

הגדה לפסח

The Passover Haggadah

A new translation with commentary
for the Seder

ברוך אליעזר בן אברהם
Baruch Speiser

לזכר רחל בת נחום והינדא לאה
Dedicated to the memory of my mother,
Lora Rachel Barry Speiser Goldberg

*Thank you to my wife, Ashira,
for everything and everything;
and to my children,
who bring me joy*

The Seder begins with Kadesh. Like all Jewish festivals, there is an obligation to sanctify the essence of the day over wine. If one prefers, grape juice may be used in place of wine at all times during the Seder (according to most opinions). On the Sabbath, the indicated additions should be included.

Include on Friday night:

וַיְהִי עֶרֶב וַיְהִי בָּקָר יוֹם
הַשְׁבֵיעִי:

וַיָּכֹל הַשְׁמִים וְהָאָرֶץ וְכָל
צְבָאָם. וַיָּכֹל אֱלֹהִים בַּיּוֹם
הַשְׁבֵיעִי מִלְאָכְתוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה
וַיָּשֶׁבֶת בַּיּוֹם הַשְׁבֵיעִי מִכָּל
מִלְאָכְתוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה. וַיְבָרֶךְ
אֱלֹהִים אֶת יוֹם הַשְׁבֵיעִי
וַיִּקְדְּשׁוּ אֶת יוֹם שְׁבִתָּה מִכָּל
מִלְאָכְתוֹ אֲשֶׁר בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים
לְעֲשׂוֹת.

"It was evening and then morning on the sixth day:

"The heavens and the earth and all of the elements of the universe were completed. On the seventh day God finished His craft which He had made, and He rested on the seventh day from all His craft that He had made. God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, for on it He rested from all His craft that God created to function."

סְבִּרִי מְרַבָּנו וְרַבָּנו וְרַבּוֹתֵינוּ:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, בָּרָא פַּרִי הַגֶּפֶן.

Attention all:

Blessed are You, The Eternal our God, King of the Universe; Who creates the fruit of the vine.

קדש

ברוך אתה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
 הָעוֹלָם, אָשָׁר בָּחר בָּנוּ מִכָּלֶל
 עַם וּרְוֹמָמָנוּ מִכָּל לְשׁוֹן
 וּקְדֻשָּׂנוּ בְּמַצּוֹתֵינוּ. וְתַתֵּן לנוּ יי
 אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּאֶחָבָה (שְׁבָתוֹת לְמִנְחָה
 מוֹעָדים לְשְׁמָחָה, חָגִים
 וּזְמָנִים לְשְׁלֹשָׁון, אַת (יֹם הַשְׁבָּת
 הַזֶּה וְאַת) יוֹם הַמְצֹות הַזֶּה,
 לִמְנָן תְּרוּמָתֵנוּ (בְּאֶחָבָה) מִקְרָא
 קָדְשָׁךְ, זְכָר לִיצְיאַת מִצְרָיִם. כִּי
 בָּנוּ בְּחִרְתָּךְ וְאוֹתָנוּ קָדְשָׁתְךָ מִכָּל
 הָעוּמִים, (וְשְׁבָת מוֹעָדי קָדְשָׁךְ
 בְּאֶחָבָה וּבְרָצָנוּ) בְּשְׁמָחָה וּבְשְׁלֹשָׁון
 הַנְּחַלְתָּנוּ. ברוך אתה יי,
 מקדש (השְׁבָּת וּיְשָׁרָאֵל
 וּזְמָנִים).

Blessed are You, The Eternal our God, King of the Universe; Who has chosen us from among all the people, and raised us out of all cultures, and sanctified us through His commandments. You, The Eternal, have given us with love (Sabbaths for rest and) festivals for happiness, feasts and festive seasons for rejoicing, this (Sabbath day and this) day of the "Festival of Matzot"; this season of our freedom (with love) which we can declare holy, commemorating the Exodus from Egypt. For You have chosen us and sanctified us from all the nations; (and Sabbath and) Your holy festivals – (with love and favor,) with happiness and joy – we have inherited. Blessed are You, The Eternal, who sanctifies (the Sabbath and) Israel and the festive seasons.

Include on Saturday night (a Havdalah candle is required):

ברוך אתה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
 הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא מָאוֹרֵי הָאָשָׁר.

