in community with others, who either do not have the means necessary for gratifying their physical needs or hate to be alone and quest for sociability and togetherness.

*"You shall rejoice before the Lord your God: you, your son, your manservant, your maidservant, the Levite... the stranger, the orphan, and the widow that are in your midst"* (Deuteronomy 16:11).





Y. Yoresh, 1988

Leader holds up the matza.

Leader:

**מַצָּה** זוֹ שְׂאֵנוּ אוֹכְלִים, עַל שׁוּם מָה?

"Matza Al Shum Ma?" – This **matza**! Why do we eat it?

All:

To remind ourselves that even before the dough of our ancestors in Egypt had time to rise and become leavened, the Ruler of rulers, the Holy One, was revealed and redeemed them.

The Torah says: *"They baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had taken out of Egypt, for it was not leavened, since they had been driven out of Egypt and could not delay; nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves"* (Exodus 12:39).

Leader raises maror from the Seder plate.

Leader:

**מָרֹר** זֶה שְׂאֵנוּ אוֹכְלִים, עַל שׁוּם מָה?

"Maror Al Shum Ma?" - This **maror**! Why do we eat it?

All:

To remind ourselves that the Egyptians embittered our ancestors' lives: *"They embittered their lives with hard labor, with mortar and bricks (construction) and with all sorts of field labor (agriculture). Whatever the task, they worked them ruthlessly"* (Exodus 1:14).

**עַל שׁוּם** שְׁלֹא הִסְפִּיק בְּצֶקֶם שֶׁל אֲבוֹתֵינוּ  
לְהַחְמִיץ עַד שֶׁנִּגְלָה עֲלֵיהֶם מֶלֶךְ מַלְכֵי  
הַמְּלָכִים, הַקְדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא וְגָאֹל, שְׁנֹאֵמַר:  
"וַיֹּאפּוּ אֶת הַבֶּצֶק אֲשֶׁר הוֹצִיאוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם עֹגֶת  
מִצּוֹת, כִּי לֹא חֲמֵץ, כִּי גֵרְשׁוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם וְלֹא  
יָכְלוּ לְהִתְמַהֵמֵה, וְגַם צִדָּה לֹא עָשׂוּ לָהֶם".

**עַל שׁוּם** שֶׁמָּרְרוּ הַמִּצְרַיִם אֶת חַיֵּי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ  
בְּמִצְרַיִם, שְׁנֹאֵמַר: "וַיִּמְרְרוּ אֶת חַיֵּיהֶם בַּעֲבֹדָה  
קָשָׁה, בַּחֲמֹר וּבִלְבָנִים וּבְכָל עֲבֹדָה בַּשָּׂדֶה, אֶת  
כָּל עֲבֹדָתָם אֲשֶׁר עָבְדוּ בָּהֶם בְּפֶרֶךְ".



## SWEETENING THE BITTERNESS OF SLAVERY

As a lesson from our bitter experience in Egypt, where Pharaoh oppressed the Jews with “harsh labor,” the Torah forbids a Jew from forcing a slave to do “harsh labor” (Leviticus 25:46). As Maimonides explains:

### What is harsh labor?

It is labor that has no limit or a job that is not needed, but rather has been conceived only to keep the slave from resting... One cannot say to one's slave: “Dig in this place” if there is no need for it. Even the command to heat up a cup of water, or to cool one, if it isn't needed, it is forbidden.

(Mishne Torah, Legislation regarding Slaves 1:6).

Though he acknowledged that slavery was a legal part of the economic system in the Bible and even in his own era in Egypt, Maimonides recommends that slave owners and, by analogy, employers treat those working for them in ways much more humane than even the law might allow:

It is pious and it is wise to be compassionate and to seek justice, not to add to the burden on one's slave and not to cause the slave distress...The earliest Rabbis would share the very same foods they ate with their slaves, making sure the slaves ate before the master's own meal. Also the master should never humiliate the slave with violence, physical or verbal, nor should one shout or show anger to a slave. Rather speak always politely and be attentive to their complaints... Strive to behave like God showing compassion to all God's creatures. (ibid., 9:8)



My First Matza in Eretz Yisrael. Photograph by Yossi Roth, 1985

## MARGE PIERCY

### MATZOH

Flat you are as a door mat  
and as homely.  
No crust, no glaze, you lack  
a cosmetic glow.  
You break with a snap.  
You are dry as a twig split from an oak  
in midwinter.

You are bumpy as a mud basin  
in a drought.  
Square as a slab of pavement,  
you have no inside  
to hide raisins or seeds.  
You are pale as the full moon  
pocked with craters.

What we see is what we get,  
honest, plain, dry  
shining with nostalgia  
as if baked with light instead of heat.  
The bread of flight and haste  
in the mouth you  
promise, home.

# In Every Generation **בְּכָל דּוֹר וָדוֹר**

IDENTIFYING WITH THE EXODUS

**בְּכָל דּוֹר וָדוֹר חַיֵּב אָדָם  
לְרֹאאוֹת אֶת עַצְמוֹ כְּאִלּוּ הוּא יָצָא מִמִּצְרַיִם,  
שְׁנֵאֲמַר: "וְהַגַּדְתָּ לְבִנְךָ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לֵאמֹר,  
בַּעֲבוּר זֶה עָשָׂה יי לִי בִּיצְאוֹתִי מִמִּצְרַיִם."**

**לֹא אֶת אֲבוֹתֵינוּ בְּלֶבֶד גָּאֵל  
הַקְדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא מִמִּצְרַיִם,  
אֶלָּא אֶף אֹתָנוּ גָּאֵל עִמָּהֶם, שְׁנֵאֲמַר:  
"וְאֹתָנוּ הוֹצִיא מִשָּׁם, לְמַעַן הָבִיא אֹתָנוּ,  
לָתֵת לָנוּ אֶת הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ."**

**"The Exodus from Egypt occurs in every human being, in every era, in every year and even on every day."**

Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav

All say together:

**In every generation one is obligated to see oneself as one who personally went out from Egypt. Just as it says: "You shall tell your child on that very day: 'It is because of this that God did for me when I went out from Egypt.'" (Exodus 13:8)**

**Not only were our ancestors redeemed by the Holy One, but even we were redeemed with them. Just as it says: "God took us out from there in order to bring us and to give us the land God swore to our ancestors." (Deuteronomy 6:23)**

The Sephardi Haggadah text, following Maimonides, reads: "One is obligated to SHOW oneself...". Invite the participants to *show* in various ways that they themselves left Egypt. Use physical gestures, body posture, dramatic tone of voice, facial expressions, or costumes to show how one feels about one's newly granted freedom.

Commemorating the Freedom for Soviet Jewry campaign, this stamp from 1972 coincided with the arrival of the first wave of Soviet Jews to Israel. God's command to Pharaoh "Let My People Go" appears in Russian as well as Hebrew, English and Arabic. Today over 1,000,000 Russian speaking Jews live in Israel and one of every five soldiers is a Russian immigrant. Design by M. Pereg.





### Passover Vacations in the Sinai by Michel Kichka

For many Israelis, the Pesach holiday period is actually a time to go down **into** Egypt – for a vacation in the Sinai, that is. This Israeli family going off to the Sinai may or may not recognize that the camel caravan they have encountered is populated by they themselves, some 3200 years ago.

The point of Pesach is to bring us literally “to see ourselves as if we went out of Egypt,” to see ourselves as the direct descendants of the Jews of the Exodus, to see the stories of our lives as Exodus stories in their own right.



## THE WANDERING, TIME-TRAVELING, JEW

It was fate that delivered me and my contemporaries into this great era, when the Jews returned to and re-established their homeland. I am no longer a wandering Jew who migrates from country to country, from exile to exile. But all Jews, in every generation must regard themselves as if they had been there, in previous generations, places, and events. Therefore, **I am still a wandering Jew**, but not along the far-flung paths of the world. Now I migrate through the expanses of time, from generation to generation, down the paths of memory.

I was a slave in Egypt. I received the Torah at

Mount Sinai. Together with Joshua and Elijah, I crossed the Jordan River. I entered Jerusalem with David (circa 1000 BCE), was exiled from it with King Zedekiah (586 BCE), and did not forget it by the rivers of Babylon. And when the Lord returned the captives of Zion (538 BCE), I dreamed among the builders of its ramparts. I fought the Romans (66-70 CE) and was banished from Spain (1492). I was bound to the stake in Mainz. I studied Torah in Yemen and lost my family in Kishinev (Russia, 1903). I was incinerated in Treblinka (1942), rebelled in Warsaw (1943), and emigrated to the Land of Israel, the country from which I had been exiled

and where I had been born, from which I come and to which I return.

**I am a wandering Jew** who follows in the footsteps of his forbearers, and just as I escorted them there and then, so do my forbearers accompany me and stand here with me today. And just as memory forces us to participate in each day and every event of our past, so does the virtue of hope force us to prepare for each day of our future.

**Ezer Weizman**, founder of the Israeli Air force and Israeli President, in an address to the German Bundestag, 1996. Speech written by Israeli novelist Meir Shalev.

# הללויה Hallelujah

A NEW SONG TO FREEDOM

לְפִיכָךְ אֲנַחֲנוּ חַיִּים לְהוֹדוֹת, לְהַלֵּל,  
לְשַׁבַּח, לְפָאֵר, לְרוֹמֵם, לְהַדָּר, לְבָרֵךְ, לְעַלֵּה  
וּלְקַלֵּם לְמִי שֶׁעָשָׂה לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ וְלָנוּ אֶת כָּל  
הַנִּסִּים הָאֵלֶּה:  
הוֹצִיאָנוּ מֵעֲבָדוֹת לְחֵירוֹת, מִיָּגוֹן לְשִׂמְחָה,  
וּמֵאֲפֶלֶת לְיוֹם טוֹב, וּמֵאֲפֶלֶת לְאוֹר גָּדוֹל,  
וּמִשְׁעָבוֹד לְגָאֻלָּה.  
וְנֹאמַר לִפְנֵי שִׁירָה חֲדָשָׁה:

הללויה!

הללויה!

הִלְלוּ עַבְדֵי יי, הִלְלוּ אֶת שֵׁם יי!  
יְהִי שֵׁם יי מְבָרָךְ מְעַתָּה וְעַד עוֹלָם!  
מִמְזָרְחַ שֶׁמֶשׁ עַד מְבֹאוֹ מְהֵלֵל שֵׁם יי.  
רֵם עַל כָּל גּוֹיִם יי, עַל הַשָּׁמַיִם כְּבוֹדוֹ.  
מִי כִּי אֱלֹהֵינוּ? הַמְּגִבִּיהִי לְשָׁבֶת,  
הַמְּשִׁפִּילִי לְדָאוֹת בְּשָׁמַיִם וּבָאָרֶץ.  
מְקִימֵי מַעְפָּר דָּל, מַאֲשֵׁפֵת יָרִים אֲבִיוֹן,  
לְהוֹשִׁיבֵי עִם נְדִיבִים, עִם נְדִיבֵי עָמּוֹ.  
מוֹשִׁיבֵי עֶקְרָת הַבַּיִת אִם הַבָּנִים שִׂמְחָה.

הללויה!

Leader:

**THEREFORE** we owe it to God: to thank and to sing, to praise and to honor, to bless and to acclaim the One who has done all these wonders for our ancestors and for us.

**God took us** from slavery to freedom, from sorrow to joy, from mourning to festivity, from a thick darkness to a great light, from enslavement to redemption!

All:

Let us sing before God, a new song.

Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!

Servants of Adonai, give praise; praise the name of Adonai.

Let the name of Adonai be blessed now and forever.

From east to west the name of Adonai is praised.

Adonai rules high above all nations; God's glory is above the heavens.

Who is like Adonai our God, who is enthroned on high,

Yet sees what is below, in heaven and on earth?

God raises the poor from the dust, lifts up the needy from the garbage heap and seats them among the greats of God's people.

God seats the childless woman at home

as a happy mother of children.

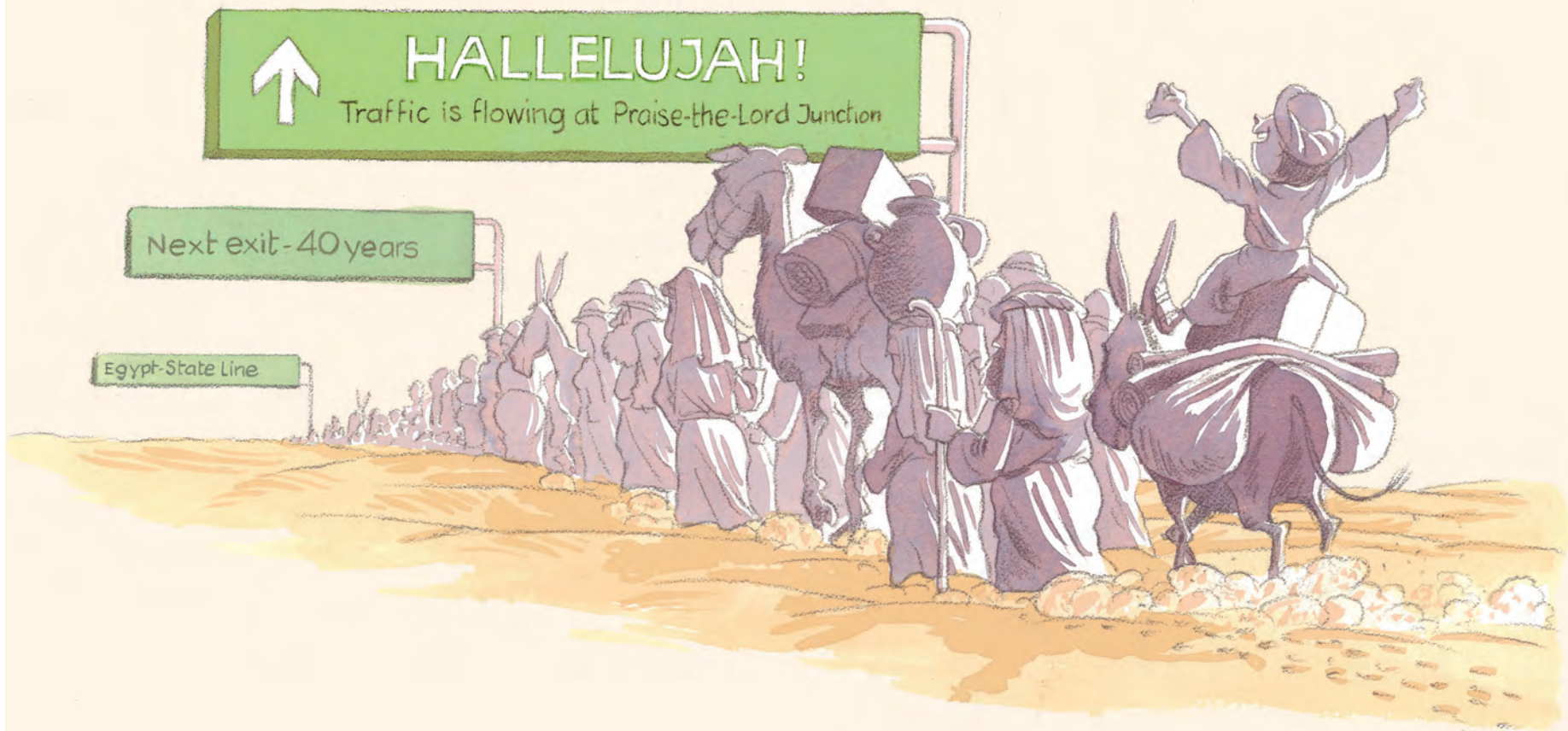
Hallelujah!

(Psalm 113)

After covering all the matza at the table, everyone raises their second cup of wine in a toast to liberation and to the Liberator.

After the toast and before drinking the second cup, the first part of Hallel (Psalms 113-114) is sung. The rest of Hallel will follow after the meal is completed.





### YEHUDA AMICHAJ

And what is the continuity of my life? I am like one who left Egypt.  
 The Red Sea is split in two and I cross on dry ground  
 With two walls of water – on my right and on my left.  
 Behind me – Pharaoh's soldiers and horsemen.  
 Before me – the wilderness  
 And, perhaps, the Promised Land.  
 This is the continuity of my life.

### **G**O TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And he's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over, and I've seen the Promised Land.

I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the Promised Land. So I'm happy tonight. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord!

**Martin Luther King**, final speech delivered the night before his assassination just a few weeks before Passover (Memphis, 1968)

## בְּצֵאת יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּצְרַיִם

בֵּית יַעֲקֹב מֵעַם לֵעָז,  
הִיְתָה יְהוּדָה לְקֹדֶשׁוֹ  
יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמְּשָׁלוֹתָיו.  
הַיָּם רָאָה וַיָּנָס  
הַיַּרְדֵּן יָסָב לָאָחוֹר.  
הַהָרִים רָקְדוּ כְּאֵילִים  
גְּבְעוֹת - כְּבָנֵי צֹאן.  
מָה לָּךְ הַיָּם כִּי תִנּוּס  
הַיַּרְדֵּן תִּסָּב לָאָחוֹר,  
הַהָרִים תִּרְקְדוּ כְּאֵילִים  
גְּבְעוֹת - כְּבָנֵי צֹאן?  
מִלִּפְנֵי אֲדֹנָן חוֹלֵי אֶרֶץ  
מִלִּפְנֵי אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב,  
הִהָפְכִי הַצּוּר אֶגֶם מַיִם  
חֲלָמִישׁ - לְמַעְיָנוּ מַיִם!

## When Israel went out from Egypt,

The house of Jacob departed from a foreign people,  
Judah became God's holy one,  
Israel, God's domain.  
The sea saw them and fled,  
The Jordan ran backward,  
Mountains skipped like rams,  
Hills like lambs.  
What alarmed you, sea, that you fled,  
Jordan, that you ran backward,  
Mountains, that you skipped like rams,  
Hills, like lambs?  
Tremble, earth, at the presence of Adonai,  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,  
Who turned the rock into a pool of water,  
Flint into a fountain. (Psalm 114)

B'tzeit Yis-ra-el, mee-Meetz-rai-eem, Beit Ya-a-kov, mei-am lo-eiz  
Hai-ta Ye-hu-da l'kod-sho, Yisra-el mam-sh'lo-tav.  
Ha-yam ra-a va-ya-nos, ha-Yar-den yee-sov l'a-khor.  
Heh-ha-reem rak-du kh'ei-leem, g'va-ot keev-nei tzon  
Ma-l'kha ha-yam, kee-ta-noos, ha-Yar-den, tee-sov l'akhor.  
Heh-ha-reem, teer-k' du kh'ei-leem, g'va-ot keev-nei tzon.  
Mee-leef-nei A-don, khu-lee aretz, mee-leef-nei, Elo-ha Ya-a-kov  
Ha-hof-khee ha-tzur, agam ma-yeem, kha-la-meesh, l'mai-no ma-yeem.





Exodus by David Sharir, 1967



## SECOND CUP כּוֹס שְׁנִיָּה

### A TOAST TO REDEMPTION



**בָּרוּךְ** אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
אֲשֶׁר גָּאֲלָנוּ וְגָאֵל אֶת אֲבוֹתֵינוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם,  
וְהַגִּיעָנוּ לְלֵילָה הַזֶּה לֶאֱכֹל בּוֹ מַצָּה וּמָרֹר.  
כֵּן יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ,  
הַגִּיעָנוּ לְמוֹעֲדִים וְלִחְגֵּלִים אֲחֵרִים  
הַבָּאִים לְקִרְאָתָנוּ לְשָׁלוֹם,  
שְׂמֵחִים בְּבִנְיַן עִירָךְ וְשָׂשִׁים בַּעֲבוּדָתְךָ.  
וְנֹאכַל שֶׁם מִן הַזִּבְחִים וּמִן הַפְּסָחִים  
אֲשֶׁר יִגִּיעַ דָּמָם עַל קִיר מִזְבִּיחֶךָ לְרִצּוֹן,  
וְנוֹדֶה לָּךְ שִׁיר חֲדָשׁ עַל גְּאֻלָּתָנוּ וְעַל פְּדוּת נַפְשֵׁנוּ.  
**בָּרוּךְ** אַתָּה יי, **גָּאֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל**.

**בָּרוּךְ** אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
בוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

**Blessed** are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the  
Universe, who redeemed us and redeemed our  
ancestors from Egypt, and who brought us to  
this night to eat matza and maror.  
Adonai, our God and God of our ancestors,  
may You bring us in peace to future holidays.  
May we celebrate them in your rebuilt city,  
and may we be able to eat the Pesach lamb  
and the other sacrifices offered on the altar.  
We will thank you for our redemption.  
**Blessed** are You, **the Redeemer of Israel**.

**Blessed** are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of  
the Universe, Creator of the Fruit of **the Vine**.

We conclude the  
long Maggid section  
(storytelling) by  
drinking the second  
cup of wine, the Cup  
of Redemption.

Recline on a pillow  
to the left and drink  
at least half the  
second cup of wine.

Some families  
pour a "Miriam's  
Cup" of water,  
commemorating her  
feminine presence  
and leadership at the  
Exodus.

Ba-rukh ata Adonai / Elo-hei-nu me-lekh ha-olam / bo-rei pree ha-gafen.

## MIRIAM'S CUP

Miriam's Cup, filled with spring water, evokes the miracles of the past and present, complementing Elijah's Cup, which is filled with wine to represent our hope for redemption. Miriam, a prophet and a leader of the people, is always associated with miracles by **water**. Her name, "*Mir-yam*," contains the Hebrew word for "sea." As a child, Miriam watched over her baby brother in the Nile when he was rescued by the Pharaoh's daughter. After the miracle of the parting waters of the Red Sea, Miriam leads the women in song and dance with their tambourines. The midrash asserts that a **well of water** accompanied the children of Israel through the desert because of the characteristic optimism and faith of Miriam. When Miriam is stricken with leprosy, Moses pleads with God for her healing, incanting a short, powerful, rhyming staccato prayer:



"אנא אל נא רפא נא לה" *"ana El-na refa-na la."* "God please, heal her, please!" (Numbers 12:13). Thus Miriam's well, which legend reports had been filled with the waters of the firmament at creation, became associated with healing. When Miriam dies, the earth goes into mourning and *"the community is without water"* (Numbers 20:1-2), and so the tradition speculates that Miriam's well departed with her death (BT Taanit 9a), though it subsequently returned and remains with us to this day.

*Some people use Miriam's Cup as an opportunity to pray for healing or to express gratitude for everyday blessings, like water.*

Lori Lefkowitz, professor of Gender and Judaism, Reconstructionist Rabbinical School

Betsy Teutsch, Miriam's Tambourine (Psalm 150)

## WHO IS THIS GIRL STANDING AMONG THE REEDS?

*"And his sister stood afar off, to witness what would be done to him."* (Exodus 2:4)

The Exodus of the Children of Israel from Egypt was, according to the Rabbis, a typical case of *"behind every great man, there is a greater woman."* Had the women not accelerated the salvation of the entire population, the men would not have had the gumption to depart from the house of slavery and embark on the long journey to freedom. In fact the foundation story of the birth of the Jewish people as a nation is accompanied by a woman, who was there and not there, a woman whose name and actions mark her as a **rebel**, but who also earned the title "prophetess."

Who is this girl standing among the reeds who, with her eyes burning, gazes at the small basket of bulrushes as it drifts with the current into the broad river? She is little

Miriam. Six years old, no more, standing and watching over her brother cradled by the murky water, where lurking crocodiles wait to ambush smuggled Jewish babies. Her tiny feet are soaked with mud. Her knees and thighs are scratched by the reeds. The burning Egyptian sun beats down on her head. She is responsible for him, for when her father Amram – in light of Pharaoh's decrees – gave up and wanted to divorce his wife, it was his daughter Miriam who convinced him to take back Yocheved and thus brought about Moshe's birth. Perhaps that is why she was called *Mir-iam*, from the Hebrew root meaning **to rebel**. But she was also called prophetess because she prophesied that Moshe would save them all.

Years later, at the miracle of the parting of the Red Sea, her brother sang the great, epic song:

*"I will sing to Adonai for God has triumphed gloriously."* The men sang after him in response. And then, all of a sudden, Miriam's voice was heard again. She took the timbrel in her hand, and sang to herself. The women – who until now had stood off to the side – burst into song and dance.

One can hear, through the laconic description, the storm of mass emotion raging in the **women's dance**. All of the senses, all of the urges, all of the silenced voices of the maidens, the women and the mothers who had suffered double slavery – erupted like a cascade of water in this singing. All of Miriam's daring, revolutionary *joie de vivre* flowed through the melody and the dance that responded to her brother's song. This is how Hebrew women's song was born, echoing with the voices of innumerable women.

Avirama Golan, Israeli novelist and journalist

# רַחֲצָה, מוֹצִיא, מַצָּה Rakhtza, Motzi, Matza

## EATING THE MATZA

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,

אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ

עַל נְטִילַת יָדַיִם.

**Blessed** are You, Adonai our God,

Ruler of the Universe, who sanctified us

by commanding us **to wash our hands.**

Ba-rukh ata Adonai / Elo-hei-nu me-lekh ha-olam / asher keed'sha-nu b'metz-vo-tav / v'tzee-va-nu / al netilat yadayim.



בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,

הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

**Blessed** are You, Adonai our God,

Ruler of the Universe, who extracts

**bread from the earth.**

Ba-rukh ata Adonai / Elo-hei-nu me-lekh ha-olam / ha-mo-tzee le-khem meen ha-aretz.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,

אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ

עַל אֲכִילַת מַצָּה.

**Blessed** are You, Adonai our God,

Ruler of the Universe, who sanctified us

by commanding us **to eat matza.**



Ba-rukh ata Adonai / Elo-hei-nu me-lekh ha-olam / asher keed'sha-nu b'metz-vo-tav / v'tzee-va-nu / al akhee-lat matza.

The Seder meal opens with the ceremonial eating of Pesach's three symbols: Matza, Maror and Haroset.

In preparation for eating the matza, we wash our hands – this time reciting the blessing.

Often volunteers will wash and dry the hands of the participants, so that they don't have to rise from their seats. Having our hands washed by someone else is part of the Seder night experience of liberty and nobility

This is the one time during Pesach in which one is obligated to eat matza. It must be plain matza, without eggs or other ingredients that might enrich this bread of poverty.

Take the matzot in hand and recite the usual blessing for all forms of bread – the “motzi” – and the special blessing for matza – “al akheelat matza.”

Take some of the top and middle matza, and eat while reclining (to the left). You may dip the matza in salt or haroset. Some rabbis require that at least 1/2 – 2/3 of a standard machine-made matza be eaten.



## SAMIZDAT: A DO-IT-YOURSELF HAGGADAH IN RUSSIA

It was about a month before Pesach and we wanted to do a proper Seder but we had no Haggadahs and it was still forbidden for Jews to celebrate the Seder or to purchase Haggadahs. So I decided to try even if I endanger myself. I disguised myself as a Russian Orthodox priest, entered the church, went to the library and took out a Haggadah. But how would I obtain seven more copies? So I drafted several Jewish friends and we decided to found our own little publishing house for Haggadahs. The danger was enormous: If we were caught, we would be sent to Siberia, and I don't wish that on anyone.

Now we needed paper. So one at a time we entered stores to buy white paper – two sheets each visit. If we had purchased more, it would have aroused suspicion. Then we found an ancient machine press. I told my neighbors that I was going on vacation for a week, but actually I went down to the basement of my apartment building – so no one would hear the noise of the machine. It was hot and crowded there... there was very little water... several times someone knocked at the door and my heart stopped beating. But with great effort we succeeded in printing six more copies of the Haggadah. We had one for every two families. Making a Seder was also illegal, so we gathered in the basement and did the clandestine Seder there.

Of course now that we are in Israel everything is different...

Nadia Tauterastein



## A BLESSING FOR HAMETZ, INSTEAD OF MATZA , 1944

Right before Pesach 1944 the Jews of Rotterdam, Netherlands, were deported to Bergen Belsen along with Rabbi Aharon Davids. Though they wanted to refrain from eating Hametz, there was no alternative source of nourishment at the concentration camp. When their rabbi conducted the Seder and they arrived at the blessing for eating Matza, he reached over, picked up a slice of bread and prayed:

Our Father in heaven, You know that it is our desire to do your will and we wish to celebrate Pesach, to eat Matza and to observe the prohibition on Hametz. Yet that is what causes our hearts to ache, for the enslavement prevents us and our lives are in danger.

So we prepare ourselves to perform the mitzvah of "You shall live by them" (Leviticus 18:5) – "To live" – by the laws, not to die by them (Babylonian Talmud Yoma 85a). We will listen to the Biblical warning: "Beware and guard your lives very much" (Deuteronomy 4:9). So we pray to you to keep us alive and to redeem us swiftly – so we may observe your laws and do your will and serve you with a complete integrity of the heart.

"Amen" answered the congregation, as they fulfilled the mitzvah of eating matza – with a piece of bread.

As retold by Shani Harel, R. Davids' granddaughter. R. Davids was murdered in the camps, but his wife and daughters survived and made aliyah. Their family recites this prayer annually.

## Maror מרור

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ  
עַל אֲכִילַת מָרֹר.

**Blessed** are You, Adonai our God,  
Ruler of the Universe who has  
sanctified us by commanding us  
to eat maror.

Ba-rukh ata Adonai / Elo-hei-nu me-lekh ha-olam / asher kee-d'sha-nu b'meetz-vo-tav /  
v'tzee-va-nu / al akhee-lat maror.

Take an ounce of raw maror, dip it in a bit of haroset (but not so much that it eradicates the bitter taste). Recite the blessing, eat and savor the maror, but do not recline! Reclining is a custom of the free, while maror and haroset remind us of persecution.

## Korekh כּוֹרֵךְ

### HILLEL'S SANDWICH

זִכֵּר לְמִקְדָּשׁ בְּהִלָּל.  
בֵּן עֶשְׂהָ הָלַל בְּזִמְנָא  
שְׁבִית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ הָיָה קָיָם:  
הָיָה כּוֹרֵךְ מִצָּה וּמָרֹר  
וְאוֹכֵל בְּיַחַד,  
לְקַיֵּם מִה שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר:  
"עַל מִצְוֹת וּמִדְּרֹשִׁים  
יֹאכְלֵהוּ."

This sandwich is eaten in memory of  
Pesach in the Temple as Hillel used to  
celebrate it. He would sandwich the  
Pesach lamb between matza and marror,  
and eat them all together in order to  
observe the law:  
"You shall eat it (the Pesach sacrifice)  
on matzot and maror" (Numbers 9:11).



Tanya Zion, 1997

Prepare a matza sandwich with maror and haroset in between, reminiscent of Hillel, the 1<sup>st</sup> C. BCE inventor of the delicatessen sandwich. Eat it while reclining to the left. Eating the sandwich tonight reminds us of the way life combines moments of suffering (maror) and of relief (matza), enslavement and freedom.

Afterwards, continue with Shulkhan Orekh, the festive meal concluded by eating the Afikoman as dessert.

## MAROR EATING CONTEST

An enjoyable way to experience the bitterness of the maror is by conducting a "maror eating contest": Each brave participant takes a sizable portion of sharp maror, and immediately after reciting the blessing pops it into their mouths and begin to chew... The first to redden, tear or fume is the loser. The winner can get a plate of sweet haroset or a hint for finding the afkoman.



## BITTERSWEET HAROSET

Haroset's texture symbolizes the accursed mortar used to build the cities of Egypt. But why is this symbol of the bitterness of slavery sweetened with the fruits, nuts and spices mentioned in the *Song of Songs*, the Bible's great love song? The Rabbis read this poetry as the expression of love between God and Israel, expressed most concretely in taking Israel out of Egypt. So, *Song of Songs*, full of images of youthful, spring-time love, is traditionally sung on Pesach, often on Seder night.

Rabbi Akiva declared that the day that this love song was given to Israel was as great as the day the Torah was given at Sinai.

The Rebbe of Slonim explains: If the Torah was the only document given to us at the Exodus, then we could only relate to God as a lawgiver, as the one owed obedience. It would be as if we were still slaves having merely replaced one master with another. However, once the *Song of Songs* was given, our relationship became one of lovers, with mutual feelings, hopes, dreams and demands. Like the lovers in *Song of Songs*, we need to seek each other out, sometimes finding, often missing one another. The taste of the haroset reminds us that our relationship with God should be a love story: sticky but sweet.

## HAROSET TASTE TEST

Around the world various haroset recipes have been created, using varied ingredients such as: mustard, banana, vinegar, and in some Judeo-Spanish communities even some scrapes of brick!

Taste and compare a few traditional recipes for haroset – some are sweet while others are tangy or savory.

## HAROSET RECIPES

### MYSTICAL

(HaAri, Rabbi Yitzchak Luria, Safed, 16<sup>th</sup> C.)

7 sorts of chopped nuts and fruits mentioned in the *Song of Songs*: walnuts, dates, figs, pomegranates, grapes, apples, pears, and 3 spices like ginger, cinnamon sticks, and sweet spike nard.

### YEMENITE

(Rav Kapakh, 20<sup>th</sup> C)

1 cup raisins,  
1/3 cup each figs, almonds, walnuts  
1/2 cup sesame  
1/3 cup cinnamon sticks  
1 pinch black pepper, cumin, and ginger

Blend in food processor and mix with red wine.

### MOROCCAN HAROSET SYRUP

1 cup "Silan" Date Honey  
1/2 cup chopped walnuts

### ASHKENAZI EASTERN EUROPEAN

1/2 cup chopped almonds and walnuts  
2 chopped apples  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
red wine to bind the ingredients







הַלֵּלוּהָ

שִׁפְךָ חֲמוֹץ

בְּכֵל דֹד  
וְדֹד

דִּינֵנוּ

דָּם - צִפְרָדַע - כֶּנֶם  
עֶרֶב - דָּבָר - שְׁחִין -  
בֶּרֶךְ - אִתְּךָ - חֶשֶׁן -  
מוֹת בְּכוֹרוֹת

לִשְׁנָה הַבָּאָה  
בְּדוֹשׁ לַיִם

אֶחָד  
בְּמִי יִדְעֶה?

קִישְׁקָה  
מוֹשֵׁל

חָד  
גְּדִיא





# Tzafun צפון

## EATING THE HIDDEN AFIKOMAN

זֵכֶר לְקֶרְבֵּן פֶּסַח  
הַנֶּאֱכָל עַל הַשֶּׁבַע.

This matza is a reminder of the Pesach sacrifice in the days of the Temple which was eaten on a full stomach!



**The Afikoman**, the other half of the middle matza which was hidden at the beginning of the Seder, must now be eaten. Its taste lingers as the last food eaten at the Seder.

**At this point** the leaders of the Seder “discover to their dismay” that the Afikoman has been “stolen” by the children. Knowing that it must be eaten at the end of the meal, the leaders must bargain for its return.

**It is recommended** that Jewish prizes be offered (a book or game) as well as the promise of some money. Some families ask the children to give 10% of their Afikoman prize to a **Tzedakah** of their choice and to announce the beneficiary at this point. The adults may be solicited for **matching gifts**.



## THE AFIKOMAN GAME: RULES AND VARIATIONS

How do we make sure the children don't lose interest during a long Seder night?

Rabbi Elazar says: "Snatch matza one from the other, in order to make sure the children don't fall asleep" (Talmud Pesachim 109a). R. Elazar's tip quickly became today's afikoman game: The half matza broken in Yakhatz at the beginning of the Seder is placed in a secure place, for the Seder cannot end until the "afikoman" is eaten after the meal. Thus whoever steals the afikoman is in a great bargaining position, often negotiating for a gift before relinquishing the precious matza. When there are many children, hide more than one matza to avoid conflict and disappointment.

Some families reverse the treasure hunt, asking the children to hide the afikoman and turning the parents into the matza snatchers. Iraqi Jews tie the afikoman to the back of one of the younger children who must stay awake and guard it, while the other children wait for the young guardian to nod off – allowing a quick snatch to take place and a new guardian to be entrusted with the matza. Whoever holds the coveted piece at the end of the evening is awarded the prize.

## LEONARD COHEN

### BROKEN UNTO YOU

All my life is broken unto you, and all my glory soiled unto you.  
Do not let the spark of my soul go out in the even sadness.  
Let me raise the brokenness to you, to the world where the breaking is for love.  
Do not let the words be mine, but change them into truth.  
With these lips instruct my heart, and let fall into the world what is broken in the world.

Lift me up to the wrestling of faith. Do not leave me where the sparks go out, and the jokes are told in the dark, and new things are called forth and appraised in the scale of the terror. Face me to the rays of love, O source of light,  
or face me to the majesty of your darkness,  
but not here, do not leave me here,  
where death is forgotten, and the new thing grins.

## YEHUDA AMICHAÏ

### IN SEARCH OF THE LOST FACE

*Tzafun, the Hebrew term for Afikoman, means the hidden one. The same word is used in the Torah to describe Moshe, hidden as a baby by his mother and ultimately uncovered and adopted by Pharaoh's daughter. The Israeli poet laureate turns a search for a lost relationship into a poem about Moshe's personal quest*

Moshe, our teacher, saw the face of God only once  
And forgot. He did not want to see the desert  
Nor, even the promised land, but only the face of God.  
He struck the rock in the fury of his longings.  
He climbed Mt. Sinai and descended. He shattered the two  
Tablets of the Covenant and made a Golden Calf. He searched  
In fire and cloud. But he remembered only  
The strong hand of God and his outstretched arm  
But not his face. Just like one who wants  
To remember the face of a loved one but cannot.

He made for himself a 'mug shot' taking from the face  
Of God, the face of the burning bush and the face of  
Pharaoh's daughter as she leaned over him when he was an infant in the basket,  
And he distributed the picture to all the tribes of Israel  
And throughout the wilderness. But no one had seen  
And no one recognized. And only at the end of his life  
On Mt. Nebo, he saw, and died with a kiss from the face of God.

# בִּרְכַּת הַמַּזוֹן Birkat HaMazon

## THE BLESSING AFTER THE MEAL

### שִׁיר הַמַּעֲלוֹת. Shir HaMaalot: Song of Laughter

בְּשׁוּב יי אֶת שִׁיבַת צִיּוֹן  
הֵינּוּ כְחֻלְמִים.  
אִזּוּ יִמְלֵא שְׁחוֹק פִּינוּ  
וּלְשׁוֹנֵנוּ רִנָּה.  
אִזּוּ יֹאמְרוּ בְּגוֹיִם:  
הַגָּדִיל יי לַעֲשׂוֹת עִם אֱלֹהִים,  
הַגָּדִיל יי לַעֲשׂוֹת עִמָּנוּ.  
הֵינּוּ שְׂמֵחִים.

### Shir HaMaalot: Song of Laughter

When Adonai restores the fortunes of Zion,  
we will see it as in a dream:  
our mouths will be filled with **laughter**,  
our tongues, with songs of joy.  
Then the nations will say:  
"Adonai has done great things for them!"  
Yes, Adonai will do great things for us  
and we will be so happy.

### שׁוּבָה יי אֶת שְׁבִיתֵנוּ

כַּאֲפִיקִים בְּנֶגֶב.  
הֹדְעִים בְּדִמְעָה,  
בְּרִנָּה יִקְצְרוּ.  
הַלּוֹךְ יֵלֵךְ וּבָכָה  
נִשָּׂא מִשָּׁךְ הָרֶעֶ,   
בֹּא יָבֹא בְרִנָּה, נִשָּׂא אֶלְמָתָיו.

Restore our fortunes, Adonai,  
as the rain suddenly fills up dry riverbeds in the Negev.  
Those who plant seeds in tears  
will reap with songs of joy.  
Now they go walking and weeping,  
carrying the seed-bag, then they will come back  
singing for joy, carrying their sheaves of wheat. (Psalm 126)

Sheer ha-ma-alot.

B'shuv Adonai et sheev-at Tzion / ha-yeenu k'chol-meem.

Az y'ma-lei s'khok pee-nu / u'l-sho-nei-nu reena.

Az yo-m'ru va-goyim / heeg-deel Adonai la-asot eem eleh.

Heeg-deel Adonai / la-asot eemanu / ha-yee-nu s'mei-kheem.

Shuva Adonai / et sh'vee-tei-nu / ka-afee-keem ba-negev.

Ha-zor-eem b'deem-a / b'reena yeek-tzo-ru.

Ha-lokh yei-lekh u-va-kho/ no-sei mesekh hazara.

Bo yavo v'ree-na, no-sei alu-mo-tav.

After the meal we thank God not only for the food but for all the Divine gifts we have received. These blessings are recited over the third cup of wine which we pour now but drink only at the end of *Birkat HaMazon*.

For three or more adults (post bar-mitzvah) the **Invitation** (*mezuman*) is said. For ten or more, add to the invitation the word "*Eloheinu*," our God, since God's presence dwells in community.

## The Invitation to Gratitude

**Leader** (raises the cup and begins):

רְבוּמִי נְבָרֵךְ / מְשַׁפְּחֵתִי נְבָרֵךְ /  
הַכְרִי נְבָרֵךְ.

**All:**

יְהִי שֵׁם יי מְבָרֵךְ מַעֲתָה וְעַד עוֹלָם.

**Leader** (repeats):

יְהִי שֵׁם יי מְבָרֵךְ מַעֲתָה וְעַד עוֹלָם.

**Leader** (adds the words in parentheses when there is a minyan):

בְּרִשּׁוֹת כָּל הַמְּסֻבִּים, נְבָרֵךְ (אֱלֹהֵינוּ)  
שְׂאֲכַלְנוּ מִשְׁלוֹ.

**All:**

בְּרוּךְ (אֱלֹהֵינוּ) שְׂאֲכַלְנוּ מִשְׁלוֹ  
וּבְטוֹבוֹ חַיֵּינוּ.

**Leader** (repeats):

בְּרוּךְ (אֱלֹהֵינוּ) שְׂאֲכַלְנוּ מִשְׁלוֹ  
וּבְטוֹבוֹ חַיֵּינוּ.

**All:**

בְּרוּךְ הוּא וּבְרוּךְ שְׁמוֹ.

Kha-vei-rai n'va-rekh.

Y'hee sheim Adonai  
m'vo-rakh mei-ata v'ad olam.

Y'hee sheim Adonai m'vo-rakh  
mei-ata v'ad olam.

Beer-shoot, n'va-rekh (Eloheinu)  
she-akhal-nu mee-shelo.

Ba-ruk (Eloheinu) she-akhal-nu  
mee-shelo, uv'tu-vo kha-yeenu.

Ba-ruk (Eloheinu) she-akhal-nu  
mee-shelo, uv'tu-vo kha-yeenu.

Ba-ruk hu u-varukh sh'mo.

## First Blessing: Food for the Whole World

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם, הֵזֵן אֶת הָעוֹלָם כֻּלּוֹ  
בְּטוֹבוֹ, בָּחַן בְּחֶסֶד וּבְרַחֲמִים.  
הוּא נוֹתֵן לָחֶם לְכָל בֶּשֶׂר, כִּי  
לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד. וּבְטוֹבוֹ הַגָּדוֹל  
תָּמִיד לֹא חָסַר לָנוּ וְאֵל יַחֲסַר  
לָנוּ מִזֶּן לְעוֹלָם וְעַד, בְּעֶבֶר  
שְׁמוֹ הַגָּדוֹל, כִּי הוּא אֵל זֶן  
וּמַפְרִיֵּם לְכָל וּמַטִּיב לְכָל, וּמַכִּין  
מִזֶּן לְכָל בְּרִיּוֹתָיו אֲשֶׁר בָּרָא.  
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, הֵזֵן אֶת הַכֹּל.

Ba-ruk ata Adonai Elo-hei-nu /  
me-lekh ha-olam / Ha-zan et ha-olam  
ku-lo b'tuvo / b'khen, b'khesed,  
u-v'ra-kha-meem / Hu no-ten  
le-khem l'khol ba-sar / kee- l'olam  
khas-do / Uv-tu-vo ha-gado /  
ta-meed lo khasar lanu / v'al yekh-sar  
lanu ma-zon / l'olam va-ed / ba-avur  
she-mo ha-gadol / kee-hu Eil zan  
um-far-neis la-kol / U-mei-teev  
la-kol / u-mei-kheen ma-zon / l'khol  
bree-yo-tav asher ba-ra / Barukh ata  
Adonai / ha-zan et ha-kol.

## OUR MOUTHS WILL FILL WITH LAUGHTER

Being Jewish has taught me how to laugh!  
First and foremost to laugh at myself and at  
my situation. More important, to laugh in  
order to act in the world. This is not to say  
we are to make fun of someone or make  
light of our fate. Rather, **one is not to take  
oneself too seriously, but to take one's  
responsibilities very seriously.**

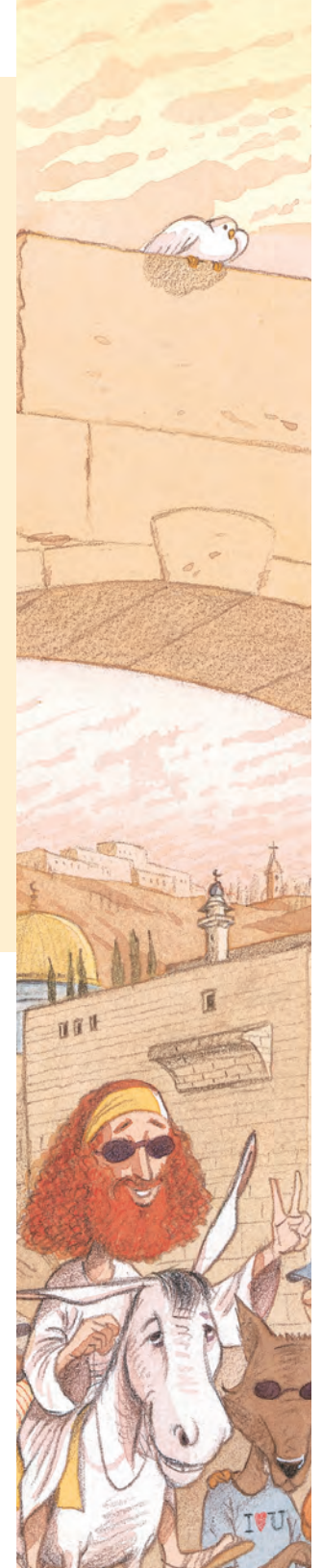
Laughter opens the door to hope and  
healing. It opens up new possibilities.  
Listen to what's funny to children and it will  
reveal a new world and a new generation.