Blessed are You, The Eternal our God, King of the Universe; Who creates the illuminations of fire.

ברוך אתה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
 הָעוֹלָם הַמְבָדֵיל בֵּין קָדֵשׁ
 לְחַלְלָה, בֵּין אֹור לְחַשָּׁךְ, בֵּין
 יִשְׂרָאֵל לְעַמִּים, בֵּין יּוֹם
 הַשְׁבִּיעִי לְשִׁשָּׁת יָמִי הַמְּעַשָּׁה.
 בֵּין קָדֵשׁ שַׁבָּת לְקָדֵשׁ יוֹם
 טוֹב הַבְּדָלָת, וְאֵת יוֹם הַשְׁבִּיעִי
 מְשִׁשָּׁת יָמִי הַמְּעַשָּׁה קָדֵשׁ.
 הַבְּדָלָת וּקְדָשָׁת אֵת עַמְּךָ
 יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּקָדְשָׁתָךְ. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה
 יי הַמְבָדֵיל בֵּין קָדֵשׁ לְקָדֵשׁ.

Blessed are You, The Eternal our God, King of the Universe; Who differentiates between sacred and mundane, between light and darkness, between Israel and the nations, between the seventh day and the six days of the Creation. Between the holiness of the Sabbath and the holiness of festivals You have made a distinction; and You have sanctified the seventh day above the six days of Creation. You have set apart and made holy Your people Israel with Your Holiness. Blessed are You, The Eternal, who distinguishes between different sanctities.

ברוך אתה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
 הָעוֹלָם, שְׁחַחֵינוּ וְקִימֵנוּ
 וְהִגִּיעֵנוּ לְזִמְן הַזֶּה.

Blessed are You, The Eternal our God, King of the Universe; Who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion.

Drink the cup of wine. One should lean to the left while drinking.

The Seder continues with a ceremonious washing of the hands.

Unlike most hand washing rituals, Urchatz mandates that no blessing be recited. The halachic origin of this particular ritual is related to complicated laws of *Tumah v'Tahara*¹ that are no longer applicable in the modern era; and is in fact not at all related to the laws of Passover.²

However, the author(s) of the Haggadah chose specifically to codify the inclusion of this obscure ritual practice for the very obscurity that surrounds it. The true value of Urchatz in the Seder is not that it fulfills obscure halachic requirements for which few understand; but rather that it is in-and-of-itself a symbol of obscurity.

The purpose of Urchatz is clear: the Seder is designed, organized, and codified to pique our curiosities. The ambiguous relevance of Urchatz is deliberate; it forces us to question it and its origin. Through this, the Hagaddah sets the tone and for the remainder of the Seder: Participants should be inquisitive. All who experience the Seder are encouraged to ask questions, to delve deeper into the meaning of the Hagaddah text, and to not merely read the Hagaddah but instead learn it.

Wash your hands in the traditional manner, without reciting any blessings:

Fill a cup with water, and then pour it over each hand twice.

(Some have the custom to pour three times.)

Then dry your hands.

¹*Tumah* is most often poorly translated into English using nomenclature such as "impure", "unclean", or "defiled". All of these are improper; *Tumah* is actually more of an "essence of death", or a "lack of life". Examples that demonstrate this concept are the fact that a human corpse is the strongest source of *Tumah*, and that various divinely-caused illnesses such as *Tzara'at* (most often mistranslated as leprosy) and *Zav* (another divinely-caused disease) result in the inability to procreate.

²The obscure law of Urchatz is related to washing one's hands before dipping edibles into a liquid. This is because edibles can only contract *Tumah* after they have been exposed to one of seven liquids (called *machshirin*): dew, water, wine, oil, blood, milk, and honey. When any of these liquids touch food, the food is then susceptible to *Tumah* contamination. In

ancient times, it was commonplace to not wash vegetables until immediately prior to eating, so that they would remain incapable of contracting *Tumah*. Because most meals start with the traditional breaking of bread — which is preceded by a ritual washing of the hands — there is no special concern that *Tumah* will be transmitted to the vegetables that are washed immediately prior to consumption.