**The first Jewish child born was called  
"Yitzchak" (one will laugh).**

Laughter – we pack it in our luggage, we  
season our Friday night soup with it. Often  
it is mixed with tears. We have fought  
despair relentlessly. Laughter is one of our  
secret weapons.

Rabbi **Naamah Kelman**, first woman ordained in Israel,  
Hebrew Union College

**Blessed** are You, Adonai  
**our God, Ruler of the  
universe, who nourishes  
the whole world. Your  
kindness endures forever.**  
**May we never be in want  
of food, for God provides  
for all the creatures  
which God has created.**  
**Blessed are You, Adonai,  
who feeds all.**





## Second Blessing: For the Good Land and its Fruits

**נוֹדָה לָךְ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ עַל שֶׁהִנַּחְתָּ לָאֲבוֹתֵינוּ אֶרֶץ חֲמֻדָּה טוֹבָה וְרַחֲבָה, וְעַל שֶׁהוֹצֵאתָנוּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם, וּפְדִיתָנוּ מִבֵּית עַבָדִים, וְעַל בְּרִיתְךָ שֶׁחֲתַמְתָּ בְּבִשְׁרֵנוּ, וְעַל תּוֹדֶתְךָ שֶׁלִּמְדַתָּנוּ, וְעַל חֻקֶּיךָ שֶׁהוֹדַעְתָּנוּ, וְעַל חַיִּים חֵן וְחֶסֶד שֶׁחִנַּנְתָּנוּ, וְעַל אֲכִילַת מִזֵּן שֶׁאַתָּה זֶן וּמִפְרִיָם אוֹתָנוּ תָּמִיד, בְּכָל יוֹם וּבְכָל עֵת וּבְכָל שָׁעָה. וְעַל הַכֹּל יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֲנַחְנוּ מוֹדִים לָךְ וּמְבָרְכִים אוֹתְךָ, יִתְבָּרֵךְ שְׁמֶךָ בְּפִי כָל חַי תָּמִיד לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד, בְּכַתּוּב: "וְאָכַלְתָּ וְשָׂבַעְתָּ וּבִרְכַּתְתָּ אֶת יי אֱלֹהֶיךָ עַל הָאֶרֶץ הַטּוֹבָה אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָךְ." בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, עַל הָאֶרֶץ וְעַל הַמִּזֵּן.**

Ka-ka-tuv v'akhal-ta /  
v'sa-vata u-vei-rakhta  
/ et Adonai Elo-he-kha  
/ al ha-aretz ha-tova  
asher natan lakh /  
Ba-rukh ata Adonai  
al ha-aretz v'al  
ha-mazon.

**The Torah says:** "After you have eaten and are satisfied, you should bless Adonai your God for the good land God has given you"

(Deuteronomy 8:10).

**Blessed are You, Adonai, for the land and for the food.**

## Third Blessing: For Jerusalem

**רַחֵם נָא יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל עַמֶּךָ וְעַל יְרוּשָׁלַיִם עִירְךָ וְעַל צִיּוֹן מִשְׁכַּן כְּבוֹדְךָ וְעַל מַלְכוּת בֵּית דָּוִד מְשִׁיחֶךָ וְעַל הַבַּיִת הַגָּדוֹל וְהַקְדוֹשׁ שֶׁנִּקְרָא שְׁמֶךָ עָלָיו. אֱלֹהֵינוּ, אֲבִינוּ, רַעֲנוּ זִמְנֵנוּ פְּדִינֵנוּ וְכַלְכְּלֵנוּ וְהַדְוִיחֵנוּ, וְהַדְרוּחַ לָנוּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מְהֵרָה מִכָּל צָרוֹתֵינוּ. וְנָא אֵל תַּצְרִיכֵנוּ, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, לֹא לִידֵי מִתְנַת בָּשָׂר וְדָם וְלֹא לִידֵי הַלּוֹאֲתִים, כִּי אִם לִידֵי הַמַּלְאָה, הַפְּתוּחָה, הַקְדוּשָׁה וְהַרְחֲבָה, שֶׁלֹּא נִבּוֹשׁ וְלֹא נִכְלָם לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.**

[On Shabbat add]:

רַחֵם וְהַחֲלִיצֵנוּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּמִצְוַתְךָ וּבְמִצְוֹת יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת, הַשַּׁבָּת הַגָּדוֹל וְהַקְדוֹשׁ הַזֶּה, כִּי יוֹם זֶה גָּדוֹל וְקָדוֹשׁ הוּא לְפָנֶיךָ, לְשַׁבֵּת בּוֹ וּלְנוֹחַ בּוֹ בְּאַהֲבָה כְּמִצְוַת רַצוֹנְךָ. וּבְרַצוֹנְךָ הֵנִיחַ לָנוּ, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, שֶׁלֹּא תִהְיֶה צָרָה וְיָגוֹן וְאֲנָחָה בְּיוֹם מְנוּחָתָנוּ. וְהִרְאֵנוּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּנִחְמַת צִיּוֹן עִירְךָ וּבְכִנּוּן יְרוּשָׁלַיִם עִיר קִדְשֶׁךָ, כִּי אַתָּה הוּא בֹעֵל הַיְשׁוּעוֹת וּבֹעֵל הַנְּחֻמוֹת.

[On Pesach add]:

**אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, יַעֲלֶה וְיָבֵא וְיַגִּיעַ וְיִרְאֶה וְיִדְעָה וְיִשְׁמַע וְיַפְקֹד וְיִזְכֹּר זִכְרוֹנֵנוּ וּפְקֻדּוֹתֵנוּ, וְזִכְרוֹן אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, וְזִכְרוֹן מְשִׁיחַ בֶּן דָּוִד עֲבָדְךָ, וְזִכְרוֹן יְרוּשָׁלַיִם עִיר קִדְשֶׁךָ, וְזִכְרוֹן כָּל עַמֶּךָ בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל, לְפָנֶיךָ, לְפִלִּיטָה, לְטוֹבָה, לְחֵן וּלְחֶסֶד וּלְרַחֲמִים, לְחַיִּים וּלְשָׁלוֹם בְּיוֹם חַג הַמִּצּוֹת הַזֶּה, זִכְרֵנוּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ בּוֹ לְטוֹבָה, וּפְקֻדָּנוּ בּוֹ לְבִרְכָּה, וְהוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ בּוֹ לְחַיִּים טוֹבִים. וּבְדַבַּר יְשׁוּעָה וְרַחֲמִים חוּס וְחַנּוּן וְרַחֵם עָלֵינוּ וְהוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ, כִּי אֵלֶיךָ עֵינֵינוּ, כִּי אֵל מֶלֶךְ חַנּוּן וְרַחוּם אַתָּה.**

וּבִנְהָ יְרוּשָׁלַיִם עִיר הַקִּדְשׁ בְּמַהֲרָה בְּיָמֵינוּ.

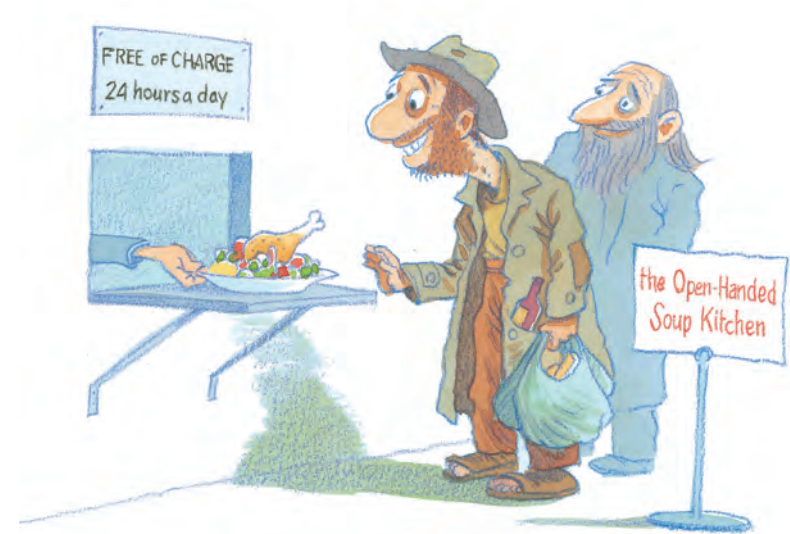
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, בּוֹנֵה בְּרַחֲמָיו יְרוּשָׁלַיִם. אָמֵן.

U-v'nei Yeru-sha-layeem  
eer ha-kodesh beem-hei-ra  
b'ya-meinu /  
Ba-rukh ata Adonai,  
Bo-neh v'ra-kha-mav /  
Yeru-sha-layeem, Amen.

**Rebuild Jerusalem the sacred city quickly, in our era.**

**Blessed are You, Adonai, who rebuilds Jerusalem in mercy.**

**Amen.**



## Fourth Blessing: For Goodness and Hope

**ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, האל, אבינו, מלכנו, אדירנו, בוראנו, גואלנו, יוצרנו, קדושנו, קדוש יעקב, רוענו רועה ישראל, המלך הטוב והמטיב לכל, שבכל יום ויום הוא הטיב, הוא מטיב, הוא ייטיב לנו. הוא גמלנו הוא גומלנו הוא יגמלנו לעד, לחן ולחסד ולרחמים ולרוח, הצלה והצלה, ברכה וישועה, נחמה, פרנסה וכלכלה ורחמים וחיים ושלוש וכל טוב, ומכל טוב לעולם אל יחסרנו.**

**הרחמן** הוא ימלך עלינו לעולם ועד.

**הרחמן** הוא יתברך בשמים ובארץ.

**הרחמן** הוא ישתבח לדור דורים, ויתפאר בנו לעד ולנצח נצחים, ויתחדד בנו לעד ולעולמי עולמים.

**הרחמן** הוא יפרנסנו בכבוד.

**הרחמן** הוא ישבר עלנו מעל צוארנו, והוא יוליכנו קוממיות בארצנו.

**הרחמן** הוא ישלח לנו ברכה מרבה בבית הזה ועל שלחן זה שאכלנו עליו.

**הרחמן** הוא ישלח לנו את אליהו הנביא זכור לטוב, ויבשר לנו בשורות טובות וישועות ונחמות.

**הרחמן** הוא יברך את בעל הבית הזה ואת בעלת הבית הזה, אותם ואת ביתם ואת זרעם ואת כל אשר להם, אותנו ואת כל אשר לנו, כמו שנתברכו אבותינו אברהם יצחק ויעקב בכל מכל כל, בן וברך אותנו כלנו יחד בברכה שלמה, ונאמר אמן.

במרום ילמדו עליהם ועלינו זכות שתהא למשמרת שלום. ונשא ברכה מאת יי ויצדקה מאלהי ישענו, ונמצא חן ושכל טוב בעיני אלהים ואדם.

בשבת: הרחמן הוא יגמלנו יום שכלו שבת ומנוחה לחיי העולמים.

**הרחמן** הוא יגמלנו יום שכלו טוב.

**הרחמן** הוא יברך את מדינת ישראל ראשית צמיחת גאולתנו.

**הרחמן** הוא ישקין שלום בין בני יעקב ובין בני ישמעאל.

**הרחמן** הוא יזכנו לימות המשיח ולחיי העולם הבא.

**MAY the Merciful One** send us Elijah the prophet to bring us good tidings of consolation and comfort.

**MAY God** bless everyone gathered here, hosts and guests, relatives and friends, with health, financial means and generosity.

[On Shabbat]: [MAY God give us a day which will be an era of perfect Shabbat rest forever.]

[On Seder]: [MAY the Merciful One let us inherit the day of total goodness].

**MAY the Merciful One** bless the State of Israel.

**MAY the Merciful One** grant peace between the children of Jacob and the children of Ishmael.

**MAY the Merciful One** enable us to live in the days of the Messiah and earn the world to come.

HaRa-kha-man /  
hu yee-sh'lakh lanu et  
Ei-lee-ya-hu  
ha-na-vee / za-khur  
la-tov / vee-vaser  
lanu / b'sorot to-vot /  
y'shu-ot v'ne-khamot.

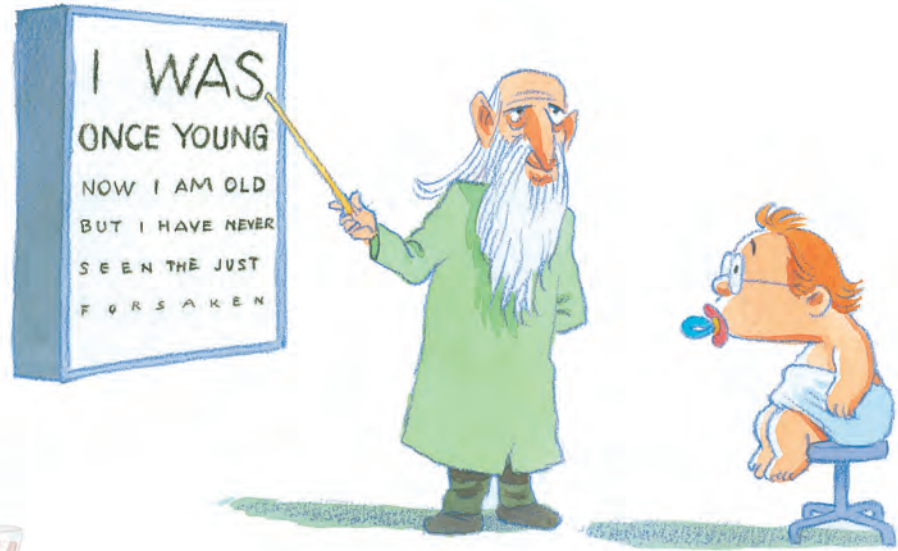


מגדול ישועות מלכו ועשה חסד למשיחו, לדוד  
ולזרעו עד עולם. עשה שלום במרומו, הוא יעשה  
שלום עלינו ועל כל ישראל, ואמרו אמן.  
יראו את יי קדשיו, כי אין מחסור ליראיו. בפידים  
רשו ורעבו, ודרשי יי לא יחסרו כל טוב. הודו ליי כי  
טוב, כי לעולם חסדו. פותח את ידך ומשביע לכל  
חי רצון. ברוך הגבר אשר יבטח ביי, והיה יי מבטחו.  
נער הייתי, גם זקנתי, ולא ראיתי צדיק נעזב,  
וזרעו מבקש לחם.  
יי עז לעמו יתן, יי יברך את עמו בשלום.

Na-ar ha-yeetee gam zakan-tee / v'lo-raeti  
tzaddik ne-eh-zav / v'zaro m'vakesh la-khem.  
Adonai oz l'amo yee-tein / Adonai y'vareikh /  
et amo va-Shalom.

Meegdol y'shu-ot mal-ko / v'oseh kheshed leem-shee-kho /  
l'-David u-l'zaro ad olam.  
Oseh Shalom beem-romav / hu ya-aseh shalom /  
aleinu v'al kol Yisrael v'eemru. Amen.

"I was once young and now I am old but I testify that I have never seen the  
just forsaken nor their children in need of bread." (Psalm 37:25)  
"Adonai will give strength to our people! Adonai will bless them with  
peace!" (Psalms 29:11)



## כוס שלישית The Third Cup

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם,  
בורא פרי הגפן.

Blessed are You, Adonai  
our God, Ruler of the Universe,  
who creates the fruit of the vine.

Ba-rukha ata Adonai / Elo-heinu me-lekh ha-olam / bo-rei pree ha-gafen.

We conclude the Blessing over  
the Meal by drinking the Third  
Cup, the Cup of Blessing, while  
reclining to the left.

The person who led the Blessing  
over the Meal says the blessing  
over the wine.



## AFTER THE GUESTS DEPART

Unfortunately, many of us delude ourselves into believing that we are good at expressing gratitude when we are not. Thus, we think that thanking our hosts at the end of an evening is sufficient. But if you have ever left a social event after telling your hosts what a wonderful time you had, and then spent the ride home engaging in a critical character analysis of the very people who have just hosted you, you have practiced ingratitude, not gratitude. I know that when my wife and I entertain, we spend hours preparing the house and planning the event so that our guests can spend as pleasant an evening as possible. The thought that some of them might afterwards dissect us critically pains me. And I don't think I am being paranoid in suspecting that many of them do so; I realize how often I have acted that way myself.

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Rabbi **Joseph Telushkin**, *The Book of Jewish Values*

## EATING IS LIKE CROSSING THE RED SEA

*Birkat HaMazon* is a supremely important act. To be able to eat and drink is as extraordinary, as miraculous, as crossing the Red Sea. We do not recognize the miracle because, for the moment, we live in a world of plenty and because our memory is so short. Yet those in less fortunate lands understand that to satisfy one's hunger is a miracle of miracles...The route that bread travels from the earth where it grows to our mouth where it is eaten is very perilous. It is to cross the Red Sea...

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**Emmanuel Levinas**, French Jewish philosopher

## THE INVERSION OF GRATEFULNESS

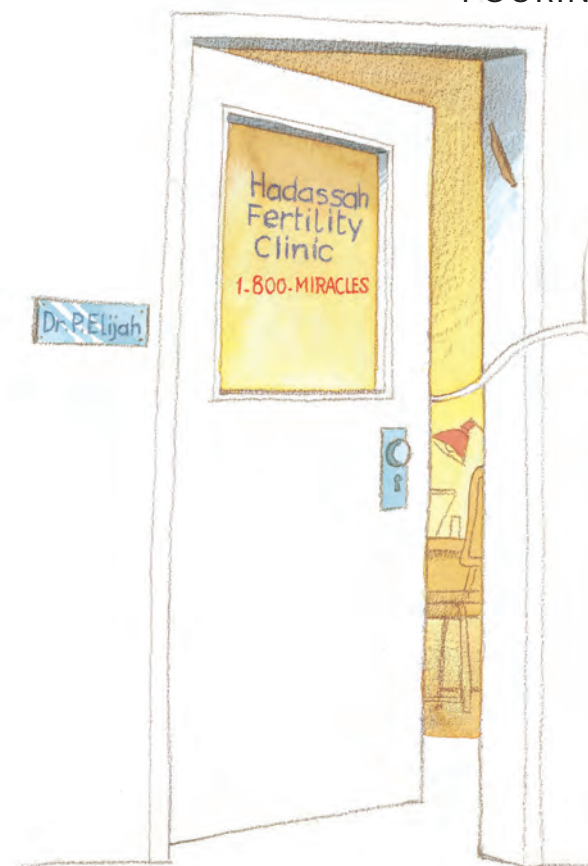
Basic to human existence is a sense of indebtedness – of indebtedness to society, of indebtedness to God. What is emerging in our age is a strange inversion. Modern people believe that the world is indebted to them; that society is charged with duties toward them. Their standard preoccupation is: *What will I get out of life?* Suppressed is the question: *What will life, what will society get out of me?*

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Rabbi **Abraham Joshua Heschel**

# בּוֹס אֵלִיָּהוּ ELIJAH

## POURING ELIJAH'S CUP AND OPENING THE DOOR



בָּרוּךְ הֵבֵא!

Barukh Ha-Ba!

NEXT! AND  
PLEASE LEAVE  
THE DOOR  
OPEN!

אֵלִיָּהוּ הַנָּבִיא,

אֵלִיָּהוּ הַתִּשְׁבִּי,

אֵלִיָּהוּ הַגִּלָּדִי,

בְּמַהֲרָה יָבוֹא אֵלֵינוּ

עִם מָשִׁיחַ בֶּן דָּוִד.

Elijah the prophet,

Elijah the Tishbi,

Elijah the Giladi.

May he come to us quickly

Along with the Messiah, son of David.

Eliyahu ha-navee /

Eliyahu ha-Tish-bi /

Eliyahu ha-Giladi /

beem-hei-ra / yavo ei-leinu /

eem ma-shee-akh ben David.

The door is opened twice on Seder night. Once at "Ha Lakhma Anya," we opened the door to our past, slavery and poverty, and we invited the needy to join us. Now we open the door to our future, our tomorrow. So we invite Elijah, the prophet of hope and of happy endings. The question arises: What can we do to hasten redemption, to contribute to Tikkun Olam?

Pour a large cup of wine in honor of Elijah, and open the door expectantly.

Many families welcome Elijah with a prayer or a song.

## FILLING THE CUP OF REDEMPTION OURSELVES

The Hassidic Rebbe Naftali Tzvi Horowitz used to go around the Seder table inviting each participant to pour from their personal cup into Elijah's cup. This symbolizes the Kabbalistic concept that Divine action will occur when there is a corresponding human action, an awakening from below that precedes it.

In some families, each participant helps to fill Elijah's cup of future redemption, while, silently or aloud, making a particular wish for a better year. May it come true with our own initiative and then with God's help.

Rabbi Naftali Tzvi Horowitz of Ropshitz, Poland, 18th C.

Where does Israel get the strength – the *chutzpah* – to go on believing in redemption in a world that knows mass hunger and political exile and boat people? How can Jews testify to hope and human value when they have been continuously persecuted, hated, dispelled, destroyed? Out of the memories of the Exodus!”

Rabbi Irving Greenberg, “The Jewish Way”

### LESLIE GOLDMAN

#### A NOTE TO A FELLOW LEADER

On the day I came to see you, with my hands open to serve,  
I found you very busy. I wanted you to know  
I saw you were busy. I respected that you were busy  
and waited for an opening. I sincerely wanted to meet you.  
I wanted to be your friend. I wanted to work alongside you.  
I was looking for a way to let you know my intent,  
my needs, my passion, but found no opening.

I understand there are ways that work for you –  
teach me your ways, or appoint someone to teach me, if you haven't the time!  
I understand, that in your life, as in mine, there are times  
we take on more than we can successfully complete –  
perhaps together we can learn how to complete more!

I want to honor you.  
I respect the quiet moments you need to be alone.  
I support you in taking care of yourself.  
In some small way, I would like to contribute  
to helping you lift your burden.

I respect leadership. I respect those who take on what must be done,  
and develop competency to delegate and guide others.  
I, too, face the unknown. I too am a leader,  
and have purpose, though in some small humble way,  
it may be different than the task you have accepted. I am not unlike you.  
Perhaps there is something to be shared between us.

My name is Elijah. The next time I knock at your door, may it be truly open.