However, the Sages understood that there are occasions where one eats vegetables dipped in liquid outside the context of a meal, so it is possible that one's hands could be *Tamei*. As a result, the Sages instituted that one wash their hands before dipping foods, so that one's hands would not be *Tamei* when they dip their food in liquid. In this fashion, the foodstuffs would remain *Tahor*, and therefore *Kohanim* at the table could eat without concern for making themselves *Tamei*; which could interfere with other aspects of their daily rituals.

As noted, the origins of these laws were established in a time when everyday individuals were concerned about their status as *Tamei* or *Tahor*. Nowadays, however, these concerns are of less general relevance. Nonetheless, their inclusion in the Seder inspires a foray into complex areas of Jewish law, and as noted in the general commentary; this sets the appropriate tone for the evening as we are encouraged to ask questions.

By deliberately including an obscure ritual from outside the context of Passover itself, the Haggadah asks us to expand our horizons and look more broadly at all Jewish ceremonies and customs with an inquisitive eye. What do they mean? What are they supposed to teach us? What feelings are they supposed to invoke? From the very beginning of the Seder, with just a simple hand-washing ritual, the Haggadah aims to broaden the scope of self-reflection and engagement with our history, customs, and laws.

כְּרָפֵס

Karpas

*The Seder continues with Karpas —
which is not quite an appetizer but can serve to whet one's appetite.*

The ritual of Karpas involves eating a vegetable dipped in saltwater, representing the many tears shed by our ancestors during their slavery in Egypt. While all vegetables are acceptable for use in Karpas, it is recommended that one use a green vegetable, to additionally symbolize Passover as Chag HaAviv, the Festival of Spring, and the new growth and new life that the season brings. For this reason, many customarily use parsley, celery, or other green vegetables that may be growing at this time of the year.

Most Jewish legal authorities recommend that one only eat a relatively insubstantial amount for Karpas. The principle reason is that one should save their appetite for the matzah which will be eaten later.

Dip the chosen vegetable in the saltwater and recite the following blessing:

ברוך אתה יי אֱלֹהִינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בָּרוּא פְּרִי הָאָדָمָה. Blessed are You, The Eternal our God, King of the Universe; Who creates the fruit of the earth.

Eat the vegetable.

The Seder continues with Yachatz, which is the last precursor to the retelling of the Exodus.

The plate of three matzot is retrieved, and the middle matzah is pulled out and broken in half. The larger of the two halves is set aside as the Afikoman, and will be used later in the evening. The smaller of the two is returned to the plate of matzot, in between the two whole matzot.

Unlike most festival meals, where it is customary to use two loaves of bread to fulfill the general concept of *Lechem Mishneh* (literally *doubled bread*), on Passover we use three matzot. One reason is simply mathematical: If one breaks one matzah for Yachatz, two whole matzot are still required in order to fulfill *Lechem Mishneh*; hence the need for three matzot.

The main purpose of Yachatz is to set the tone for the beginning of Maggid. While the Jews were enslaved in Egypt, their national character and spirit was cracked, broken, shattered, and split. The process of the redemption was to pick up the remains of their spirit and find a future together. For this reason, the larger broken piece is set aside for the Afikoman, to serve as a reminder that in the end, we always leave behind the remnants of our troubles and move toward greatness.

The core of the Hagaddah begins with Maggid, in which the participants in the Seder recount various aspects of the Exodus. Individuals are encouraged to supplement the text with discussion, personal accounts of freedom, questions, or any other material that provides a meaningful Seder experience. Many introduce their own customs, or include customs of their guests.

The most important objective of the entire Seder is to teach children about the miraculous and divine methods that were used to save us from slavery. Children should be encouraged to participate at their individual level with songs, games, activities, or stories that help them feel as though they are contributing to the Seder. It is strongly recommended that you pause between paragraphs to ask a child a question, or to ask for them to reflect on something that was just read. The more that children are engaged, the more one fulfills the true directive of the Seder.

Maggid is arranged and written in a Talmudic fashion. Because of this oblique style, it is likely that most readers will have difficulty understanding why the Haggadah flows from one topic to the next. In addition, many of the nuances of the text are lost in translation. Therefore, for clarity, the English text provided for the various passages is not always a precise translation of the Hebrew text. Instead, this Haggadah opts to use an elucidated translation with embedded commentary that more clearly delineates the didactic nature of the Hebrew text, its intent, and its meaning.

INTRODUCING THE PASSOVER STORY

Reveal the matzah and raise it for all to see, declaring the following:

הָא לְחַמָּא עֲנֵיא דִי אַכְלֹו.
אֶבֶה תְּנָא בְּאַרְעָא דְמִצְרָים.
כָּל דְכַפֵּן יִתְיַ וַיְיכַל, כָּל
דְצִירִיךְ יִתְיַ וַיְפִסְחָה. הַשְׁתָּא
הַבָּא, לְשָׁנָה הַבָּא בְּאַרְעָא
דִי שְׂרָאֵל. הַשְׁתָּא עַבְדִּי, לְשָׁנָה
הַבָּא בָּנִי חֹרְין.

This is the bread of affliction that our fathers ate in the land of Egypt. Whoever is hungry, let him or her come and eat; whoever is in need, let him or her come and participate in the Passover Seder. This year we are here; next year we hope to be in the land of Israel. This year we might as well be slaves; next year we hope to truly be free people.

The matzah is again covered, and the second cup of wine is poured but will be drunk later. Many have the custom to remove the Seder plate from the table, if only to have children ask why it is removed.

An individual is designated to read or recite the four questions, usually the youngest child capable of doing so. Many have the custom that each child should recite the four questions; and participants should be encouraged to supplement with their own inquiries as well.

מה נטבה הלילה זה מכל הילנות?

Why is this night different from all other nights?

שבדל הילנות אנו אוכליין חמץ ומץ, הלילה זה - בלו מץ!

On all other nights we eat chametz or matzah, but tonight we only eat matzah.

שבדל הילנות אנו אוכליין שאר ירקות, הלילה זה - מרורי!

On all other nights we eat other vegetables, but tonight we only eat bitter ones.

שבדל הילנות אין אנו מטבחליין אפיקו פעם אחת, הלילה זה - נשתי בעמימ!

On all other nights we don't dip our food even once, but tonight we do it twice.

שבדל הילנות אנו אוכליין בין יושבין ובין מסבין, הלילה זה - בלו מסבין!

On all other nights we eat in any position, but tonight we eat only while reclining.

The matzah is partially uncovered.

If the Seder plate was removed from the table, it should be returned.

עֲבָדִים הַיְינוּ לְפַרְעֹה בְּמִצְרָיִם,
וַיּוֹצִיאָנוּ יְהָוָה הַיְינוּ מַשְׁם בְּיד
חֶזְקָה וּבְזָרוּעַ נָטוּיה. וְאֵלּוּ לֹא
הַוֹּצִיאָה הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא אֶת
אֲבוֹתֵינוּ מִמִּצְרָיִם, הָרִי אָנוּ
וּבְנֵינוּ וּבְנֵי בְּנֵינוּ מַלְטִיעָבָדִים
הַיְינוּ לְפַרְעֹה בְּמִצְרָיִם. וְאַפִּילּוּ
כָּלָנוּ חֲבָמִים, כָּלָנוּ גְּבוּנִים,
כָּלָנוּ זְקָנִים, כָּלָנוּ יוֹדָעִים אֶת
הַתּוֹרָה, מְצֻוָּה עַלְינוּ לְסִפְרָה
בִּיצְיאָת מִצְרָיִם. וְכָל הַמְּרֹבֶּה
לְסִפְרָה בִּיצְיאָת מִצְרָיִם הָרִי זֶה
מַשְׁבָּחָה.

We used to be Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt, but The Eternal our God took us out from there with a strong hand and an outstretched arm. If the Holy and Blessed One had not taken our ancestors out of Egypt, then we, our children and our grandchildren would have remained enslaved to Pharaoh in Egypt. Even if all of us were wise, or all of us were insightful, or all of us knew the Torah, we would still be commanded to relate the Exodus from Egypt. Furthermore, anyone who delves into the story of the Exodus is praiseworthy.

The following anecdote supports this theme. Rabbi Akiva, who was a convert, did not descend from any enslaved Jews. Rabbi Eliezer, Rabbi Yehoshua, Rabbi Elazar ben Azaryah, and Rabbi Tarphon all came from the tribe of Levi; the only Jewish tribe not enslaved in Egypt. Despite the fact that none of their ancestors were slaves and that they represented the greatest Jewish scholarship of their era, they nonetheless spent all night reviewing the Exodus in order to fulfill the commandment to the best of their ability. The Haggadah also tangentially details some of their discussions.