#### THE OLD MAN'S CURSE AN IRAQI FOLKTALE

Many years ago in Baghdad, there lived a good couple who loved God, gave Tzedaka and helped the poor. All Baghdad honored the couple, and yet they had one sorrow: they had no children. Years passed, and Passover arrived. The couple sat at the Seder table, read the Haggadah, and retold the Exodus. Yet the wife was sad, as she always was at Passover. Her husband understood the reason for her grief and comforted her as he always did: “Don't worry, we'll have a child one day. God won't forget us.”

While the couple were talking, there came a sudden knock at the door. At the threshold stood a ragged old man. The couple invited him to join their Seder and treated him with the greatest hospitality. However, when the old man took his leave of the pair who had hosted him so kindly, he turned to them, and instead of thanking them, said, “I pray to God that next year your Pesach table will be a wreck!” The ungrateful old man's curse astonished the couple and angered them, but out of respect, they said nothing. A month later the wife discovered that she was pregnant! And indeed, three months before the next Passover, a son was finally born to them. Their great joy cannot be described, and the old man and his curse were of course forgotten.

Next Passover, the couple sat around the Seder table and read the Haggadah with their son. The baby behaved like all babies do. He laughed and fussed and tipped over the wine. He knocked over the cups and broke the plates. But his mother and father loved their only child so much that they took pleasure even in the havoc he wreaked. This was the son they had prayed for year after year. It was only at the end of the Seder that the couple remembered the old man and his “curse.” This was indeed a blessing in disguise, and the old man, they had no doubt in their hearts, was no other than Elijah himself.



# שִׁפּוֹךְ חֲמַתְךָ

POUR OUT YOUR WRATH

שִׁפּוֹךְ חֲמַתְךָ אֶל הַגּוֹיִם, אֲשֶׁר לֹא יִדְעוּךָ

וְעַל מַמְלָכוֹת אֲשֶׁר בְּשִׁמְךָ לֹא קָרְאוּ.

כִּי אָכַל אֶת יַעֲקֹב וְאֶת נְוֵהוּ הַשָּׁמוּ.

שִׁפּוֹךְ עֲלֵיהֶם זַעֲמָךְ וַחֲרוֹן אַפְּךָ יִשְׁיגֵם.

תִּרְדְּפֵם בָּאֵף וְתִשְׁמִידֵם מִתַּחַת שָׁמַי יי.

**Pour out** your fury on the nations that do not know you,  
and upon the kingdoms that do not invoke your name,  
for they have devoured Jacob and destroyed his home. (Psalms 79:6-7)

**Pour out** your wrath on them; may your blazing anger overtake them. (Psalms 69:25)  
Pursue them in wrath and destroy them from under the heavens of Adonai!

(Lamentations 3:66)

**Pour out** your love  
on the nations who have known you  
and on the kingdoms who call upon your name.  
For they show kindness to the seed of Jacob  
and they defend your people Israel from those  
who would devour them alive.  
May they live to see the Sukkah of peace spread  
over your chosen ones  
and to participate in the joy of all your nations.

**Traditionally**, at the end of the Seder, we stand before the open door and read out a harsh demand that our oppressors be brought to the bench of Divine justice. This Haggadah adds an unusual prayer for righteous Gentiles who rescued Jews.

**“Pour Out Your Wrath,”** compiled from Biblical verses, was inserted into the Haggadah in the Middle Ages in response to the Crusades and to the pogroms which typically occurred during the Easter/Passover period.

**“Pour out Your Love,”** attributed to a Haggadah manuscript from 1521, reflects a deep appreciation and love for those among the nations who have aided and protected the Jewish people throughout the generations. Many scholars doubt the authenticity of this manuscript, but descendants of Holocaust survivors saved by Gentiles agree with its sentiments.

In 1943 during the Holocaust, the entire Danish Jewish community was smuggled to neutral Sweden by the Danish Christian underground movement. Israeli Memorial Stamp by A. Berg, 1973.



## FOR ONE BRIEF MOMENT THE JEW STOOD TALL

Many Seder participants are decidedly uncomfortable with the short paragraph which asks that God's wrath be poured out on the nations that do not "call out in God's name." Some modern Haggadot deleted this paragraph, finding it too pregnant with vengeance and revenge. Defying the Seder's universal themes of freedom and liberation, it made their compilers uncomfortable.

I, on the other hand, love it. *Why my infatuation with this hard-hitting paragraph?*

I picture the many beleaguered Jews, particularly in Europe, for whom Passover, with its proximity to Easter, was a dangerous time. I imagine Jews

who spent much of the year fearful that the non-Jewish world might violently turn on them. They knew they would have little recourse to protect themselves...

*Suddenly, for one short paragraph, they opened the door of their homes* – of course, most of their non-Jewish neighbors had by then retired for the night – and publicly told the world what they wished for those who had done them evil. For one brief moment they could let their desire for justice be heard publicly. They did not have to cower in fear.

And yet they did not ask God to let them pour out their own wrath. Even now when Jewish

"machismo" briefly appeared, they asked God to render judgment and to punish only those who did not "call out in God's name," that is, *those nations that failed to adhere to ethical standards.*

For one brief, shining moment, the Jew stood tall. The playing field was more than equal as the Jew turned to the Judge of all the world, the same Judge Abraham challenged in Genesis, and called upon that Judge to do justice.

And then, as suddenly as it began, it ended.

*The door was shut, the Jew sat down*, the Seder continued, and all returned as it had been and would remain for too many years.

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**Deborah E. Lipstadt**, Holocaust historian, and author of *History on Trial: My Day in Court with David Irving*, an account of her successful defense against a Holocaust denier who sued her for libel.

## PARDON THE EGYPTIANS!

Moses demanded nothing less from the Jews, who had just left slavery for freedom, than to pardon the Egyptians! To love those who tyrannized over them for so long! Their time in Egypt itself – the abominable refuge the Jews received as slaves in a pagan land – had to be forgiven. In spite of everything, the children of Israel must not forget the air they breathed in Egypt, the water they drank there, and Egypt's ground in which they buried their dead, even though the waters of Egypt ran red with blood, the air rang with their cries and their tears watered the earth.

Moshe's words "*You shall not abhor an Egyptian, because you were a resident alien in his land*" (Deuteronomy 23:8) could have been a cruel taunt, yet they have been made wonderful by their charity and grace.

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Rabbi **Eliyahu Ben Amozeg**, *Paths of Morality*, Livorno, Italy 19<sup>th</sup> C.

## I WON'T TEACH OUR CHILDREN TO HATE

What do we do with the prayer "*Pour out your wrath*"? Is it possible to strike it out of our Haggadah? These awful words! Nowadays there are people who love us. And there are people who don't. But how can we curse even those who hate us with these horrible words?

*I can't hate. And I won't teach our children to hate.*

I understand the pain of the Jews, the pain and the fury that went into this prayer hundreds of years ago. The ugly face of anti-Semitism exists today, too, but not to the extent where, God forbid, we should teach our children this prayer. The foolish and the malicious can be condemned. They can be pitied. But we can't hate them – and make God part of this hatred.

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**Yehiel Weingarten**, Kibbutz Ein Harod, 1936



## DO NOT DRINK FROM THE CUP OF BITTERNESS

I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.

Martin Luther King

## MIKHEL, THE OLD "GOY"

During the First World War, the Heschko family hid from the Cossacks at their Gentile neighbor Mikhel's, in a small Ukrainian town. **Yehuda Ya'ari** tells the story of their Pesach Seder:

Passover was coming. We remembered it and we didn't. When there is no matza, no wine, when there is nothing belonging to the holiday, it's better to forget. A week before the holiday, no one mentioned it. Then old Mikhel came: "**Your Passover is coming**," he said. "I brought you some wheat for 'matzi', some eggs, and beets for borscht... eat, friends, and remember Mikhel the old sinner."

On the eve of the Seder we laid a white cloth on the ground, because the table was small and there were no chairs in the house. We sat around the cloth until after midnight, eating and singing. Then my father told me to open the door for Elijah.

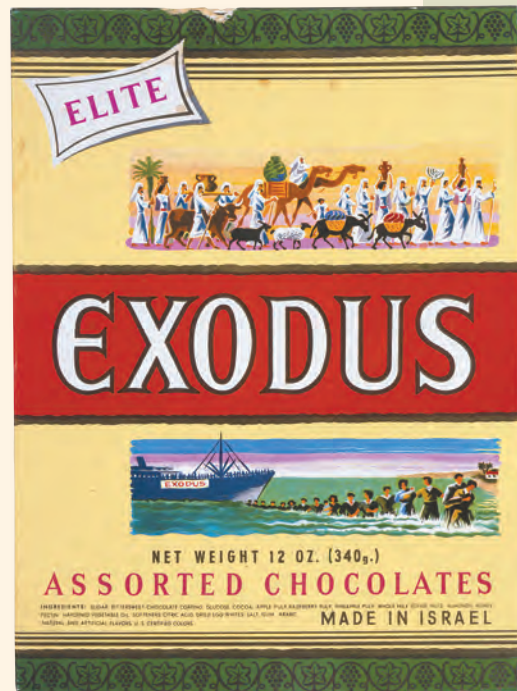
He began reading in a loud voice, "*Pour out your fury on the nations*

[literally, the "goyim" meaning nations] *that do not know you...*" and suddenly the door swung open!

Mikhel the old "goy" came inside wearing his best clothes. Mikhel said, "When grandfather Moshko was alive, I came to visit him every Passover, you remember, Heschko? Moshko would give me wine and matzi. I like the Jews' matzi... and Mrs. Heschko, how is the borscht?" Father didn't finish the prayer. He went to Mikhel and embraced him.

**The world was at war. People were killing each other like animals, cities fell – and here stood two people, one Jewish and one Gentile, hugging each other.**





Pour Out Your  
Chocolates

On the fifth anniversary of the arrival of the “S.S. Exodus 1947” to the shores of British Mandate Israel, the Elite Chocolate Company produced a commemorative box of chocolates. The first boxes off the production line were given as gifts to the heroic crew members of that Holocaust refugee ship turned away by the British authorities. Pictured above is the box presented to John Stanley Grauel, a Methodist minister who joined the crew as a cook. He volunteered to help the illegal immigration movement after a meeting with David Ben-Gurion, later the first prime minister of Israel. After his passing, Grauel’s box was donated to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

## TALES OF THE RED MATZA

In the early 1970s, Saudi King Faisal told a Cairo newsman:

“Two years ago when I was in Paris, police discovered the bodies of five children... Afterwards it turned out that Jews killed the children to mix their blood into their bread.”

The blood libel made its debut in Norwich, England in 1144, and consists of the bizarre allegation that Jews, in their pre-Passover preparations, slaughter Christians (children preferably) to use their blood in the baking of matza. The solemn prohibition in Judaism against the consumption of blood in any form has never fazed the libelers.

There have been some 200 documented cases of blood libels!

In 1991, Nabila Shaalan, a Syrian delegate to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, recommended a “very important work that demonstrates unequivocally the historical reality of Zionist racism – namely

## AN ANTIDOTE TO FANATICISM

There are good people in the world. There are evil people in the world. Evil cannot always be repelled by incantations, by demonstrations, by social analysis or by psychoanalysis. Sometimes, in the last resort, it has to be confronted by force. In my view, the ultimate evil in the world is not war itself, but aggression. Aggression is “the mother of all wars.” And sometimes aggression has to be repelled by force of arms before peace can prevail.

As a very nationalistic, even chauvinistic little boy in the Jerusalem of the 1940s, I vowed never to set foot on German soil, nor ever to buy any German products. The only thing I could not boycott were German books. If you boycott the books, I told myself, you will become a little bit like ‘them’. At first, I limited myself to reading the pre-war German literature and the anti-Nazi writers. But later, in the 1960s, I began to read, in Hebrew translation, the works of the post-war generation of German writers and poets. They made me imagine myself in their place. I’ll put it more bluntly: they seduced me into imagining myself in their stead, back in the dark years, and just before the dark years, and just after.

Reading these authors, and others, I could no longer go on simply hating everything German, past, present and future. I believe that imagining the other is a powerful antidote to fanaticism and hatred. I believe that books that make us imagine the other, may make us more immune to the ploys of the devil. And imagining the other – if you promise not to quote this little professional secret – is also a deep and very subtle human pleasure.

Amos Oz, Israeli novelist, upon receiving the Goethe Prize, Frankfurt, Germany, 2005

a tome penned in 1985 by Mustafa Tlass, at the time Syrian minister of defense, entitled “The Matza of Zion,” a justification of the notorious Damascus blood libel of 1840.

In Damascus the blood libel began with the disappearance of Capuchin Father Tomaso on February 5, 1840. A confession was extracted by torture from a Jewish barber. This led to pogroms against the Jewish community of Syria and the abduction of 63 Jewish children.

But Western Jewry rose to the occasion with a series of emergency measures in England, France and the United States. Many historians credit the Damascus Affair with having galvanized American Jews and created an encompassing international Jewish community for the first time.

Stuart Schoffman, *The Jerusalem Report*, 1991

# הלל Hallel

P R A I S E

**לא לנו, יי, לא לנו,** כי לשמך תן כבוד, על חסדך, על אמתך. למה יאמרו הגוים: איה נא אלהיהם? ואלהינו בשמים, כל אשר חפץ עשה. עצביהם בסף וזהב, מעשה ידי אדם. פה להם ולא ידברו, עינים להם ולא יראו. אזנים להם ולא ישמעו, אף להם ולא יריחו. ידיהם ולא ימישון, רגליהם ולא יהלכו, לא יתנו בגרונם. כמוהם יהיו עשיהם, כל אשר בטיח בהם. ישראל בטח ביי, עזרם ומגנם הוא. בית אהרן בטחו ביי, עזרם ומגנם הוא. יראי יי בטחו ביי, עזרם ומגנם הוא.

**יי זכרנו** יברך: יברך את בית ישראל, יברך את בית אהרן, יברך יראי יי, הקטנים עם הגדלים. יסף יי עליכם, עליכם ועל בניכם. ברוכים אתם ליי, עשה שמים וארץ. השמים שמים ליי, והארץ נתן לבני אדם. לא המתים יהללו-יה ולא כל ידדי דומה. ואנחנו נברך יה מעתה ועד עולם. **הללויה.**

**אהבתי** כי ישמע יי את קולי, תחנוני. כי הטא אזנו לי ובימי אקרא. אפפוני חבלי מות ומצרי שאול מצאוני, צרה וגיון אמצא. ובשם יי אקרא: אנה יי מלטה נפשי! חנון יי וצדיק, ואלהינו מרחם. שמר פתאים יי, דלתי ולי יהושיע. שובי נפשי למנוחתי, כי יי גמל עלי. כי חלצת נפשי ממות, את עיני מן דמעה, את רגלי מדחי. אתהלך לפני יי בארצות החיים. האמנתי כי אדבר, אני עניתי מאד. אני אמרתי בחפזי: כל האדם כזב.

**מה אשיב** ליי כל תגמולהי עלי. כוס ישועות אשא ובשם יי אקרא. נדרי ליי אשלם נגדה נא לכל עמו. יקר בעיני יי המותה לחסידיו.

אנה יי כי אני עבדך, אני עבדך בן אמתך, פתחת למוסרי. לך אזבח זבח תודה ובשם יי אקרא. נדרי ליי אשלם נגדה נא לכל עמו. בחצרות בית יי, בתוככי ירושלים. **הללויה.**

**הללו** את יי כל גוים, שבחוהו כל האמים. כי גבר עלינו חסדו, ואמת יי לעולם. **הללויה.**

הודו ליי כי טוב	כי לעולם חסדו.
יאמר נא ישראל	כי לעולם חסדו.
יאמרו נא בית אהרן	כי לעולם חסדו.
יאמרו נא יראי יי	כי לעולם חסדו.

The Pesach Seder is divided into two parts by the meal itself. In fact, Hallel (Psalms 113-118) itself is split. While the first half of the Seder and of the Hallel (Psalms 113-114) is dedicated to the past, to the historical memory of the redemption from Egypt. The second half looks forward to the future and ends with the wish: "Next year in Jerusalem!" Messianic hope inspires the singing from now until the completion of the Seder.

Fill the fourth cup of wine and place it before you as you sing the Hallel.



The Psalms by King David and the Levite Band



# הלל Hallel

מִן הַמִּצָּר קָרָאתִי יְהוָה, עֲנֵנִי בְמִרְחֹב יְהוָה.	הוֹדוּ לַיהוָה לֵי יוֹם טוֹב	GIVE THANKS to Adonai for God is good, For God's kindness is endless.	כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
יִי לֵי, לֹא אֵירָא - מִה יַעֲשֶׂה לִּי אָדָם. יִי לִי בַעֲזָרִי וְאֲנִי אֶרְאֶה בְּשִׁנְאִי.	הוֹדוּ לַאלֹהֵי הָאֱלֹהִים		כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
טוֹב לַחֲסוֹת בְּיַי מִבְּטַח בְּאָדָם. טוֹב לַחֲסוֹת בְּיַי מִבְּטַח בַּגְּדִיכִים.	הוֹדוּ לַאֲדֹנֵי הָאֲדָנִים		כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
כָּל גּוֹיִם סָבְבוּנִי, בְּשֵׁם יִי כִּי אֲמִילֵם. סָבְבוּנִי גַם סָבְבוּנִי, בְּשֵׁם יִי כִּי אֲמִילֵם.	לַעֲשֵׂה נִפְלְאוֹת גְּדוּלוֹת לְבָדּוֹ		כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
סָבְבוּנִי כְּדַבְרֵי, דַּעֲכוּ כְּאֵשׁ קוֹצִים, בְּשֵׁם יִי כִּי אֲמִילֵם. דַּחַח דַּחֲתֵנִי לְנֶפֶל,	לַעֲשֵׂה הַשְּׁמַיִם בְּתַבּוּנָה		כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
וַיִּי עֲזָרְנִי. עֲזוּ וְזָמְרָת יְהוָה וַיְהִי לִי לִישׁוּעָה. קוֹל רִנָּה וִישׁוּעָה בְּאֶהְלִי צְדִיקִים.	לְרַקַּע הָאָרֶץ עַל הַמַּיִם		כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
יָמִין יִי עֲשֵׂה חֵיל, יָמִין יִי רוֹמְמָה, יָמִין יִי עֲשֵׂה חֵיל.	לַעֲשֵׂה אוֹרִים גְּדִלִים		כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
לֹא אֲמוֹת כִּי אֲחִיהֶ, וְאֶסְפֹּר מַעֲשֵׂי יְהוָה. יִסֹּר יִסְרֵנִי יְהוָה, וְלִמּוֹת לֹא נִתְּנָנִי.	אֶת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ לְמַמְשֶׁלֶת בַּיּוֹם		כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
פָּתַחוּ לִי שַׁעֲרֵי צְדָק, אָבֹא בָם, אוֹדֶה יְהוָה. זֶה הַשָּׁעַר לִי, צְדִיקִים יָבֹאוּ בּוֹ.	אֶת הַיָּרֵחַ וְכוֹכָבִים לְמַמְשֶׁלוֹת בַּלַּיְלָה		כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
אוֹדֶה כִּי עֲנִיתָנִי וַתְּהִי לִי לִישׁוּעָה. (2x)	לְמַכּוֹת מִצְרַיִם בְּבִכּוּרֵיהֶם	God struck Egypt's first born,	כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
אֲבֹן מַאֲסוֹ הַבּוֹנִים הִתְהַלְּכָה לְרֹאשׁ פָּנָה. (2x)	וַיּוֹצֵא יִשְׂרָאֵל מִתּוֹכָם	And brought Israel out of Egypt,	כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
מֵאֵת יִי הִתְהַלְּכָה זֹאת הִיא נִפְלְאוֹת בְּעֵינֵינוּ. (2x)	בְּיַד חֲזָקָה וּבְזִרְעוֹ נְטוּיָה	With a strong hand and outstretched arm,	כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
זֶה הַיּוֹם עֲשֵׂה יִי נִגִּילָה וְנִשְׁמָחָה בּוֹ. (2x)	לְגִזְרֵי יָם סוֹף לְגִזְרֵי	God split apart the Sea of Reeds,	כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
אָנָּה יִי, הוֹשִׁיעָה נָּא. אָנָּה יִי, הוֹשִׁיעָה נָּא.	וְהַעֲבִיר יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּתוֹכוֹ	And enabled Israel to cross through it,	כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
אָנָּה יִי, הַצְּלִיחָה נָּא. אָנָּה יִי, הַצְּלִיחָה נָּא.	וְנָעַר פְּרָעָה וַחֲיִלוֹ בַּיָּם סוֹף	God hurled Pharaoh and his army into the Sea of Reeds,	כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
בְּרוּךְ הֵבֵא בְּשֵׁם יִי, בְּרַכְנוּכֶם מִבֵּית יִי. (2x)	לְמוֹלִיד עַמּוֹ בְּמִדְבָּר	And led the people through the wilderness, to their land,	כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
אֵל יִי וַיֵּאָר לָנוּ. אֶסְרוּ חַג בַּעֲבֹתֵיכֶם עַד קִרְנוֹת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ. (2x)	לְמַכּוֹת מְלָכִים גְּדִלִים	For God's kindness is endless.	כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
אֵלֵי אֲתָהּ וְאוֹדֶה, אֱלֹהֵי - אֲרוֹמָמְךָ. (2x)	וַיַּהֲרֹג מְלָכִים אֲדִירִים		כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
הוֹדוּ לַיהוָה כִּי טוֹב, כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ. (2x)	לְסִיחּוֹן מֶלֶךְ הָאֱמֹרִי		כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
יְהַלְלוּ יִי אֱלֹהֵינוּ כָּל מַעֲשֵׂיךָ, וְחִסְדֶּיךָ צְדִיקִים עוֹשֵׂי רְצוֹנְךָ,	וַיַּלְעוּג מֶלֶךְ הַבָּשָׁן		כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
וְכָל עַמּוֹת בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּרִנָּה יוֹדוּ וַיְבָרְכוּ וַיִּשְׂבְּחוּ וַיִּפְאֲרוּ	וַתֵּן אֶרֶץ לְנַחֲלָה		כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
וַיְרוֹמְמוּ וַיַּעֲרִיצוּ וַיְקַדִּישׁוּ וַיְמַלִּיכוּ אֶת שְׁמֶךָ, מִלְּבָנוּ.	נַחֲלָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל עַבְדּוֹ		כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
כִּי לָךְ טוֹב לְהוֹדוֹת וּלְשַׁמֵּךְ נָא לְזִמְרָה, כִּי מַעֲוֹלָם וְעַד עוֹלָם אֲתָהּ אֵל.	שֶׁבִשְׁפָּלָנוּ זָכַר לָנוּ		כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
	וַיִּפְדְּנוּ מִצְרֵינוּ		כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
	נָתַן לָחֶם לְכָל בָּשָׂר		כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.
	הוֹדוּ לַאלֹהֵי הַשְּׁמַיִם		כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדּוֹ.