מְעַשָּׂה בָּרְבִּי אֶלְעֶזֶר וְרַבִּי
יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְרַבִּי אֶלְעֶזֶר בָּן עֲזָרִיה
וְרַבִּי עֲקִיבָא וְרַבִּי טְרַפּוֹן שְׁהִי
מִסְבֵּין בְּבָנֵי בָּרָק, וְהִי
מִסְפְּרִים בִּיצְיאַת מִצְרָיִם כֹּל
אָתוֹ הַלִּילָה עַד שְׁבָאוֹ
תַּלְמִידֵיכֶם וְאָמְרוּ לָהֶם:
רְבָותֵינוּ, הָגַע זָמָן קְרִיאַת
שְׁמָעַ שֶׁל שְׁחִירִת.

אָמַר רַבִּי אֶלְעֶזֶר בָּן עֲזָרִיה:
הִרְיָה אָנִי כִּבְנֵי שְׁבָעִים שָׁנָה,
וְלֹא לִכְתֵּב יְשִׁתָּאָמֵר יְצִיאַת
מִצְרָיִם בְּלִילּוֹת עַד שְׁדָרְשָׁה
בָּן זָמָא: שֶׁנֶּאֱמָר, לְמַעַן תִּזְכֶּר
אֶת יוֹם צִאתְךָ מִאָרֶץ מִצְרָיִם
כָּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ, יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ -
הַיּוֹם, כָּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ - הַלִּילּוֹת -
וְחַבְמִים אֲוֹמְרִים: יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ -
הָעוֹלָם הַזֶּה, כָּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ -
לְהַבְיאָ לִימוֹת הַמֶּשִׁיחַ.

Rabbi Eliezer, Rabbi Yehoshua, Rabbi Elazar ben Azaryah, Rabbi Akiva and Rabbi Tarphon were once together at a seder in B'nei Berak. They were expounding upon the Exodus from Egypt the entire night, until their students interrupted them: "Rabbis, it is time to recite the morning Shema."

During this discussion, Rabbi Eleazar ben Azaryah mentioned: "Here I am, nearly seventy years old; yet I was never able to prove that the Exodus from Egypt must be recounted at night until Ben Zoma explained it: The verse says, 'That you may remember the day you left Egypt all the days of your life'. Why does it say 'all the days of your life' instead of simply 'the days of your life'? It must be that this extraneous word 'all' indicates the verse implies that the nights are included as well." But the other sages disagreed, interpreting the verse as follows: 'the days of your life' refers to the era of today, the extraneous word 'all' indicates we will be obligated to recount the Exodus even after the arrival of the Messiah.

**בָּרוּךְ הַמֶּלֶךְ, בָּרוּךְ הוּא. בָּרוּךְ
שֶׁנָּתַן תֹּרַה לְעַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל,
בָּרוּךְ הוּא.**

**בְּנַגְּד אֶרְבָּעָה בָּנִים דָּבָרָה
תֹּרַה. אֶחָד חֲכָם, וֶאֱחָד רָשָׁע,
וֶאֱחָד פָּתָם, וֶאֱחָד שְׁאַיּוֹן יְדַע
לְשָׁאוֹל.**

**חֲכָם - מָה הִיא אָוּמָרָה מַה
הַעֲדּוֹת וְהַחֲקִים וְהַמְשֻׁפְטִים
אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֶתְכֶם?
וְאַף אַתָּה אָמַר לוֹ כְּהַלְבּוֹת
הַפֵּשָׁח: אֵין מִפְטוּרִין אַחֲר
הַפֵּשָׁח אַפִּיקוֹם.**

**רָשָׁע - מָה הוּא אָוּמָרָה מַה
הַעֲבָדָה הַזֹּאת לְכֶם? לְכֶם -
וְלֹא לוֹ. וְלֹפִי שְׁחוֹצִיא אֶת
עָצָמוֹ מִן הַכָּלֵל בְּפִרְבָּעָה.
וְאַף אַתָּה הַקְהָה אֶת שְׁנָיו
וְאָמַר לוֹ: בַּעֲבוּר זֶה עָשָׂה יְיָ
לִי בָּצָאַתִּי מִמִּצְרָיִם. לִי - וְלֹא
לוֹ. אִילוּ הַיָּה שָׁם, לֹא הַיָּה
נְגָאֵל.**

Blessed is the Omnipresent, He is blessed. Blessed is the One Who gave the Torah to his people Israel, He is blessed.