## The Blessing after the Hallel

**נְשַׁמָּת** כָּל חַי תְּבָרַךְ אֶת שְׁמֶךָ, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, וְרוּחַ כָּל בָּשָׂר תִּפְאֹר וּתְרוֹמֶם זָכְרֶךָ, מַלְכֵנוּ, תָּמִיד. מִן הָעוֹלָם וְעַד הָעוֹלָם אַתָּה אֵל, וּמַבְלַעְדֶּיךָ אֵין לָנוּ מֶלֶךְ גּוֹאֵל וּמוֹשִׁיעַ, פּוֹדֶה וּמַצִּיל וּמַפְדָּנֵם וּמַדְחֵם בְּכָל עַת צָרָה וְצוּקָה. אֵין לָנוּ מֶלֶךְ אֵלָּא אַתָּה. אֱלֹהֵי הָרָאוּשִׁים וְהַאֲחֵרוֹנִים, אֱלֹהֵי כָל בְּרִיּוֹת, אֲדוֹן כָּל תּוֹלְדוֹת, הַמְהַלֵּל בָּרַב הַתִּשְׁבָּחוֹת, הַמְנַהֵג עוֹלָמוֹ בְּחֶסֶד וּבְרִיּוּתוֹ בְּרַחֲמִים. וַיִּי לֹא יָנוּם וְלֹא יִישָׁן - הַמַּעֲוֵרֵר יְשָׁנִים וְהַמְקִיץ נִדְרָמִים, וְהַמְשִׁיחַ אֱלָמִים וְהַמְתִּיר אֲסוּרִים וְהַסּוֹמֵךְ נוֹפְלִים וְהַזֹּקֵף כְּפוּפִים. לֶךְ לְבָרֶךְ אֲנַחְנוּ מוֹדִים.

וְאֵלֹו פִּינוּ מֵלֹא שִׁירָה כִּים, וְלִשׁוֹנֵנוּ רִנָּה כְּהִמּוֹן גָּלִי, וְשִׁפְתוֹתֵינוּ שִׁבַּח כְּמִדְּחֵי רִקִּיעַ, וְעֵינֵינוּ מֵאִירוֹת כְּשֶׁמֶשׁ וּכְיָרֵחַ, וְנִדְּנוּ פְרוֹשׁוֹת כְּנִשְׂרֵי שָׁמַיִם, וְנִגְלִינוּ קִלּוֹת כְּאִילוֹת - אֵין אֲנַחְנוּ מְסַפְּקִים לַהֲדוֹת לֶךְ, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, וּלְבָרֶךְ אֶת שְׁמֶךָ עַל אַחַת מֵאֵלֶּף אֵלֶּפִים וְרַבִּי רַבּוֹת פְּעָמִים הַטּוֹבוֹת שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ עִם אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְעִמָּנוּ.

**מִמַּצְרַיִם גָּאֵלְתָּנוּ, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, וּמִבֵּית עַבְדִּים פָּדִיתָנוּ, בָּרַעַב זָנַתָּנוּ וּבִשְׁבַע כִּלְכַּלְתָּנוּ, מַחְרֵב הַצִּלְתָּנוּ וּמַדְבָּר מִלְטָתָנוּ, וּמַחְלִים רָעִים וְנֶאֱמָנִים דָּלִיתָנוּ. עַד הֵנָּה עֲזָרְנוּ רַחֲמֶיךָ וְלֹא עֲזָבוּנוּ חֲסִדֶיךָ, וְאֵל תִּטְשֵׁנוּ, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, לִנְצַח. עַל כֵּן אֲבָרִים שֶׁלֹּגַת בָּנוּ וְרוּחַ וְנִשְׁמָה שֶׁנִּפְתַּח בְּאַפֵּנוּ וְלִשׁוֹן אֲשֶׁר שָׁמַת בְּפִינוּ, הֵן הֵם יוֹדוּ וַיְבָרְכוּ וַיִּשְׁבַּחוּ וַיִּפְאֲרוּ וַיְרוֹמְמוּ וַיַּעֲרִיצוּ וַיַּקְדִּישׁוּ וַיְמַלִּיכוּ אֶת שְׁמֶךָ מַלְכֵנוּ. כִּי כָּל פֶּה לֶךְ יוֹדֶה, וְכָל לִשׁוֹן לֶךְ תִּשְׁבַּע, וְכָל בֶּרֶךְ לֶךְ תִּכְרַע, וְכָל קוֹמָה לִפְנֶיךָ תִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶה, וְכָל לִבָּבוֹת יִירָאוּךָ, וְכָל קָרֵב וּכְלִיּוֹת יִזְמְרוּ לְשִׁמְךָ, בְּדָבָר שֶׁכָּתוּב:**

**"כָּל עֲצֻמֹּתֶי תֹאמַרְנָה: יי, מִי כְמוֹךָ, מַצִּיל עָנִי מִחֻזַּק מִמָּנוּ וְעָנִי וְאֲבִיוֹן מִגֹּזֵל".**

מִי יוֹדֶה לֶךְ וּמִי יִשׁוּה לֶךְ וּמִי יַעֲרֶךְ לֶךְ, הָאֵל הַגָּדוֹל, הַגִּבּוֹר וְהַנּוֹרָא, אֵל עֲלִיוֹן, קִנְיָ שָׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ. נִהַלְלְךָ וְנִשְׁבַּחְךָ וְנִפְאֲרְךָ וְנִבְרַךְךָ אֶת שֵׁם קִדְשֶׁךָ, כְּאִמּוֹר: "לְדוֹד, בָּרְכִי נַפְשִׁי אֶת יי וְכָל קֶרְבִּי אֶת שֵׁם קִדְשֶׁךָ".

**הָאֵל בְּתַעֲצוּמוֹת עֶזְךָ, הַגָּדוֹל בְּכַבּוֹד שְׁמֶךָ, הַגִּבּוֹר לִנְצַח וְהַנּוֹרָא בְּנוֹרְאוֹתֶיךָ, הַמֶּלֶךְ הַיּוֹשֵׁב עַל כִּסֵּא רֶם וְנִשְׂאָ. שׁוֹכֵן עַד, מְרוֹם וְקָדוֹשׁ שְׁמוֹ. וְכָתוּב: רַנְנוּ צְדִיקִים בַּיִי, לַיִּשְׂרִים נֹאחָה תִּהְיֶה.**

בְּפִי יִשְׂרָאֵל תִּתְהַלֵּל, וּבְדַבְּרֵי צְדִיקִים תִּתְבָּרַךְ, וּבְלִשׁוֹן חֲסִידִים תִּתְרוֹמֵם, וּבְקֶרֶב קְדוֹשִׁים תִּתְקַדַּשׁ.

**וּבְמִקְהֵלוֹת רַבּוֹת עִמָּךְ בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּרִנָּה יִתְפָּאֵר שְׁמֶךָ, מַלְכֵנוּ, בְּכָל דּוֹר וָדוֹר, שֶׁכֵּן חוֹבֵת כָּל הַיְּצִירִים לִפְנֶיךָ, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, לַהֲדוֹת, לְהַלֵּל, לְשַׁבַּח, לְפָאֵר, לְרוֹמֵם, לְהַדָּר, לְבָרֶךְ, לְעַלָּה וּלְקַלֵּם עַל כָּל דְּבָרֵי שִׁירוֹת וְתִשְׁבָּחוֹת דָּוִד בֶּן יִשִּׁי עֲבָדֶךָ, מִשִּׁיחֶךָ.**

**יִשְׁתַּבַּח שְׁמֶךָ לְעַד מַלְכֵנוּ, הָאֵל הַמֶּלֶךְ הַגָּדוֹל וְהַקְדוֹשׁ, בְּשִׁמְשֵׁם וּבְאֶרְצָם. כִּי לֶךְ נֹאחָה, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, שִׁיר וְשִׁבְחָה, הֵלֵל וְזִמְרָה, עֵז וּמִמְשָׁלָה, נִצַּח, גְּדֻלָּה וְגִבּוּרָה, תִּהְיֶה וְתִפְאֲרָתָה, קִדְשָׁה וּמַלְכוּתָה, בְּרַכּוֹת וְהוֹדָאוֹת מְעַתָּה וְעַד עוֹלָם.**

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֵל מֶלֶךְ גָּדוֹל בְּתִשְׁבָּחוֹת, אֵל הַהוֹדָאוֹת, אֲדוֹן הַנִּפְלְאוֹת, הַבוֹחֵר בְּשִׁירֵי זִמְרָה, מֶלֶךְ אֵל חַי הָעוֹלָמִים.**

**The life breath** of every living thing blesses your name, God.

Without you we have no ruler and redeemer, no one to rescue us and to take pity on us in times of trouble and strife...

You release prisoners...

From Egypt You redeemed us, from the house of bondage...

You rescue the poor from the strong, the poverty-stricken from those who rob them.





## Fourth Cup כּוֹס רְבִיעִית

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,**

**בוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגָּפֶן.**

**Ba-rukhh ata Adonai / Elo-heinu me-lekh ha-olam / bo-rei pree ha-gafen.**

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, עַל הַגָּפֶן וְעַל פְּרֵי הַגָּפֶן וְעַל תְּנוּכַת הַשָּׂדֶה וְעַל אֶרֶץ חֲמֻדָּה טוֹבָה וְרַחֲבָה, שֶׁרָצִיתָ וְהִנַּחֲלָתָ לְאַבֹּתֵינוּ לֵאמֹר מִפְּרִיהָ וְלִשְׂבַע מִטּוֹבָהּ. רַחֵם יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ עָלֵינוּ וְעַל יִשְׂרָאֵל עַמּוֹךְ וְעַל יְרוּשָׁלַיִם עִיר הָרַחֵם וְעַל הָר צִיּוֹן מְשֻׁכָּן כְּבוֹדָךְ וְעַל מִזְבִּיחְךָ וְעַל הִיכָלְךָ. וּבִנְהַי יְרוּשָׁלַיִם עִיר הַקֹּדֶשׁ בְּמַהֲרָה בְּיָמֵינוּ, וְהַעֲלֵנוּ לְתוֹכָהּ וְשִׂמְחָנוּ בְּבִנְיָנָהּ וּבְקִרְבָּךְ עֲלֶיהָ בְּקִדְשָׁהּ וּבְטָהֳרָהּ. (בִּשְׁבַת: וְרָצָה וְהִחֲלִיצֵנוּ בְּיוֹם הַשְּׁבִיט הַזֶּה) וְשִׂמְחָנוּ בְּיוֹם חַג הַמִּצּוֹת הַזֶּה, בְּיוֹם טוֹב מִקְרָא קֹדֶשׁ הַזֶּה, כִּי אַתָּה טוֹב וּמְטִיב לְכָל וְגוֹדָה לָךְ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ עַל הָאָרֶץ וְעַל פְּרֵי גִפְנָהּ.

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, עַל הָאָרֶץ וְעַל פְּרֵי גִפְנָהּ.**

**Ba-rukhh ata Adonai / al ha-aretz v'al pree ha-gafen.**

On the second night of Pesach only:

## סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר Counting the Omer

הִנְנִי מוֹכֵן וּמְזוּמֵן לְקִים מִצְוֹת עֲשֵׂה שֶׁל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר.

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם**

**אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל**

**סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר.**

**הַיּוֹם יוֹם אֶחָד לְעֹמֶר.**

**Ba-rukhh ata Adonai / Elo-heinu me-lekh ha-olam / asher keed'shanu  
b'meeetz-vo-tav v'tzee-vanu al s'feerat ha-omer / Ha-yom yom ekhad la-omer.**

**Blessed** are You, Adonai our God,  
Ruler of the Universe,  
who created the **fruit of the vine**.

### Blessing after Drinking Wine

Blessed are You, Adonai, for the vine and its fruit, for the beautiful and spacious land You gave us. Have mercy on us and bring us there to eat its fruits. Grant us happiness on this Festival of Matzot.

**Blessed** are You, Adonai, for the land and for the fruit of the vine.

Raise the fourth cup  
of wine and recite the  
blessing over it.

Recline to the left  
while drinking.

On the second night  
of Pesach we begin  
counting the 50 days  
from the Exodus to  
Sinai, from Pesach,  
the harvest of barley,  
until Shavuot, the  
harvest of wheat.  
With the giving of the  
Torah at Sinai, Jews  
move from freedom  
to responsibility.

Say the blessing and  
count off the first day  
of the Omer.



## THE FIFTH CUP

The first four cups of wine stand for four stages of redemption promised in Exodus 6:6-7. But Rabbi Tarfon drank a fifth cup to commemorate the fifth stage of redemption: *"And I shall bring you into the land which I raised my hand and swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I give it to you as an inheritance, I am Adonai."*

(Exodus 6:8, Talmud Pesachim 118)

Rabbi Menachem M. Kasher proposes that since 1948, all Jews adopt the fifth cup:

"It is fitting and proper that we observe this pious act, the drinking of the fifth cup, as a way to give thanks... For in our own time, we have been privileged to witness the mercies of the Holy One and our rescue through the establishment of the State of Israel, the beginning of our redemption... as God promised us: *"I shall bring you into the land."* (Exodus 6:7)

Rabbi Irving Greenberg adds:

"Jewish tradition is not static. Adding this fifth cup is our testimony that Israel's rebirth is revelation and redemption in our own time. The fifth cup is also a statement of hope and trust that this is a lasting redemption that will not be destroyed again. *Our joy and our faith in the Exodus is increased because it happened again in this generation.*"

## THE OMER:

### 49 STEPS TO FREEDOM

In the Kiddush with which we began the Seder, Passover is called the "time of our freedom." But as we know, attaining inner freedom is very difficult. It is not something we can do in just one – or two – nights. The Slonimer rebbe teaches that while God took us physically out of Egypt on Pesach night, the spiritual Egypt and all of its enslaving aspects are still within us. There are still 50 spiritual aspects of enslavement within us, *50 inner steps that lead up the staircase to freedom*. But God is not going to push us up those stairs, as God pushed us out of Egypt. God has already done the big work – the Exodus – from above, in a miraculous and momentous event that we, frankly, had little to do with. But it is now up to us to start our own, inner, journey towards freedom. This is what the counting of the Omer signifies.

The Kabbalists assigned a combination of God's seven attributes to each of the 49 days of the Omer: *Kindness, Discipline, Compassion, Endurance, Humility, Foundation and Sovereignty*, thus creating 49 different refined characteristics. On each day of the Omer we are invited to explore our personality and behavior in light of this characteristic, to refine, refresh and improve ourselves based on what we learn on each day (For example, the first night is dedicated to refining our kindness, our ability to be truly generous, not to expect a quid pro quo...). Finally, after taking these 49 steps towards freedom, we are ready for the 50th step: receiving the Torah on Shavuot. Receiving the Torah signifies our ability to choose a path in life, a choice that only free people can make. For as the Rabbis teach us, the tablets of the covenant were inscribed with "freedom on the tablets." The Torah itself is freedom, but is granted as an achievement, not as a gift.

For the second night:  
"You shall say: 'It is the Passover Sacrifice.'"

(Exodus 12:27)

by Elazar HaKalir, 8<sup>th</sup> C. Israel

### ואמרתם זבח פסח

אִמְנָן גְּבוּרָתֶיךָ הַפְּלֵאתָ בַּפֶּסַח,  
בְּרֹאשׁ כָּל מוֹעֲדוֹת נְשֹׂאת פֶּסַח,  
גְּלִיתָ לְאַזְרָחֵי חֲצוֹת לַיִל פֶּסַח.

ואמרתם זבח פסח.

דִּלְתִּינוּ דְּפַקְתָּ כָּחַם הַיּוֹם בַּפֶּסַח,  
הִסְעִיד נּוֹצְעִים עֲגוֹת מִצּוֹת בַּפֶּסַח,  
וְאַל הַבָּקָר רֵץ זָכָר לְשׁוֹר עֶרְךָ פֶּסַח.

ואמרתם זבח פסח.

זַעֲמֵנוּ סְדוּמִים וְלֹהֲטֵנוּ בְּאֵשׁ בַּפֶּסַח,  
חָלַץ לֹוֹט מֵהֶם וּמִצּוֹת אֶפֶה בְּקֶץ פֶּסַח,  
טֹאטְטָאתָ אֲדָמַת מֶיךָ וְנָף בְּעֶבְרֶךָ בַּפֶּסַח.

ואמרתם זבח פסח.

יְהִי רֹאשׁ כָּל אוֹן מַחְצֶת בְּלִיל שְׁמוֹר פֶּסַח,  
כְּבִיר, עַל בֶּן בְּכוֹר פִּסְחָתָהּ בְּדָם פֶּסַח,  
לְבַלְתִּי תַת מִשְׁחִית לְבָא בִּפְתָחִי בַּפֶּסַח.

ואמרתם זבח פסח.

מִסְגֶּרֶת סִגְרָה בְּעִתּוֹתֵי פֶסַח,  
נִשְׁמְדָה מִדָּן בְּצִלְלֵי שְׁעוֹרֵי עֶמֶר פֶּסַח,  
שֹׁרְפוֹ מִשְׁמָנִי פוֹל וְלוֹד בִּיקָד וְקוֹד פֶּסַח.

ואמרתם זבח פסח.

עוֹד הַיּוֹם בְּנֵב לַעֲמֹד עַד גְּעָה עוֹנֵת פֶּסַח,  
פֶּסֶד כְּתֻבָּה לְקַעֲקַע צוֹל בַּפֶּסַח,  
צִפָּה הַצִּפִּית עֶרְוֶה הַשְּׁלֹחַן בַּפֶּסַח.

ואמרתם זבח פסח.

קָהַל כְּנִסְהָ הַדְּסָה לְשִׁלֵּשׁ צוּם בַּפֶּסַח,  
רֹאשׁ מִבֵּית דָּשָׁע מַחְצֶת בְּעֶץ חֲמִשִּׁים בַּפֶּסַח,  
שְׁתֵּי אֱלֹהֵי רִגְעָה תִּבְיֵא לְעוֹצִית בַּפֶּסַח.

תִּעֲזוּ יָדְךָ תְּרוֹם יִמִּינְךָ כְּלִיל הַתְּקֻדָּה חַג פֶּסַח.

ואמרתם זבח פסח.

For the first night:  
"It Happened in the Middle of the Night"

(Exodus 12:29)

by Yannai, 5<sup>th</sup> C. Israel

### ויהי בחצי הלילה

אֲזֵנוּ רַב נִסִּים הַפְּלֵאתָ בְּלִילָה,  
בְּרֹאשׁ אֲשֶׁמּוֹרוֹת זֶה הַלֵּילָה,  
גֵּר צֶדֶק נִצְחָתוֹ כְּנַחֲלֶךָ לֹו לֵילָה.

ויהי בחצי הלילה.

דָּגַת מִלֶּךְ גֵּר בַּחֲלוֹם הַלֵּילָה,  
הַפְּחַדְתָּ אֲרָמִי בְּאִמְשׁ לֵילָה,  
וַיִּשֶׁר יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמַלְאָךְ וַיִּכַּל לֹו לֵילָה.

ויהי בחצי הלילה.

זָרַע בְּכוּרֵי פְתָרוֹם מַחְצֶת בַּחְצֵי הַלֵּילָה,  
חִילָם לֹא מִצְאוּ בְּקוֹמָם בְּלִילָה,  
טִיסַת נָגִיד חֲרֻשֶׁת סְלִית בְּכוֹכְבֵי לֵילָה.

ויהי בחצי הלילה.

יַעֲזֵן מַחֲרֶף לְנוֹפֵף אוֹוִי, הוֹבֶשֶׁת פְּגָרִיו בְּלִילָה,  
כָּרַע בַּל וּמִצְבּוֹ בְּאִישׁוֹן לֵילָה,  
לְאִישׁ חֲמוּדוֹת נִגְלָה רִז חֲצוֹת לֵילָה.

ויהי בחצי הלילה.

מִשְׁתַּכֵּר בְּכָלִי קֹדֶשׁ נִהְדָּג בּוֹ בְּלִילָה,  
נוֹשַׁע מִבּוֹר אֲרִיּוֹת פּוֹתֵר בְּעִתּוֹתֵי לֵילָה,  
שִׁנְאָה נִטֵּר אֲגִי וְכֹתֵב סִפְרִים בְּלִילָה.

ויהי בחצי הלילה.

עוֹרֶדֶת נִצְחָךְ עָלָיו בְּנֶדֶד שְׁנַת לֵילָה,  
פּוֹדֶה תִּדְרֶךְ לְשׁוֹמֵר מֶה מְלִילָה,  
צָרַח כְּשׁוֹמֵר וְשָׁח אֶתְּא בָקָר וְגַם לֵילָה.

ויהי בחצי הלילה.

קָרַב יוֹם אֲשֶׁר הוּא לֹא יוֹם וְלֹא לֵילָה,  
רָם הוֹדַע כִּי לֶךְ הַיּוֹם אַף לֶךְ הַלֵּילָה,  
שׁוֹמְרִים הִפְקִד לְעִירָךְ כָּל הַיּוֹם וְכָל הַלֵּילָה.

תִּאִיר כְּאוֹר יוֹם חֲשֶׁכֶת לֵילָה.

ויהי בחצי הלילה.

## Concluding Songs

The Ashkenazi Haggadah concludes with a Song Book Appendix.

Two poems are sung alternatively on the first and second Seder night: The first recalls God's nighttime rescues, "In the middle of the night." At night God saved Israel with the tenth plague, helped Jacob when he was pursued by Lavan, and Mordechai when pursued by Haman.

The second poem reviews the many acts of redemption that occurred, according to tradition, on Pesach: the angels announced the birth of Isaac, the conquest of Jericho, the hanging of Haman, and so on.

## אָדיר בַּמְלוּכָה Adeer B'Mlukha

**אָדיר** בַּמְלוּכָה, **בְּחור** בַּהֲלָכָה, **גְּדוּדיו** יאמרו לו':  
לֵךְ וּלְךָ, לֵךְ בִּי לֵךְ, לֵךְ אַף לֵךְ,  
לֵךְ יי הַמַּמְלָכָה, בִּי לֹא נָאָה, בִּי לֹא יָאָה.

**דְּגול** בַּמְלוּכָה, **הָדור** בַּהֲלָכָה, **וְתִיקוּ** יאמרו לו':  
לֵךְ וּלְךָ, לֵךְ בִּי לֵךְ, לֵךְ אַף לֵךְ,  
לֵךְ יי הַמַּמְלָכָה, בִּי לֹא נָאָה, בִּי לֹא יָאָה.

**זְכאי** בַּמְלוּכָה, **חָסִין** בַּהֲלָכָה, **טַפְסְדִּיו** יאמרו לו':  
לֵךְ וּלְךָ, לֵךְ בִּי לֵךְ, לֵךְ אַף לֵךְ,  
לֵךְ יי הַמַּמְלָכָה, בִּי לֹא נָאָה, בִּי לֹא יָאָה.

**יְחיד** בַּמְלוּכָה, **כְּבִיר** בַּהֲלָכָה, **לְמוּדיו** יאמרו לו':  
לֵךְ וּלְךָ, לֵךְ בִּי לֵךְ, לֵךְ אַף לֵךְ,  
לֵךְ יי הַמַּמְלָכָה, בִּי לֹא נָאָה, בִּי לֹא יָאָה.

**מֹשֶׁל** בַּמְלוּכָה, **נֹדָא** בַּהֲלָכָה, **סְבִיביו** יאמרו לו':  
לֵךְ וּלְךָ, לֵךְ בִּי לֵךְ, לֵךְ אַף לֵךְ,  
לֵךְ יי הַמַּמְלָכָה, בִּי לֹא נָאָה, בִּי לֹא יָאָה.

**עָנוּ** בַּמְלוּכָה, **פְּדִיָּה** בַּהֲלָכָה, **צְדִיקוּ** יאמרו לו':  
לֵךְ וּלְךָ, לֵךְ בִּי לֵךְ, לֵךְ אַף לֵךְ,  
לֵךְ יי הַמַּמְלָכָה, בִּי לֹא נָאָה, בִּי לֹא יָאָה.

**קְדוּשׁ** בַּמְלוּכָה, **רְחוּם** בַּהֲלָכָה, **שְׁנֵאָנֵיו** יאמרו לו':  
לֵךְ וּלְךָ, לֵךְ בִּי לֵךְ, לֵךְ אַף לֵךְ,  
לֵךְ יי הַמַּמְלָכָה, בִּי לֹא נָאָה, בִּי לֹא יָאָה.

**תְּקִיף** בַּמְלוּכָה, **תּוֹמֵךְ** בַּהֲלָכָה, **תְּמִימיו** יאמרו לו':  
לֵךְ וּלְךָ, לֵךְ בִּי לֵךְ, לֵךְ אַף לֵךְ,  
לֵךְ יי הַמַּמְלָכָה, בִּי לֹא נָאָה, בִּי לֹא יָאָה.

### It is Proper to Praise

This table song, by Jacob, a German poet, is an alphabetical acrostic praising God's many attributes. Though it has no connection to Pesach at all, it entered the Ashkenazi Haggadah after the 12<sup>th</sup> C. as a popular religious song.

The first verse typifies the style:

"Mighty in royalty,  
Beautiful in stature,  
God's angels exclaim:  
To God alone  
Belongs the Kingdom,  
For all this is becoming  
And fitting to God!"

### Refrain:

L'kha u-l'kha, l'kha kee l'kha,  
l'kha af l'kha.  
L'kha Adonai ha-mam-lakha.  
Kee lo na-eh, kee lo ya-eh.



# אָדיר הוּא Adeer Hu

M I G H T Y I S G O D

The poet (15<sup>th</sup> C. Germany) recounts the Divine attributes in alphabetical order and prays for the building of the Third Temple.



## Adeer hu, adeer hu

Refrain:

Yeev-neh veito b'ka-rov,  
beem-hei-ra, beem-hei-ra,  
B'ya-mei-nu b'ka-rov, Eil b'nei,  
Eil b'nei, B'nei veit-kha b'ka-rov.

Ka-beer hu, la-mud hu, me-lekh hu,  
Yeev-neh veito b'ka-rov . . .

Ba-khur hu, ga-dol hu, da-gul hu,  
Yeev-neh vei-to b'ka-rov . . .

No-ra hu, sa-geev hu, ee-zuz hu,  
Yeev-neh vei-to b'ka-rov . . .

Ha-dur hu, va-teek hu, za-kai hu,  
Yeev-neh vei-to b'ka-rov . . .

Po-deh hu, tza-deek hu, ka-dosh hu,  
Yeev-neh vei-to b'ka-rov . . .

Kha-sid hu, ta-hor hu, ya-kheed hu,  
Yeev-neh vei-to b'ka-rov . . .

Ra-khum hu, sha-dai hu, ta-keef hu,  
Yeev-neh vei-to b'ka-rov . . .

אָדיר הוּא, יבְנֶה בֵּיתוֹ בְּקֶרֶב.

בְּמַהֲרָה, בְּמַהֲרָה, בְּיָמֵינוּ בְּקֶרֶב.  
אֵל בְּנֶה, אֵל בְּנֶה, בְּנֶה בֵּיתְךָ בְּקֶרֶב.

בְּחֹדֶר הוּא, גָּדוֹל הוּא, דָּגוּל הוּא, יבְנֶה בֵּיתוֹ בְּקֶרֶב.  
בְּמַהֲרָה, בְּמַהֲרָה, בְּיָמֵינוּ בְּקֶרֶב.  
אֵל בְּנֶה, אֵל בְּנֶה, בְּנֶה בֵּיתְךָ בְּקֶרֶב.

הָדוּר הוּא, וְתִיק הוּא, וְכָאִי הוּא, יבְנֶה בֵּיתוֹ בְּקֶרֶב.  
בְּמַהֲרָה, בְּמַהֲרָה, בְּיָמֵינוּ בְּקֶרֶב.  
אֵל בְּנֶה, אֵל בְּנֶה, בְּנֶה בֵּיתְךָ בְּקֶרֶב.

חֶסֶד הוּא, טְהוֹר הוּא, יָחִיד הוּא, יבְנֶה בֵּיתוֹ בְּקֶרֶב.  
בְּמַהֲרָה, בְּמַהֲרָה, בְּיָמֵינוּ בְּקֶרֶב.  
אֵל בְּנֶה, אֵל בְּנֶה, בְּנֶה בֵּיתְךָ בְּקֶרֶב.

כְּבִיר הוּא, לְמוֹד הוּא, מְלֶךְ הוּא, יבְנֶה בֵּיתוֹ בְּקֶרֶב.  
בְּמַהֲרָה, בְּמַהֲרָה, בְּיָמֵינוּ בְּקֶרֶב.  
אֵל בְּנֶה, אֵל בְּנֶה, בְּנֶה בֵּיתְךָ בְּקֶרֶב.

נוֹרָא הוּא, סְגִיב הוּא, עֲזוּז הוּא, יבְנֶה בֵּיתוֹ בְּקֶרֶב.  
בְּמַהֲרָה, בְּמַהֲרָה, בְּיָמֵינוּ בְּקֶרֶב.  
אֵל בְּנֶה, אֵל בְּנֶה, בְּנֶה בֵּיתְךָ בְּקֶרֶב.

פֹּדֶה הוּא, צְדִיק הוּא, קְדוֹשׁ הוּא, יבְנֶה בֵּיתוֹ בְּקֶרֶב.  
בְּמַהֲרָה, בְּמַהֲרָה, בְּיָמֵינוּ בְּקֶרֶב.  
אֵל בְּנֶה, אֵל בְּנֶה, בְּנֶה בֵּיתְךָ בְּקֶרֶב.

רְחוּם הוּא, שְׂדֵי הוּא, תְּקִיף הוּא, יבְנֶה בֵּיתוֹ בְּקֶרֶב.  
בְּמַהֲרָה, בְּמַהֲרָה, בְּיָמֵינוּ בְּקֶרֶב.  
אֵל בְּנֶה, אֵל בְּנֶה, בְּנֶה בֵּיתְךָ בְּקֶרֶב.

## אֶחָד מִי יוֹדֵעַ ? Who Knows One ?

"Who knows one?" is modeled on a German folksong (15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> C.). It consists of a numerical quiz.

Since the song is written in question and answer form, you may assign the answers to different participants. The whole "chorus" sings the question: "Who knows two (three, etc.)?" and the pre-assigned respondent sings the answer to their number: "I know two, two are the tablets..." every time that number comes up.

### WHO PAINTS ONE?

How does one visually represent "God who is in Heaven and on earth?" Jews do not portray God's body literally, but they do use bodily metaphors. Michel Kichka uses Michelangelo's famous image of God stretching his hand out from "Heaven" to create Adam. It is, however, only God's "outstretched arm" we see – the Torah's chief metaphor for God's redemption of Israel from Egypt.

Can you identify the other 12 items in *Ekhad MeeYodea*?

1

Who knows one? I know one.  
One is our God, who is in Heaven  
and on earth.

2

Who knows two? I know two.  
Two are the tablets of the Covenant.  
One is our God, who is in heaven and  
on earth.

3

Three are the Fathers.

4

Four are the Mothers.

5

Five are the books of the Torah.

6

Six are the orders of Mishna.

7

Seven are the days of the Week.

8

Eight are the days before Circumcision.

9

Nine are the months of Pregnancy.

10

Ten are the Ten Commandments.

11

Eleven are the stars in Joseph's dream.

12

Twelve are the Tribes of Israel.

13

Thirteen are God's Attributes of Mercy



אֶחָד מִי יוֹדֵעַ?  
אֶחָד אָנִי יוֹדֵעַ!  
אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבְאָרֶץ.



Ekhad mee yo-dei-a?  
Ekhad anee yo-dei-a.  
Ekhad Elo-hei-nu she-ba-sha-ma-yeem uva-aretz.

שְׁנַיִם מִי יוֹדֵעַ?  
שְׁנַיִם אָנִי יוֹדֵעַ!  
שְׁנֵי לִוְחֹת הַבְּרִית.  
אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבְאָרֶץ.



Shna-yeem mee yo-dei-a?  
Shna-yeem anee yo-dei-a.  
Shnei lu-khot ha-breet,  
Ekhad Elo-hei-nu she-ba-sha-ma-yeem uva-aretz.

שְׁלֹשָׁה מִי יוֹדֵעַ?  
שְׁלֹשָׁה אָנִי יוֹדֵעַ!  
שְׁלֹשָׁה אָבוֹת,  
שְׁנֵי לִוְחֹת הַבְּרִית,  
אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבְאָרֶץ.



Shlo-sha mee yo-dei-a?  
Shlo-sha anee yo-dei-a.  
Shlo-sha avot,  
Shnei lu-khot ha-breet,  
Ekhad Elo-hei-nu she-ba-sha-ma-yeem uva-aretz.

אַרְבַּע מִי יוֹדֵעַ?  
אַרְבַּע אָנִי יוֹדֵעַ!  
אַרְבַּע אֲמָהוֹת,  
שְׁלֹשָׁה אָבוֹת,  
שְׁנֵי לִוְחֹת הַבְּרִית,  
אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבְאָרֶץ.



Arba mee yo-dei-a?  
Arba anee yo-dei-a.  
Arba eema-hot,  
Shlo-sha avot,  
Shnei lu-khot ha-breet,  
Ekhad Elo-hei-nu she-ba-sha-ma-yeem uva-aretz.

חֲמִשָּׁה מִי יוֹדֵעַ?  
חֲמִשָּׁה אָנִי יוֹדֵעַ!  
חֲמִשָּׁה חֲמִשֵּׁי תוֹרָה,  
אַרְבַּע אֲמָהוֹת,  
שְׁלֹשָׁה אָבוֹת,  
שְׁנֵי לִוְחֹת הַבְּרִית,  
אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבְאָרֶץ.



Ha-mee-sha mee yo-dei-a?  
Ha-mee-sha anee yo-dei-a.  
Ha-mee-sha hum-shei Torah,  
Arba eema-hot,  
Shlo-sha avot,  
Shnei lu-khot ha-breet,  
Ekhad Elo-hei-nu she-ba-sha-ma-yeem uva-aretz.



שְׂשָׁה מִי יוֹדֵעַ?  
 שְׂשָׁה אֲנִי יוֹדֵעַ!  
 שְׂשָׁה סְדְרֵי מִשְׁנָה,  
 חֲמִשָּׁה חֻמְשֵׁי תוֹרָה,  
 אַרְבַּע אֲמָרוֹת,  
 שְׁלֹשָׁה אָבוֹת,  
 שְׁנֵי לוֹחוֹת הַבְּרִית,  
 אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבְאֶרֶץ.



Shee-sha mee yo-dei-a?  
 Shee-sha anee yo-dei-a.  
 Shee-sha seedrei Mishna,  
 Ha-meesha hum-shei Torah,  
 Arba eema-hot,  
 Shlo-sha avot,  
 Shnei lu-khot ha-breet,  
 Ekhad Elo-hei-nu she-ba-sha-ma-yeem uva-aretz.

שִׁבְעָה מִי יוֹדֵעַ?  
 שִׁבְעָה אֲנִי יוֹדֵעַ!  
 שִׁבְעָה יְמֵי שַׁבָּתָא,  
 שְׂשָׁה סְדְרֵי מִשְׁנָה,  
 חֲמִשָּׁה חֻמְשֵׁי תוֹרָה,  
 אַרְבַּע אֲמָרוֹת,  
 שְׁלֹשָׁה אָבוֹת,  
 שְׁנֵי לוֹחוֹת הַבְּרִית,  
 אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבְאֶרֶץ.



Shee-va mee yo-dei-a?  
 Shee-va anee yo-dei-a.  
 Shee-va y'mei Shab-ta,  
 Shee-sha seedrei Mishna,  
 Ha-meesha hum-shei Torah,  
 Arba eema-hot,  
 Shlo-sha avot,  
 Shnei lu-khot ha-breet,  
 Ekhad Elo-hei-nu she-ba-sha-ma-yeem uva-aretz.

שְׁמוֹנָה מִי יוֹדֵעַ?  
 שְׁמוֹנָה אֲנִי יוֹדֵעַ!  
 שְׁמוֹנָה יְמֵי מִילָה,  
 שִׁבְעָה יְמֵי שַׁבָּתָא,  
 שְׂשָׁה סְדְרֵי מִשְׁנָה,  
 חֲמִשָּׁה חֻמְשֵׁי תוֹרָה,  
 אַרְבַּע אֲמָרוֹת,  
 שְׁלֹשָׁה אָבוֹת,  
 שְׁנֵי לוֹחוֹת הַבְּרִית,  
 אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבְאֶרֶץ.



Shmona mee yo-dei-a?  
 Shmona anee yo-dei-a.  
 Shmona y'mei mee-la,  
 Shee-va y'mei Shab-ta,  
 Shee-sha seedrei Mishna,  
 Ha-meesha hum-shei Torah,  
 Arba eema-hot,  
 Shlo-sha avot,  
 Shnei lu-khot ha-breet,  
 Ekhad Elo-hei-nu she-ba-sha-ma-yeem uva-aretz.

**תשעה מי יודע?**

תשעה אני יודע!

**תשעה ירחי לדה,**

שמונה ימי מילה,

שבעה ימי שבתא,

ששה סדרי משנה,

חמשה חמשי תורה,

ארבע אמהות,

שלושה אבות,

שני לוחות הברית,

אחד אלהינו שבשמים ובארץ.



**Tee-sha mee yo-dei-a?**

Tee-sha anee yo-dei-a.

**Tee-sha yar-khei lei-da,**

Shmona y'mei mee-la,

Shee-va y'mei Shab-ta,

Shee-sha see-drei Mishna,

Ha-mee-sha hum-shei Torah,

Arba eema-hot,

Shlo-sha avot,

Shnei lu-khot ha-breet,

Ekhad Elo-hei-nu she-ba-sha-ma-yeem uva-aretz.

**עשרה מי יודע?**

עשרה אני יודע!

**עשרה דבריא,**

תשעה ירחי לדה,

שמונה ימי מילה,

שבעה ימי שבתא,

ששה סדרי משנה,

חמשה חמשי תורה,

ארבע אמהות,

שלושה אבות,

שני לוחות הברית,

אחד אלהינו שבשמים ובארץ.



**A-sa-ra mee yo-dei-a?**

A-sa-ra anee yo-dei-a.

**A-sa-ra dee-bra-ya,**

Tee-sha yar-khei lei-da,

Shmona y'mei mee-la,

Shee-va y'mei Shab-ta,

Shee-sha see-drei Mishna,

Ha-mee-sha hum-shei Torah,

Arba eema-hot,

Shlo-sha avot,

Shnei lu-khot ha-breet,

Ekhad Elo-hei-nu she-ba-sha-ma-yeem uva-aretz.

**אחד עשר מי יודע?**

אחד עשר אני יודע!

**אחד עשר כוכביא,**

עשרה דבריא,

תשעה ירחי לדה,

שמונה ימי מילה,

שבעה ימי שבתא,

ששה סדרי משנה,

חמשה חמשי תורה,

ארבע אמהות,

שלושה אבות,

שני לוחות הברית,

אחד אלהינו שבשמים ובארץ.



**Ekhad-asar mee yo-dei-a?**

Ekhad-asar anee yo-dei-a.

**Ekhad-asar kokh-va-ya,**

A-sa-ra dee-bra-ya,

Tee-sha yar-khei lei-da,

Shmona y'mei mee-la,

Shee-va y'mei Shab-ta,

Shee-sha see-drei Mishna,

Ha-mee-sha hum-shei Torah,

Arba eema-hot,

Shlo-sha avot,

Shnei lu-khot ha-breet,

Ekhad Elo-hei-nu she-ba-sha-ma-yeem uva-aretz.

שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר מִי יוֹדֵעַ?

שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר אֲנִי יוֹדֵעַ!

שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר שְׁבָטִיא,

אֶחָד עָשָׂר כּוֹכְבִיא,

עֶשְׂרֵה דְּבָרִיא,

תְּשַׁעַה יְרַחֵי לְדָה,

שְׁמוֹנֶה יָמֵי מִלָּה,

שִׁבְעָה יָמֵי שְׁבָתָא,

שִׁשָּׁה סְדְרֵי מִשְׁנָה,

חֲמִשָּׁה חֲמִשֵּׁי תוֹרָה,

אַרְבַּע אֲמָהוֹת,

שְׁלֹשָׁה אָבוֹת,

שְׁנֵי לוחות הַבְּרִית,

אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבְאֶרֶץ.



שְׁלֹשָׁה עָשָׂר מִי יוֹדֵעַ?

שְׁלֹשָׁה עָשָׂר אֲנִי יוֹדֵעַ!

שְׁלֹשָׁה עָשָׂר מְדִיא,

שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר שְׁבָטִיא,

אֶחָד עָשָׂר כּוֹכְבִיא,

עֶשְׂרֵה דְּבָרִיא,

תְּשַׁעַה יְרַחֵי לְדָה,

שְׁמוֹנֶה יָמֵי מִלָּה,

שִׁבְעָה יָמֵי שְׁבָתָא,

שִׁשָּׁה סְדְרֵי מִשְׁנָה,

חֲמִשָּׁה חֲמִשֵּׁי תוֹרָה,

אַרְבַּע אֲמָהוֹת,

שְׁלֹשָׁה אָבוֹת,

שְׁנֵי לוחות הַבְּרִית,

אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבְאֶרֶץ.



Shneim-asar mee yo-dei-a?

Shneim-asar anee yo-dei-a.

Shneim-asar sheev-ta-ya,

Ekhad-asar kokh-va-ya,

A-sa-ra dee-bra-ya,

Tee-sha yar-khei lei-da,

Shmona y'mei mee-la,

Shee-va y'mei Shab-ta,

Shee-sha see-drei Mishna,

Ha-mee-sha hum-shei Torah,

Arba eema-hot,

Shlo-sha avot,

Shnei lu-khot ha-breet,

Ekhad Elo-hei-nu she-ba-sha-ma-yeem uva-aretz.

Shlo-sha-asar mee yo-dei-a?

Shlo-sha-asar anee yo-dei-a.

Shlo-sha-asar mee-da-ya,

Shneim-asar sheev-ta-ya,

Ekhad-asar kokh-va-ya,

A-sa-ra dee-bra-ya,

Tee-sha yar-khei lei-da,

Shmona y'mei mee-la,

Shee-va y'mei Shab-ta,

Shee-sha see-drei Mishna,

Ha-mee-sha hum-shei Torah,

Arba eema-hot,

Shlo-sha avot,

Shnei lu-khot ha-breet,

Ekhad Elo-hei-nu she-ba-sha-ma-yeem uva-aretz.



# Khad Gadya חַד גָּדְיָא

J U S T O N E K I D

## Chorus:

Just one kid, just one kid  
That my Abba bought for two zuzeem.  
**khad gadya, khad gadya.**

1 Along came the **cat** ("meow")  
and ate the kid ("maa")  
that my Abba bought for two zuzeem.  
**khad gadya, khad gadya.**

2 Along came the **dog** ("woof")  
and bit the cat ("meow")  
that ate the kid ("maa")  
that my Abba bought for two zuzeem.  
**khad gadya, khad gadya.**

3 Along came the **stick** ("bang")  
and hit the dog ("woof") . . .

4 Along came the **fire** ("sizzle")  
and burned the stick ("bang") . . .

5 Along came the **water** ("gurgle")  
and quenched the fire ("sizzle") . . .

6 Along came the **ox** ("slurp")  
and drank the water ("gurgle") . . .

## Final Verse:

9 Then came the **Holy One**  
and destroyed the angel of death  
that slew the slaughterer  
that killed the ox ("slurp")  
that drank the water ("gurgle")  
that quenched the fire ("sizzle, crackle")  
that burned the stick ("bang")  
that beat the dog ("woof")  
that bit the cat ("meow")  
that ate the kid ("maa")  
that my Abba bought for two zuzeem.  
**khad gadya, khad gadya.**



Goats For Sale in Meah Shearim, Jerusalem

Written in Aramaic and modeled on German folksongs, this ballad – which has no overt connection to Pesach – entered the Ashkenazi Haggadah (15<sup>th</sup> C.). Hard-pressed Jewish commentators have discovered a moral lesson between the lines: **measure for measure, an oppressor will always be swallowed by a greater oppressor until God redeems the world from death.**

Pre-assign each stanza to volunteers who must produce an appropriate sound or gesture. Everyone sings the verses, while the pre-assigned participant adds a sound and/or visual effect each time.



חד גדיא, חד גדיא  
דזבן אבא בתרי זוזי, חד גדיא, חד גדיא.

Khad gad-ya, Khad gad-ya  
D'za-been abba bee-trei zu-zei **Khad gad-ya** (2x)

ואתא שונרא ואכלה לגדיא,  
דזבן אבא בתרי זוזי, חד גדיא, חד גדיא.

V'ata **shun-ra** v'akh-la l'gad-ya  
D'za-been abba bee-trei zu-zei **Khad gad-ya** (2x)

ואתא כלבא ונשך לשונרא,  
דאכלה לגדיא,  
דזבן אבא בתרי זוזי, חד גדיא, חד גדיא.

V'ata **khal-ba** v'na-sha-kh l'shun-ra  
D'akh-la l'gad-ya  
D'za-been abba bee-trei zu-zei **Khad gad-ya** (2x)

ואתא חוטרא והכה לכלבא,  
דנשך לשונרא,  
דאכלה לגדיא,  
דזבן אבא בתרי זוזי, חד גדיא, חד גדיא.

V'ata **khu-tra** v'hee-ka l'khal-ba  
D'na-shakh l'shun-ra  
D'akh-la l'gad-ya  
D'za-been abba bee-trei zu-zei **Khad gad-ya** (2x)



וְאַתָּא נֹרָא וְשָׂרָף לְחוּטְרָא,

דְּהֵקָה לְכַלְבָּא,

דְּנֶשֶׁךְ לְשׁוּנְרָא,

דְּאָכְלָה לְגַדְיָא,

דְּזַבֵּן אַבָּא בִּתְרֵי זִזְי, חֵד גַּדְיָא, חֵד גַּדְיָא.