The Torah speaks of four sons: one who is wise, one who is wicked, one who is simple, and one who does not even know how to ask a question.

What does the wise one ask? He asks: "What are the statutes, decrees, and laws that The Eternal our God has commanded you?" You should relay to him all of the Passover laws and rituals, all the way up to the rule that one should not eat after he or she has partaken of the Paschal lamb as the Afikoman.

What does the wicked one ask? He asks: "What is this service to you?" The manner in which he says the word 'you' implies that he does not include himself; and because he removes himself from the rest of the group, he is a heretic at heart. To respond, you should forcefully retort him, citing the verse: "It is because of this that The Eternal did this for me when I left Egypt." The word 'me' should imply that he is not included — for if he had been there, he would not have been saved.

תְּמִם - מַה הוּא אֹמֵר? מַה
זָאת? וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵיכֶם: בְּחַזְקַת יָד
הַוֹּצִיאָנוּ יְיָ מִמִּצְרַיִם, מִבֵּית
עֲבָדִים.

וַיֹּשְׁאַלְנָוּ יוֹדֵעַ לְשָׁאָול - אָתָּךְ
פְּתַח לֹז, שֶׁנֶּאָמַר: וְהַגְּדָתָ
לְבָנֶךָ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לֵאמֹר,
בַּעֲבוּר זֶה עָשָׂה יְיָ לִי בְּצִאתִי
מִמִּצְרַיִם.

What does the simple son ask? He asks: "What is this?" You should cite him the verse, "With a strong hand The Eternal brought us out of Egypt, the house of slavery."

And for the one who does not even know how to ask a question, you should initiate the discussion, citing: "And you shall tell your son on that day, saying: it is because of this The Eternal did this for me when I left Egypt."

WHAT IS THE TIMEFRAME TO FULFILL THIS COMMANDMENT OF RETELLING THE EXODUS?

יִכְלֶל מְרָאֵת חֶדְשׁ, תְּלִמּוֹד
לוֹמֵר בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא, אֵי בַּיּוֹם
הַהוּא יִכְלֶל מִבָּעוֹד יוֹם, תְּלִמּוֹד
לוֹמֵר בַּעֲבוּר זֶה - בַּעֲבוּר זֶה
לֹא אָמַרְתִּי אֶלָּא בְּשַׁעַת טִישׁ
מְצָה וּמְרוֹר מְנֻחִים לִפְנֵיכֶם.

It is possible that one may believe we should recount the Exodus from the beginning of the month of Nissan, but the Torah teaches us otherwise; stating: "On that day". Even with this teaching, one might believe that he or she could start retelling the Exodus at any point during that day. However, the verse also states "because of this" — 'this' referring to the merit of eating matzah — thereby the verse teaches us that we may only fulfill the commandment of recounting the Exodus at the time when the matzah and bitter vegetables are laid out in front of you. Therefore, we may only fulfill our obligation at night, during

the Seder when the matzah and marror are present; for that is the time when those commandments can be fulfilled.