V'ata nura v'saraf l'khu-tra

D'hee-ka l'khal-ba

D'na-shakh l'shun-ra

D'akh-la l'gad-ya

D'za-been abba bee-trei zu-zei Khad gad-ya (2x)



וְאַתָּא מַיָּא וְכָבָה לְנוּרָא,

דְּשָׂרָף לְחוּטְרָא,

דְּהֵקָה לְכַלְבָּא,

דְּנֶשֶׁךְ לְשׁוּנְרָא,

דְּאָכְלָה לְגַדְיָא,

דְּזַבֵּן אַבָּא בִּתְרֵי זִזְי, חֵד גַּדְיָא, חֵד גַּדְיָא.

V'ata maya v'kha-va l'nura

D'saraf l'khu-tra

D'hee-ka l'khal-ba

D'na-shakh l'shun-ra

D'akh-la l'gad-ya

D'za-been abba bee-trei zu-zeiv Khad gad-ya (2x)

וְאַתָּא תּוֹרָא וְשָׂתָה לְמַיָּא,

דְּכָבָה לְנוּרָא,

דְּשָׂרָף לְחוּטְרָא,

דְּהֵקָה לְכַלְבָּא,

דְּנֶשֶׁךְ לְשׁוּנְרָא,

דְּאָכְלָה לְגַדְיָא,

דְּזַבֵּן אַבָּא בִּתְרֵי זִזְי, חֵד גַּדְיָא, חֵד גַּדְיָא.

V'ata tora v'shata l'maya

D'khava l'nura

D'saraf l'khu-tra

D'hee-ka l'khal-ba

D'na-shakh l'shun-ra

D'akh-la l'gad-ya

D'za-been abba bee-trei zu-zei Khad gad-ya (2x)



וַאֲתָא הַשׁוֹחֵט וְשַׁחַט לְתוֹרָא,	V'ata <b>ha-sho-kheit</b> v'sha-khat l'tora
דְּשַׁתָּה לְמֵיָא,	D'shata l'maya
דְּכָבָה לְנוֹרָא,	D'khava l'nura
דְּשָׂרָף לְחוּטְרָא,	D'saraf l'khu-tra
דְּהָכָה לְכַלְבָּא,	D'hee-ka l'khal-ba
דְּנָשָׁךְ לְשׁוּנְרָא,	D'na-shakh l'shunra
דְּאַכְלָה לְגַדְיָא,	D'akh-la l'gad-ya
דְּזָבֵן אַבָּא בְּתֵרֵי זִוְי, <b>חַד גַּדְיָא, חַד גַּדְיָא.</b>	D'za-been abba bee-trei zu-zei <b>Khad gad-ya</b> (2x)

וַאֲתָא מַלְאָךְ הַמּוֹת וְשַׁחַט לְשׁוֹחֵט,	V'ata <b>ma-lakh ha-mavet</b> v'sha-khat la-sho-kheit
דְּשַׁחַט לְתוֹרָא,	D'sha-khat l'tora
דְּשַׁתָּה לְמֵיָא,	D'shata l'maya
דְּכָבָה לְנוֹרָא,	D'khava l'nura
דְּשָׂרָף לְחוּטְרָא,	D'saraf l'khu-tra
דְּהָכָה לְכַלְבָּא,	D'hee-ka l'khal-ba
דְּנָשָׁךְ לְשׁוּנְרָא,	D'na-shakh l'shunra
דְּאַכְלָה לְגַדְיָא,	D'akh-la l'gad-ya
דְּזָבֵן אַבָּא בְּתֵרֵי זִוְי, <b>חַד גַּדְיָא, חַד גַּדְיָא.</b>	D'za-been abba bee-trei zu-zei <b>Khad gad-ya</b> (2x)

וַאֲתָא הַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא וְשַׁחַט לְמַלְאָךְ הַמּוֹת,	V'ata <b>Ha-Ka-dosh Barukh Hu</b> v'sha-khat l'ma-lakh ha-mavet
דְּשַׁחַט לְשׁוֹחֵט,	D'sha-khat la-sho-kheit
דְּשַׁחַט לְתוֹרָא,	D'sha-khat l'tora
דְּשַׁתָּה לְמֵיָא,	D'shata l'maya
דְּכָבָה לְנוֹרָא,	D'khava l'nura
דְּשָׂרָף לְחוּטְרָא,	D'saraf l'khu-tra
דְּהָכָה לְכַלְבָּא,	D'hee-ka l'khal-ba
דְּנָשָׁךְ לְשׁוּנְרָא,	D'na-shakh l'shunra
דְּאַכְלָה לְגַדְיָא,	D'akh-la l'gad-ya
דְּזָבֵן אַבָּא בְּתֵרֵי זִוְי, <b>חַד גַּדְיָא, חַד גַּדְיָא.</b>	D'za-been abba bee-trei zu-zei <b>Khad gad-ya</b> (2x)



# נִרְצָא Nirtza

## NEXT YEAR'S SEDER

### MESSIANIC JERUSALEM: IMAGINE YOUR IDEAL WORLD

Jerusalem, despite and because of its earthly conflicts, has always been the city to dream of Shalom (JeruSALEM). The following pages bring contemporary offerings of universal hope and reflections on a renewed Israel in the spirit of the prophets:

"Rejoice Jerusalem, for your messiah is coming: Victorious, triumphant; yet humble, riding upon a donkey." (Zecharia 9:9)

"And the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid... and a little child shall lead them... They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Adonai, as the waters cover the sea."

(Isaiah 11:6)

חֶסֶל סְדוּר פֶּסַח בְּהִלְכָּתוֹ,

בְּכָל מְשָׁפְטוֹ וְחֻקָּתוֹ.

בְּאֶשֶׁר זָכִינוּ לְסִדֵּר אוֹתוֹ

בִּן נִזְכָּה לַעֲשׂוֹתוֹ.

יְיָ שׂוֹכֵן מְעוֹנָה,

קוֹמֵם קְהֵל עַדְתְּ מִי מְנָה.

בְּקָרוֹב נִהַל נְטָעֵי כֶּנֶה

פְּדוּיִם לְצִיּוֹן בְּרָנָה.

**Concluded** is the Pesach Seder,

Finished down to the last detail

With all its laws and customs.

As we have been able to conduct this Seder,

So may we someday perform it in Jerusalem.

Pure One who dwells in the palace,

Support your congregation countless in number.

May you soon lead the offshoots of your stock,

Bringing the redeemed to Zion in joy.

All sing:

לִשְׁנָה הַבָּאָה בִּירוּשָׁלַיִם הַבְּנוּיָה!

**Next Year in Jerusalem!**

La-Shana Ha-ba-a Bee-Yeru-sha-layeem!

עוֹשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמַרוֹמָיו

הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ

וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאַמְרוּ אָמֵן.

**God makes peace** in heaven,

and so may God make peace over us.

Amen.

**Nirtza** means accepted. The Pesach Seder ends with a prayer that all our efforts to perform the Seder properly may be pleasing and acceptable to God. (Written by Yosef Tov-Elem, 11th C. France).

**Looking forward** to next year's Seder, we sing "Next Year in Jerusalem!". May we celebrate it in a more peaceful world.

**Reflections on Next Year in Jerusalem** on the following pages include:

**On Israel**  
p.138-139

**On Hope**  
p.140-141

**On Prophetic Leaders** p.142



**Tomorrow's Jerusalem:  
Revised and Revisited  
by Michel Kichka**

Two messianic political leaders are represented: Atop the gate entitled "The Gate of Peace," is a bearded Theodore Herzl, founder of the Zionist movement in 1896, together with Noah's dove of peace. With furrowed brow, he compares the Israeli reality below with his vision of the New Zion in his utopia, *The Jewish State*.

Atop the white donkey sits the messianic descendant of King David. The handsome biblical David was ruddy in complexion and now his seed has produced a red-haired hippy with sunglasses. A more mundane dream is expressed by the Israeli taxi driver who reads in his newspaper: "Israel has won the World Soccer Cup!"

*Can you find all the traditional enemies now shaking hands? Why do three animals appear? (See verses on p. 136)*



## בִּשְׁנָה הַבָּאָה

בִּשְׁנָה הַבָּאָה נִשֵּׁב עַל הַמִּרְפֶּסֶת  
וְנִסְפָּר צִפְרִים נוֹדְדוֹת,  
יְלָדִים בַּחֲפֵשֶׁה יִשְׁקֻקוּ תּוֹפֶסֶת  
בֵּין הַבַּיִת לְבֵין הַשָּׂדוֹת.

עוֹד תִּרְאֶה, עוֹד תִּרְאֶה,  
כִּמָּה טוֹב יִהְיֶה  
בִּשְׁנָה, בִּשְׁנָה הַבָּאָה...

עֲנָבִים אֲדָמִים יִבְשִׁילוּ עַד הָעֶרֶב  
וְיִגָּשׁוּ צוֹנְנִים לְשִׁלְחָן,  
וְרוּחוֹת רְדוּמִים יִשְׁאוּ אֶל אִם הַדֶּרֶךְ  
עֲתוּנִים יִשְׁנִים וְעָנָן.

עוֹד תִּרְאֶה, עוֹד תִּרְאֶה...

בִּשְׁנָה הַבָּאָה נִפְרֵשׁ כַּפּוֹת יָדַיִם  
מִוֶּל הָאוֹר הַנֶּגֶד הַלְכָן.  
אֲנִפָּה לְבָנָה תִּפְרֹשׁ בְּאוֹר כְּנָפֶיךָ,  
וְהַשֶּׁמֶשׁ תִּזְרַח בְּתוֹכָךְ.

עוֹד תִּרְאֶה, עוֹד תִּרְאֶה...

## BaShana HaBa'ah

Ba-sha-na ha-ba'ah ne-shev al ha-mir-peset  
Ve-nis-por tzi-po-rim no-de-dot  
Ye-la-dim be-khuf-sha ye-sakha-ku to-feset  
Bein ha-bayit l'vein ha-sa-dot

Od tir'eh, od tir'eh  
Kama tov yi-hi-yeh  
Ba-sha-na ba-sha-na ha-ba'ah (2x)

Ana-vim adu-mim yav-shi-lu ad ha'erev  
Ve-yug-shu tzo-ne-nim la-shul-khan  
Ve-ru-khot re-du-mim yis-u el eim ha-de-rekh  
I-to-nim ye-sha-nim ve'an-an

Od tir'eh, od tir'eh...

Ba-sha-na ha-ba'ah nif-ros ka-pot ya-dayim  
Mul ha'or ha-ni-gar ha-la-van  
Anafa le-va-na tif-ros be'or k'na-fayim  
Ve-ha-she-mesh tiz-rach be-to-khan

Od tir'eh, od tir'eh...

## Next Year

by Ehud Manor

Next year we will sit on the porch  
And count the migrating birds  
Children on vacation will play tag  
Between the house and the fields

You will see, you will see  
How good it will be  
Next year, Next year

Red grapes will ripen by evening  
And be served cold to the table  
Pleasant breezes will blow on to the roads  
Old newspapers and clouds

You will see, you will see...

Next year we will spread out our open hands  
Into the bright white light  
A white branch will spread its wings  
And the sun will rise in their midst

You will see, you will see...

## SONGS OF THE SOUL, THE NATION, HUMANITY AND THE COSMOS

There is one who sings the **song of his soul**,  
discovering in it everything – utter spiritual  
fulfillment.

Then there is one who sings the **song of his  
people**. Emerging from the private circle of his  
soul – not expansive enough, not yet tranquil  
– he strives for fierce heights, clinging to the  
entire community of Israel in tender love.  
Together with her, he sings her song, feels her  
anguish, delights in her hopes. He conceives  
profound insights into her past and her future,  
deftly probing the inwardness of her spirit  
with the wisdom of love.

Then there is one whose soul expands

until it extends beyond the border of Israel,  
singing the **song of humanity**. In the glory  
of the entire human race, in the glory of  
the human form, his spirit spreads, aspiring  
to the goal of humankind, envisioning its  
consummation. From this spring of life,  
he draws all his deepest reflections, his  
searching, striving, and vision.

Then there is one who expands even further  
until he unites with all existence, with all  
creatures, with all worlds, singing a song with  
them all. Then there is one who ascends with  
all these songs in unison – the song of the soul,  
the song of the nation, the song of humanity,

the **song of the cosmos** – resounding together,  
blending in harmony, circulating the sap of life,  
the sound of holy joy.

This full comprehensiveness rises to become  
the song of holiness, the song of God, the  
song of Israel, in its full strength and beauty, in  
its full authenticity and greatness. The name  
Yisra-el (*Yashir-El*) stands for the **Song of God**.  
It is a simple song, a twofold song, a threefold  
song and a fourfold song. It is the *Song of  
Songs* of King Solomon whose name means  
Shalom – peace and wholeness. It is the song  
of the Sovereign in whom is wholeness.

# Reflections on Israel

## IF YOU WILL IT, IT IS NO DREAM

No one has ever thought of looking for the Promised Land in the place where it really is – and yet it lies so near. It is here: within ourselves!

For everyone will carry over there, in himself, a piece of the Promised Land. This one, in his head, that one, in his hands, the third in his savings. The Promised Land is where we carry it!

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Theodore Herzl, diaries, 1895

## ISRAEL: PLAYING FOR REAL STAKES

Israel has become a subject of intellectual and political and human interest for me. The place was personalized for me through individuals and their anguish and their struggle: Here was a place in which to the ordinary citizen, including my friends, everything now mattered. Because the issue was an issue of survival, life and death. Places where people were playing for real stakes interested me. All this Jewish turbulence, I wanted it to tumble through me.

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Philip Roth, American novelist

## ISRAEL: A MENTAL STATE

Certain oddities about Israel: Because people think so hard here; and so much, and because of the length and depth of their history, this sliver of a country sometimes seems quite large. Some dimension of mind seems to extend into space.

I sometimes think there are two Israels. The real one is territorially insignificant. The other, the mental Israel, is immense, a country inestimably important; playing a major role in the world, as broad as all history – and perhaps as deep as sleep.

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Saul Bellow, *To Jerusalem and Back*

## RIDING ON AN ISRAELI BUS: AN AMERICAN JEW'S VIEW OF ISRAEL

When one rides a public bus in Israel and looks at the varied faces of the Jews on board, one realizes: so this is Jewish peoplehood, this is the place in the world where all Jews come together, to live and quarrel and manage their affairs in close proximity.

This perception – often forceful – perhaps accounts for the sense of homecoming reported by many American Jewish visitors, who cannot speak Hebrew, find the landscape and the food unfamiliar, and are disturbed by the lack of civility in ordinary human interactions, yet feel somehow at home.

It is not just that sides have obviously been drawn up before they arrived, and like it or not they belong to one of them: the covenant of fate. Nor is it just the pride at collective achievement: the sight of blooming deserts, roads clogged with traffic, and immigrants who have been absorbed by the hundreds of thousands – the marks of collective Jewish action, the covenant of destiny. The point is that Jews are here, before one's eyes, not only individually but as a people. Hitler did not end the Jewish story. Life has, in this instance at least, defeated death. "Am Yisrael Chai" – the

people of Israel lives.

That above all is the meaning of Israel for me, as it is perhaps for other American Jews. I know the reality of Israeli society, politics, and culture fairly well, but I treasure the place because its significance is mythic, larger than life, transparent to the depths of meaning. The two, myth and reality, are inextricably intertwined. I need Israel to exist – and it does, thank God. Its vitality so deeply satisfies me.

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Arnold Eisen, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, *Taking Hold of Torah*

## HATIKVAH: WHERE HAVE ALL OUR HOPES GONE?

Early in the fall of 2005, I visited a high school in Sha'ar HaNegev, not far from Sderot and the Gaza border, to interview some students.

I asked them two questions. "You'll be middle aged when Israel's 100 years old," I told them. "So tell me. As you imagine the future, what do you dream of, and what are you afraid of?"

These were fifteen highly intelligent, very articulate kids. But interestingly, none of them had anything terribly substantive to say about their dreams. As they sat quietly, trying to think what they could say that might not sound platitudinous, one of the guys spoke up. "Can I tell you," he asked with a slight hesitation and a cautious glance at his schoolmates, "what I'm afraid of?"

There was a moment of discomfort in the group, and a stifled giggle here and there. Sixteen-year-old guys, sitting in a group that also includes girls, aren't supposed to want to talk about what they're afraid of. But this guy wanted to speak, and within seconds, it was completely silent in the room. Everyone looked at him, and waited.

"I'm afraid," he said after a pause, "that the future will be just like this."

What does it mean to be sixteen or seventeen and to be afraid that the future will be like the present?

Rabbi **Daniel Gordis**, *If a Place can Make you Cry*

## MESSIANISM IS ABOUT HEALING

The notion of Messiah as an actual individual is very dangerous, something we should be on guard against.

Salvation for me is the effort that we put into understanding our deepest selves in the most honest way that we can, so that we can look not only at our own selves, but at the selves of others around us.

Messianism is about a world that's trying to be healed, redeemed; the notion of a goal toward which we are constantly navigating.

Rabbi **Chaim Potok**, author of *The Chosen*

## ANNE FRANK: I STILL BELIEVE

That's the difficulty in these times: ideals, dreams, and cherished hopes rise within us, only to meet the horrible truth and be shattered.

*It's really a wonder that I haven't dropped all my ideals, because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out. Yet I keep them, because in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart. I simply can't build up my hopes on a foundation consisting of confusion, misery, and death. I see the world gradually being turned into a wilderness. I hear the ever-approaching thunder, which will destroy us, too. I can feel the suffering of millions – and yet, if I look up into the heavens, I think it will come out all right, that this cruelty too will end, and that peace and tranquility will return again. In the meantime, I must uphold my ideals, for perhaps the time will come when I shall be able to carry them out.*

Diary of **Anne Frank**, Amsterdam, 1944



# Reflections on Hope

## TO REACH 'NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM,' I NEED THE YEAR THAT HAS PASSED

The present! – how can we limit our lives in Israel to 'the present' alone?  
And if there is nothing beyond 'now', then why live in such a difficult country?

"I believe in the past, the present, and the future," said Yitzhak Tabenkin, the great kibbutz educator: "Every time I hesitate on a major question, I ask the advice of two people: my grandfather – for his opinion, and my grandson – how will the decision affect his future?" It's important to me that in answering any question, I consider both previous generations and possible effects on the future ones; not merely my own immediate future, but the farthest foreseeable unfolding of events.

I'm afraid of two things: of those who ask only how things have always been done and put only historical eggs in their basket. And I'm afraid of people who consider any future harm that may result from their decision unimportant, whose only questions are "Will I get something out of this? Will I achieve immediate gratification?"

**Zvi Zameret**, Israeli educator, Yad Ben Zvi Institute

## THE END? IT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING

*Exodus* is charged with tension: between the miserable, 'childlike' state of the children of Israel, a people physically and spiritually enslaved, and the exalted role God has chosen for them, heedless of the pace of their spiritual and moral development. Perhaps this is the truly demanding journey made by the children of Israel: from clan to nation, from slavery to freedom.

Here in my study in Jerusalem, in Israel, in "the promised land" to which the Jews have returned time and again from exile, I think about my ancestors, the children of Israel, during those first days after the maelstrom that uprooted them from Egypt. They are in the desert, and the desert is empty. They are being led, like an immense herd, to an unknown destination. What can they cling to? They escaped bondage in Egypt, but also abandoned their daily routine, their habits and customs, a familiar place and the social interactions and hierarchies that had

become fixed over the course of generations. Suddenly everything is new and strange. Nothing can be taken for granted.

What had appeared to be the end of the road, now appears to be its beginning.

Stunned, they stride onward, as if in a void. They follow their leader and he tells them they are at long last free men, but perhaps free is the last thing they feel or want to be. Every day brings new experiences, new religious regulations and laws, and strange food – enough for one day – that falls from the skies. If they have any spirit left they will realize that a miracle has befallen them, that they are privileged to have been given the chance to reinvent themselves, to be redeemed. If they dare, they can fashion a new identity for themselves. But to do so they must fight the ponderous gravity of habit, of anxiety and doubt, of inner bondage.

**David Grossman**, Israeli novelist and peace activist

## A Tribute to Two American Prophets



Marchers crossing the bridge at Selma, Alabama, March 21, 1965, include (from left to right beginning under the “S” of Pettus Bridge): Ralph Abernathy, Martin Luther King, Ralph Bunche and Abraham Joshua Heschel. This crossing was a triumph, for two weeks earlier civil rights marchers had been turned back by tear gas, clubs and horses by the state troopers. Soon thereafter the 1965 Voting Rights Act was passed. Photograph by Robie Ray.

### LIFE AS A WORK OF ART

Inspired by the prophets about whom he wrote his first book, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel was always an activist, whether in struggling to liberate Soviet Jews, in opposing the Vietnam War, or in joining the Civil Rights Movement. After the Selma march he said: “I felt my legs were praying.” Religion without indignation at political evils was impossible. Heschel reflected: “I felt that Jewish religious institutions have missed a great opportunity to interpret the civil rights movement in terms of Judaism, in terms of the prophetic traditions.”

In spring 1968 Dr. King had accepted an invitation to join Heschel for Seder. However King was assassinated a few days before

Pesach and Heschel spoke at his funeral instead.

In a “Meet the Press” TV interview in 1972, which turned out to be his last public statement before his death, Heschel was asked: “What would you tell young people?” This was his answer:

“Remember that there is meaning beyond absurdity, that every little deed counts, that every word has power – and that we can, everyone, do our share to redeem the world in spite of all the absurdities, frustrations and disappointments.

Remember that life is a celebration and above all remember that the meaning of life is to build a life as if it were a work of art.”

### HAVE A DREAM TODAY!

We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We can never be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope.

With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood.

With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

Let freedom ring from every hill and every molehill of Mississippi.

From every mountainside, let freedom ring. (Leviticus 25:10) When we let freedom ring, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, “Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”

Martin Luther King, Jr., the Lincoln Memorial, Washington D.C., 1963, 100th Anniversary of Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation

# Way Down in Egypt Land

By Stephen Hazan Arnoff

Adapted from the story by Ya'ir Lipshitz

**O**ur story does not begin in the castle of the king (but it will get there). And it does not begin with great heroes and heroines (but it will get there). It actually begins with slaves who were the children of slaves: the Children of Israel.

The Children of Israel were not always slaves. There was a time when things were much, much better for them. The Children of Israel – you might have heard them called the Israelites or the Hebrews or, in today's lingo, the Jews – had once lived pretty nice lives alongside the Egyptians. In fact, many years before, Joseph (who was one of the Children of Israel too) had saved the land of Egypt from a terrible famine. During this time his brothers and their families followed him down to Egypt from their homeland in Israel. These were the ancestors of the Children of Israel. Generations passed and the families grew and grew...

Things started to change when a new king, Pharaoh, whose real name was Ramses II, rose to power.