THE RETELLING OF THE EXODUS BEGINS

מִתְחַלָּה עֲבוֹדֵי עֲבוֹדָה זָרָה הָיוּ
אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, וַעֲבָשֵׂיו קָרְבָּנוּ:
הַמָּקוֹם לְעַבְדָּתוֹ, שֶׁנֶּאָמָר:
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָשֻׁעַ אֶל כָּל הַעָם,
בָּהּ אָמַר יְיָ אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:
בְּעֵבֶר הַנָּהָר יַשְׁבוּ אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם
מַעֲוָלֶם, תְּרֵחָ אָבִי אֶבְרָהָם
וְאָבִי נָחוֹר, וַיַּעֲבֹדוּ אֱלֹהִים
אֶחָרִים. וַיַּאֲקַח אֶת אֲבִיכֶם
אֶת אֶבְרָהָם מַעֲבֶר הַנָּהָר
וְאָוֶלֶךְ אֹתוֹ בְּכָל אֶرֶץ כְּנָעָן,
וְאַרְבָּה אֶת זָרָעוֹ וְאַתָּן לוֹ אֶת
יִצְחָק, וְאַתָּן לִיִּצְחָק אֶת יַעֲקֹב
וְאֶת עַשְׁׂוֹ. וְאַתָּן לְעַשְׁׂוֹ אֶת הַר
שְׁעִיר לְרִשְׁת אֹתוֹ, וַיַּעֲקֹב וּבָנָיו
יָרֹדוּ מִצְרָיִם.

The story of the Exodus truly begins from when our ancestors worshipped false deities, even though we have now been welcomed into the service of the Omnipresent. We know this because the verse says: "And Joshua spoke to the entire nation, 'So says The Eternal, the God of Israel: Our ancestors once dwelled on the other side of the river – Terach, the father of Abraham and Nachor – and they served other gods. But I took your father, Abraham, across that river, and led him through the entire land of Canaan; and I multiplied his offspring and gave him Isaac. And to Isaac I gave Jacob and Eisav. And to Eisav I gave Mount Seir for him as an inheritance, but Jacob and his sons I sent down to Egypt.'" From this we can infer that the Exodus was part of the Divine Plan even before we started worshipping The Eternal.

בָּרוּךְ הוּא תָּטוֹמֵר הַבְּטַחַת
 בָּרוּךְ הוּא לִיְשָׂרָאֵל
 בָּרוּךְ הוּא חֶשֶׁב
 בָּרוּךְ הוּא קָדוֹשׁ
 אֶת הַקִּז, לְעָשׂוֹת כִּמָּה
 נִשְׁאָמֵר לְאַבְרָהָם אָבִינוּ
 בְּבָרִית בֵּין הַבָּתָרִים, נִשְׁנָאָמֵר:
 וַיֹּאמֶר לְאַבְרָהָם, יְדֻעַּתְּדֵעַ כִּי
 גָּר יְהִי זָרָעַ בָּאָרֶץ לֹא לָהֶם,
 וְעָבָדים וְעַנְיוֹן אַתֶּם אֶרְבָּע
 מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה. וְגַם אֶת הַגּוֹי
 אֲשֶׁר יַעֲבֹדוּ ذֹן אֲנָכִי וְאַחֲרִי
 כִּן יֵצָא בְּרַכְשׁ גָּדוֹלָה.

Blessed is He Who keeps His promises to Israel, He is blessed. For the Holy and Blessed One formulated the end of our slavery before it even began, in order to fulfill His Covenant of the Parts with Abraham; as the verse states: "And He said to Abram,¹ 'You shall surely know that your offspring will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and I will enslave them and make them suffer for four hundred years. But I Myself shall pass judgement on the nation that enslaves you, and afterwards your offspring will leave with great wealth.'"

¹The verse cited here takes place prior to when God changed Abram's name to Abraham in Genesis 17:5.

Cover the matzah, lift your cup of wine, and declare the following:

וְהִיא נִשְׁעַמְדָה לְאָבוֹתֵינוּ וּלְנוּ
 נִשְׁלָא אֶחָד בַּלְבָד עָמֵד עָלֵינוּ
 לְכַלּוֹתֵנוּ, אֶלָּא נִשְׁבָּכֵל דָּוָר
 וְדָוָר עָמְדִים עָלֵינוּ לְכַלּוֹתֵנוּ
 וְהַקִּדּוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא מַצִּילֵנוּ
 מִידָם.

This is what our forefathers relied upon, and what we still rely upon: For not just this one enemy alone has risen against us to annihilate us, but in every generation they rise against us to annihilate us — but the Holy and Blessed One saves us from their hands!

The cup of wine is put back down and the matzah is again uncovered.

At this point, the recounting of the Exodus proceeds in the style of Talmudical exegesis. Passages or verses are cited, and then each phrase in each verse is analyzed separately to determine what additional insights can be gained from a more critical reading of the text. Participants are encouraged to formulate their own interpretations, and this is an ideal time during the Seder to incorporate additional ideas or themes that foster a connection to the traditional material.