## In the King's House

"Look at them," Pharaoh grumbled to his slaves. "Those families are getting huge! It's dangerous...It's very dangerous...They could...they could rebel! They could rise up against us! You'll see – they will betray us yet. We have to do something!" He screamed and stamped his feet and turned to his advisors, hollering, "Do something!"

None of Pharaoh's helpers said a word, so he clenched his teeth and tried to think of a solution on his own. "I know," he smiled to himself smugly. "We'll trick them. It's perfect! We can turn them into slaves...They'll work from morning until night and from night until morning and from morning until night and...and... from all of that hard work they won't have the energy left to even think about rebelling! And with a life like that," he continued, rubbing his hands together, "working and suffering all the time, they won't want to bring children into the world at all." Pharaoh laughed. "And then, slowly but surely, the families of the Hebrews will get smaller and smaller until they just disappear!" He was overjoyed by the idea. "Excellent!" he said, chuckling to himself.

And so it was. The Children of Israel – the Hebrews that is – began to work like crazy night and day. They made bricks from hay and water and dirt and dried them in the hot sun. Then they used the bricks to build houses and cities for the Egyptians. Day after day, night after night, this work left the Hebrews exhausted. They began to groan and moan and begged for help from God. And this was the way it was for a long time. Pharaoh punished them harshly and the Hebrews suffered. **But despite all of their troubles, they still didn't stop having children.**

"The work isn't enough. There are still too many of them," Pharaoh muttered. "Pretty soon there will be so many Hebrews that we won't be able to control them at all! We have





She would put the baby in a small basket and set the basket into the waters of the Nile. "This way at least there is a chance that someone will find him and have mercy on him and save him."

And that is just what she did. She took a small basket and waterproofed it with tar and put the baby inside. She wiped away his tears and wiped away her own tears and gave him a kiss on the forehead, gently placing the basket on the banks of the Nile. Then she left, her heart full of sorrow and worry.

As the mother walked away, the baby's older sister **Miriam** hid in the reeds at a distance. She wanted to do whatever she could to protect her little brother and see what would happen to him.

Soon a finely dressed young woman accompanied by several servants came to bathe in the Nile. Miriam recognized her immediately. It was none other than the princess, the daughter of Pharaoh. (Yes, yes, the same evil Pharaoh we talked about before.)

"No!" Miriam gasped to herself. "The princess? If she finds my little brother she will do what her father asked for and throw him into the Nile!" Miriam prayed that Pharaoh's daughter would not look into the basket, but as she crouched in the reeds she could see that the Egyptian princess was sending one of her servants to bring it to her.

"It's a baby!" Miriam heard Pharaoh's daughter say. "He's crying, the poor thing. What are you doing here in this basket by the side of the river?"

Thinking for a moment, **Pharaoh's daughter** understood what must have happened. The baby had to be a Hebrew that his mother had tried to save. Though she couldn't exactly remember what her father had said about Hebrew babies, as

she looked upon the face of the child, she said, "Well, whatever father thinks about those Hebrews, what could he possibly fear from a little baby as sweet as this one?" The baby smiled at her and she smiled back and the decision was made: Pharaoh's daughter would take this baby to be her own.

As Pharaoh's daughter said to her servants, "Let's take him with us!" Miriam was already running so fast that she almost knocked the princess into the mud of the Nile. "Excuse me! Excuse me! Your Majesty..." Miriam bowed, catching her breath. "Perhaps I can be of assistance to the princess? Would the princess like me to find a woman to help take care of her new baby?" Miriam stood up straight but didn't look the princess in the eye.

Pharaoh's daughter looked upon the Hebrew girl with surprise. She thought: "Imagine, a total stranger – and a Hebrew no less – popping up like that in the middle of the princess' private bath!" But she was also very happy about the offer. Pharaoh's daughter didn't know very much about babies and she would certainly appreciate some help. So Miriam quickly arranged for her own mother – the baby's mother! – to serve as the baby's nanny in Pharaoh's palace. The real mother, of

course, was thrilled. Her prayers had been answered and her child had been saved! The princess was quite pleased by how much the baby loved them both. Then the princess decided to call the baby "Moshe," meaning, "I took him out of the water."

## Back to the House of the King

The Hebrew baby, whose name was Moshe, grew up in Pharaoh's palace and was raised as an Egyptian prince. That meant excellent food, fine clothes, beautiful toys, servants taking care of his



to find another solution!" Pharaoh glared at his advisors, who were afraid to look him in the eyes. Then he screamed, "Bring me the Hebrew midwives!" Pharaoh's helpers ran to fetch **Shifrah and Puah**, the leaders of the Hebrew midwives, right away. "Hello there," said Pharaoh with a smile.

"Greetings Your Majesty" said Shifra and Puah, bowing before him.

"I have a small favor to ask of you," Pharaoh said.

"We will do whatever Pharaoh our Master wishes," said the midwives.

"Well, it's not such a big deal really," Pharaoh said casually. "I just want you to make sure that from this day forward you kill all of the male Hebrew children that you deliver." Pharaoh smile widened. "That is all. Thank you."

(Now you may be asking yourselves why Pharaoh wanted to kill the males and not the females. That's an excellent question. It seems that Pharaoh was only afraid of the boys because he didn't think the girls could do a thing to bother him...Well, more on that later).

The midwives were shocked by Pharaoh's request. Their task was to bring life into the world. How could they ever follow his command to destroy it? They took their chances and just kept delivering Hebrew babies and hoped for the best.



"What?!" Pharaoh burned with rage when he heard that Shifra and Puah had disobeyed him.

"Pardon us, Master," said the two midwives as they bowed before the king once more. "It was not because of us. You see," continued the clever midwives, "these Hebrew women are not at all like the Egyptian women that gave birth properly in their homes with the help of a midwife. No, no, no! These Hebrew women give birth like animals in the woods without any help at all. We don't have time to get to the mothers in labor before the babies are born. How can we possibly fulfill our Master's wishes?"

"Is that it?" Pharaoh ranted, sputtering and spattering and his face turning red like a beet. "Well then, from this day forward every male Hebrew infant will be thrown into the Nile River! All of them! All of them! All of them!"

Shifra and Puah were horrified, but they couldn't speak a word against the enraged Pharaoh's decree. And so it was. The call went forth throughout the land that all male Hebrew babies would be killed. The fear of the Hebrews was great and so was their sorrow. Who could save them now?

## In the House of the Slaves

Meanwhile, in a small house amongst the other dwellings of the slaves, a Hebrew slave had just given birth to a son. She gazed upon her newborn baby and tears filled her eyes.

"How can I kill my own child?" she whispered to herself as she wept. After much thinking and waiting, she decided that she was ready to risk her own life to save her baby. For three whole months she hid him in her house. But the bigger the child grew, the clearer it was that at some point the Egyptians would catch her and kill both of them. She was going to need to find a solution...and fast!

The Hebrew mother would lie awake worrying night after night, and then late one evening an idea came into her head:

burning and burning. The orange flame did not die out but neither was the bush burned up.

"That's very strange," Moshe said to himself. "The bush stays in one piece but it's totally covered with fire. I have to go closer to see what is happening." Moshe went closer and then he heard a voice from within the burning bush. The voice was calling him!

"Moshe! Moshe!" said the voice.

"Here I am..." whispered Moshe, continuing to come closer to the bush.

Then the voice said "I am the God of your fathers and your mothers, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob and Rachel and Leah..."

"God? Abraham and Sarah, who?" Moshe said to himself, but deep down he realized somehow that he had heard those words before. It reminded him of a lullaby his mother had sung as she told him stories of the Hebrews.



Now Moshe was scared. He covered his face, terrified to look at the fire again. He heard the voice say: "Moshe! I was there when you saw the Hebrews being beaten outside of the palace. I heard them crying. I saw my children tortured in Egypt for all those years. But now is the time for Me to save them. The time has come to take them out of Egypt and to return them to the land of their ancestors, the Land of Milk and Honey... to Israel. You will be my messenger, Moshe. You must go now to Pharaoh and tell him: 'Let My People Go!' Let me teach you the song you must teach my people":



When Israel was in Egypt's land,

"Let My people go" (Exodus 5:1).

Oppressed so hard they could not stand,

"Let My people go."

Go down, Moses,

way down in Egypt's land,

Tell old Pharaoh:

"Let My people go."

Thus said Adonai, bold Moses said,

"Let My people go."

If not, I'll smite your first-born dead,

"Let My people go."

Go down, Moses...

No more shall they in bondage toil,

"Let My people go."

Let them come out with Egypt's spoil,

"Let My people go."

Go down, Moses...



every need, and carriages with the fastest horses in the land at his disposal. Years passed. Moshe matured into a young man. His “nanny” whispered stories to him about the lives of ancestors called the Children of Israel who had come to Egypt years before from the Land of Milk and Honey only to become slaves. **Moshe the Egyptian prince** found the stories interesting, but he did not really think of himself as a part of the story of the Children of Israel.

Then one day, Moshe was taking a stroll outside of the castle. Feeling a little bored, he decided to walk towards an area of the royal grounds where he had never been before. He came upon the great fields where the Hebrew slaves were working under the hot sun with little water or shade. He saw how they carried giant bricks on their backs and barely had the strength to stand beneath their burden. He saw how the Egyptian task masters yelled at the slaves, cursing them and threatening them and leaving those who were too weak to work to wither away and die in the dirt. All of this took Moshe by surprise. He had had no idea about the suffering of the Hebrew slaves. And the more he watched, the sicker and angrier he felt. Now he understood why he had heard those stories about the Children of Israel for all of those years. These were the Hebrews, his brothers and sisters, and they were suffering. Harsh words began to echo in his head “How can I live in a castle with all of its luxury, while the lives of my brothers and sisters are so awful?”

When Moshe saw an Egyptian man hit one of the Hebrew slaves, he snapped. He looked from side to side to be sure that

no one was watching and then he began hitting the Egyptian fiercely. He beat him until he was dead and then he buried him deep in the sand. Moshe ran away, terrified of being caught. When he arrived at the castle, he hoped against hope that the secret of his violent crime was buried along with the Egyptian.

But Moshe had no such luck. The story of what he had done traveled by word of mouth – first among the Hebrews



and soon after among the Egyptians as well. Now Moshe knew that the moment Pharaoh heard about what Moshe had done, Pharaoh would have him executed. So away Moshe ran, away from Egypt, without even saying goodbye either to Pharaoh’s daughter, the princess that had saved his life and raised him as her own son, or to the nanny who had told him so many stories about the Hebrews and their God.

Moshe arrived in the land of Midian where he met Yitro and worked with him as a shepherd, even marrying one of his daughters, Tzipporah. Life now seemed calm. **Moshe was now a shepherd, not a prince.** He loved taking care of the sheep. Moshe had almost forgotten his days as a prince and his origins as the son of Hebrew slaves who had placed him in the Nile River in a basket made of papyrus.

## In the Desert

One day while working as a shepherd, Moshe came upon a faraway mountain, Mount Sinai. He sat on one of the rocks and watched sleepily as the sheep grazed in the field. Suddenly something strange caught his eye. He saw a small green bush

**God:** Yehuda Amichai, *Patuach Sagur Patuach* (ibid.), p. 58 #4. **Photograph:** Aliza Orbach, *Olim*, 1991, (HH).

**Idolatry: I am Free of Idols:** Cynthia Ozick, in Joshua Haberman (editor), *The God I Believe In* (ibid.), p. 167. Revised by and courtesy of author. **Jewish by Choice:** Amos Oz, *All the Hopes: Thoughts on Israeli Identity*, 1998, p. 56. Courtesy of author (HH). **I Break, Therefore I am a Jew:** Ari Elon, *Doresh Shalom*: Parshat Hashavua, Bina Institute. Courtesy of author. **Freedom Begins with Imagination:** Philip Roth quote, courtesy of Words & Images, the Jerusalem literary project (ibid.): Videotaped Interview series with the great Jewish writers of our time, in conjunction with Ben Gurion University of the Negev and in cooperation with the National and University Library, Jerusalem. Words & Images: beylev@zahav.net.il. **A Frightened Person:** R. Joseph B. Soloveitchik, *Festival of Freedom* (ibid.), p. 51.

**Barukh Shomer: Next Year:** Yaakov Shneur, *Memories of my Father's House*, Be'erot Yitzhak, 1994, p. 58a. **Wherever a Jew is Persecuted:** Amos Oz, *Under this Blazing Light*, Sifriyat Poalim, 1979, p. 80. Courtesy of author (HH). **The Generation:** Arnold Eisen, *Taking Hold of Torah: Jewish Commitment and Community in America*, 1999, p. 41. Courtesy of author.

**Vhi Sheamda: Wall of Persecutions:** Based on Elijah Bar Navi (editor), *The Atlas of Jewish History*, 1993; Compiled for HH with the assistance of Mel Glatzer.

**Arami: Hamasa L'Eretz Yisrael:** By permission of ACUM. **Photograph:** Aliza Orbach, *Olim*, 1991. By permission of artist (HH). **Goy Gadol:** R. Joseph B. Soloveitchik, *Festival of Freedom*, ibid., p. 131-133. **When the Going gets Tough:** Tikvah Frymer Kensky, "Sanctifying Torah", in Irene Fine (editor), *The Shabbat Series: Excellence in Education for Jewish Women*, San Diego Women's Institute for Continuing Jewish Education, 1997. **No More Jewish Children:** Abraham Suzkever, cited in David Roskies, *Against the Apocalypse*, Harvard University Press, 1984, p. 234-235. Courtesy of author. **Sextuplets:** Aviva Zornberg Gottlieb, *The Particulars of Rapture* (ibid.), p. 18-19, 22. **Oppression and Resistance:** Toni Morrison, *Beloved*, Vintage, Random House, 1987, p. 27-28. By permission of the publisher. **Batya:** Julius Lester, "Here Am I" - A Personal Midrash on Pharaoh's Daughter, *New Traditions: Response Magazine* (Spring 1984). Courtesy of author (HH). **Rushing River of Days:** Meg Riley in E. Roberts and E. Amidon (editors), *Prayers for a Thousand Years*. Courtesy of author. **Human Role in Redemption:** R. Joseph B. Soloveitchik, *Festival of Freedom*, (ibid.), p. 152-153.

**Ten Plagues: The Ten Fears:** Shai Zarchi, written for HH. **Frogs Song:** Shirley Cohen, *Passover Music Box*, 1951, Kinor Records.

**Dayenu: Let My People Go:** Dan Reisinger. Courtesy of artist (HH).

**Pesach Matza uMarror: The Shared Meal:** R. Joseph B. Soloveitchik, *Festival of Freedom*, ibid., p. 23-24. **Matzoh:** Marge Piercy, *The Art of Blessing the Day*, Alfred Knopf,

Random House, 1999, p.164. By permission of the publisher. **Matza Star of David:** Yitzchak Yoresh, *Variations on the Israeli Flag*, Israel Museum Exhibit and catalogue. By permission of the artist (HH). **Ethiopian Girl Photo:** Yosi Roth, 1985, by permission of Israeli Government Press Office (HH).

**In Every Generation: Every Moment:** R. Nachman of Bratzlav, *Likutei Ezot HeHadash*. **Wandering, Time Traveling, Jew:** Israeli President Ezer Weizman, address to the German Bundestag and Bundesrat, 1996, written by Meir Shalev. **Stamp:** M. Prague, "Let My People Go," 1972. Courtesy of the Israel Philatelic Service (HH).

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**Second Cup: Miriam's Cup:** Lori Lefkowitz, written for HH. **Who is that Girl:** Avirama Golan, "One Woman - Lonely and Strong," *Haaretz*, 12 April 2006. By permission of author and Haaretz. **Tambourine:** Betsy Teutsch, Miriam's Tambourine. Courtesy of artist (HH).

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**Nirtzah: Next Year:** Ehud Manor. By permission of ACUM. **Songs of the Soul:** R. Abraham Isaac Kook, *Orot HaKodesh* 2:444-445, adapted from translation by Daniel Matt, *The Essential Kabbalah*, p.154 and Rachel Cowan, *Beginning Anew*, page 278. **A Mental State:** Saul Bellow, *To Jerusalem and Back*. **Playing for Real Stakes:** Phillip Roth, Courtesy of Words & Images (ibid). **Riding on an Israeli Bus:** Arnold Eisen, *Taking Hold of Torah* (ibid.), p. 39. **Healing:** R. Chaim Potok in Joshua Haberman, *The God I Believe In*, (ibid.), p 219. **Where Have All Our Hopes Gone:** R. Daniel Gordis, e-mail communication. Courtesy of author of *If a Place can Make you Cry*. **I Still Believe:** Anne Frank, *Diary of Anne Frank*, Amsterdam, 1944. **To Reach Next Year:** Zvi Zameret, "I Need Next Year," *Amudim* - Journal of the Religious Kibbutzim 663 (June 2002), courtesy of author (HH). **What Would You Tell Young People:** R. Abraham Joshua Heschel, TV interview "Meet the Press", cited in Dov Peretz Elkins, *Moments of Transcendence: Inspirational Readings for Yom Kippur*, Aronson, 1994. **I Have a Dream:** Martin Luther King, Jr., "I have a Dream" delivered on the steps at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. on August 28, 1963. **Stunned They Stride On:** David Grossman, "Introduction", *The Second Book of Moses called Exodus*, translation by Marsha Weinstein, pages vii-viii- ix, Grove Press, 1999. Courtesy of author.

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**Answers to Ma Nishtana in Multiple Languages** (p. 27)  
Hebrew Braille, Hindu, Thai, Punjabi, Greek, Spanish, Russian, Turkish, Dutch, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Egyptian hieroglyphics.

**Answers to Pesach Math Riddles** (p. 81)

- A.  $2 \times 40 \times (40 - 2) = 3040$
- B.  $(5-12) \times (10 \times 8) + (4 \times 4 \times 4) = 496$
- C.  $5 \times 5 + (3 \times 4) + 14 = 51$

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We thank all those who agreed to participate in this haggadah. May God grant all of you continued power to inspire humanity.

**Bdikat Hametz: Inspection and Introspection:** R. Moshe Alsheikh, *Peirush Alsheikh l'Haggadah*. **Prayer for Purification:** R. Yosef Hayim, *Haggadat Orakh Hayim*, p. 64.

**Candle Lighting: A Woman's Prayer:** Alice Shalvi, "Repentance, Responsibility, and Regeneration: Reflections on Isaiah," in G. Twersky Reimer and J.A. Kates: *Beginning Anew*, p. 275. Courtesy of author who revised the prayer (HH). **A Soul on the Rise:** Yaacov Isaac Halevi Horowitz, Seer of Lublin, *Pitgamim Kedoshim*, p. 113. **Blessing to Yourself:** R. Samson Raphael Hirsch, *The Nineteen Letters on Judaism*, p. 80. **Photo:** Karl Gabor, "Shabbat candles," *Denna Afton* [A Different Night Haggadah, Swedish edition]. Courtesy of photographer, of publisher Hillelforlaget, and editor Marina Burstein.

**Signposts: Four Mothers:** R. Isaiah Horowitz, *Shnei Luchot Habrit*, p. 156a; Judah Levy Loew (Maharal), *Gevurot Adonai*, p. 77d; cited in Yael Levine, *Kolech* 31 (Nissan 5761).

**Karpas:** Sources for Extensive Appetizers: *Shulkhan Arukh* O.H. 473; *Mishne Torah*, Hametz uMatza 8:2; Bayit Hadash on Tur O.H. 473; Rav Yaacov Weingarten in *HaSeder HaArukh*, cites rabbis eating at least an olive's size of Karpas (Beit Halevi, Hazon Ish); Daniel Goldschmidt's Haggadah brings Geniza fragments of the earliest haggadot that describe extensive dipping of various foods. **Seder for Dreamers:** Natan Sharansky, *Jerusalem Post*, April 16, 2003. Courtesy of author and Jerusalem Post (HH).

**Yahatz: What if Tomorrow:** Bina Talitman, *Reliving Exodus*, p. 38 (HH). **Being Poor:** Janet Rosenberg, *Being Poor is...*, 1973. Courtesy of author. **Ha(l)ves and Have Nots:** Adapted from mass e-mail circulated on the internet. See also: [www.snopes.com/science/stats/populate.htm](http://www.snopes.com/science/stats/populate.htm).

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**Ha Lakhma: Service with a Smile:** Avot D'Rabbi Natan, version A, XIII, 29a. **Needy but not Poor:** Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, *Festival of Freedom: Essays on Pesah and the Haggadah*, edited by Joel B. Wolowelsky and Reuven Ziegler, p. 45-46. Courtesy of Toras Harav Foundation ©2006. **Opening**

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## Acknowledgements

The Passover Seder is an evening of family, of community and of friendship. Therefore it should come as no surprise that this Haggadah is the fruit of the support and hard work of many friends; that it was engendered within a unique community of learners; and that it is a testimonial to a loving, beautiful, family.

Among the many **friends** who took an instrumental role in creating this Haggadah we would like to especially thank: Jay Leberman, David and Sally Lowenfeld, Jacob Ner David and Elie Wurtman, Phil and Juliet Wachs, for their ongoing support, encouragement and assistance. In the production of this book we wish to acknowledge our friends and professional partners: Joe Buchwald Gelles, Michel Kichka, Ehud Zion Waldoks, Deborah Morse, Yair Lipshitz, and Stephen and Basmat Hazan Arnoff, who have put an amazing effort into turning this Haggadah into a reality. Above all we thank Dvora Lipshitz, an inspiration and a great friend, who has skillfully turned a jumble of texts into a work of art.

The conception of and the scholarship for this Haggadah were nurtured within a creative **community** of learning, the **Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem**. Under the leadership of Rabbis David and Donniel Hartman, who toil constantly for the welfare and future of the Jewish people and for the Hartman Institute's scholars, staff and students. The Hartman Institute has been our spiritual-intellectual home for decades. Here we can teach, learn and experience the sweet taste of Talmud Torah, constantly challenged to make it applicable to contemporary needs.

For Mishael, Yeshivat Maale Gilboa has been a second home and a most meaningful community of learners, led by Rabbis David Bigman, Yehuda Gilad and Shmuel Reiner.

Finally, this Haggadah is the product not of two individuals, but of an amazing **family**, whose energy and initiative humble and inspire us on a daily basis. First of all our octogenarian, Rabbi Moshe "Opa" Sachs who, with his beloved wife, Frances "Oma" Rachel, initiated creative Seders fifty years ago. Marcelle Zion is a spouse and a mother of unsurpassed energies and wisdom. She is the true center of this family. Elana Zion Golumbic is a spouse and daughter-in-law with that most unique combination of vision, belief and empowerment. Yedidya, Eden, Heftziba and Jonathan, Tanya and Ehud are our ready partners and sounding board in every creative endeavor.

This Haggadah is being published just as we are entering new familial roles, becoming, for the first time, **father and grandfather**. May God, and the spirit of hundreds of years of Jewish existence, grant us the wisdom to truly fulfill the mitzvah of **לְסַפֵּר בִּיצִיאת מִצְרַיִם**, telling our story to the next generation.

תם ונשלים, שבח לאל בורא עולם.

Mishael and Noam Zion  
Jerusalem, Pesach, 5767