The following verses do not come from the story of the Exodus in the Torah. Rather, these verses are actually those cited when one brings their first fruits to the Holy Temple, a commandment called *bikkurim*. Why is it, then, that we use this passage as the focal point of the Haggadah? Would it not make more sense to simply read the straight text of the Torah, the passages that detail the events from when Pharaoh enslaved the Jews until after the Jewish people sang praises after the splitting of the Red Sea?

The answer to this question is that it is not merely enough to read the passages in the Torah, because reading is a passive activity that involves events of the past. The Haggadah is supposed to invoke a living, breathing sense of freedom — the aim is not to remember the past but to grapple with the text and try to find how it applies to our daily lives. The Haggadah thus opts to use this cite-and-expound methodology: it does not ask us to merely recall history, but rather to allow the Exodus to forge our future.

צָא וְלִמֶּד מֵה בַקְשׁ לְבָנָן
הַאֲרָמִי לְעֹשֹׂת לִיעַקְבָּן אֲבִינוּ.
שֶׁפַרְעָה לֹא גַּזֵּר אֶלָּא עַל
הַצְּבָרִים וְלְבָנָן בַקְשׁ לְעַקְוֹר אֶת
הַכֶּל, שֶׁנְּאָמְרָה: אֲרָמִי אָבֶד
אָבִי, וַיַּרְדֵּן מִצְרִימָה וַיִּגְרַב שָׁם
בְּמַתִּי מַעַט, וַיְהִי שָׁם לְגֹוי
גָּדוֹל, עָצָום וּרְבָּה.

"וַיַּרְדֵּן מִצְרִימָה" - אָנוּס עַל פִּי
הַדָּבָר.

We know that God has saved us time and again — for example, go out and learn for yourself what Lavan the Aramean wanted to do to our father Jacob. Pharaoh had issued a decree against only the male children, but Lavan wanted to uproot everything — as the verse states: "The Aramean wished to obliterate my father; but he [my father] descended to Egypt and sojourned there, few in number; and there he became a great nation that was mighty and numerous."

"But he [my father] descended to Egypt" — he was forced to descend because of Divine Providence.

"וַיֵּגֶר שָׁם" - מִלְמָד שָׁלָא יָרַד
יַעֲקֹב אָבִינוּ לְהַשְׁתַּקְעַ
בְּמִצְרָיִם אֶלָּא לְגֹר שָׁם,
שֶׁנֶּאֱמָר: וַיּَאמֶר אֶל פְּרֻעָה,
לְגֹר בָּאָרֶץ בָּאָנוּ, כִּי אֵין
מַرְעָה לְצַאן אֲשֶׁר לְעַבְדִּיךְ, כִּי
כִּי בְּכָד הַרְעָב בָּאָרֶץ כִּנּוּן. וַעֲתָה
יַשְׁבוּ נָא עַבְדִּיךְ בָּאָרֶץ גַּשְׁוֹן.

"And he sojourned there" – this teaches us that our patriarch Jacob did not descend to Egypt to settle there, but only to temporarily reside there; as this verse indicates: "And they said to Pharaoh, we have come to sojourn here in this land, because there is no pasture for your servants' flocks, since the famine in the land of Canaan is so severe. So please now let us your servants dwell in the land of Goshen." They came only because of hunger, not because of a desire to live in the land of Egypt.

"בְּמַתִּי מַעַט" - כַּמָּה שֶׁנֶּאֱמָר:
בְּשְׁבעִים נֶפֶשׁ יָרַדוּ אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם
מִצְרַיִם, וַעֲתָה שְׁמָךְ יִ
אֶלְהִיךְ כְּכֹבֶבִי הַשְׁמִימִים לְרַב.
"וַיָּהִי שָׁם לְגוֹי" - מִלְמָד שְׁהִיוּ
יִשְׂרָאֵל מִצְּנִינִים שָׁם.

"גָּדוֹל, עָצָום" - כַּמָּה שֶׁנֶּאֱמָר:
גָּבְנִי יִשְׂרָאֵל פָּרוֹ וַיַּעֲשֵׂרְצֹו וַיַּרְבּוּ
וַיַּעֲצִמוּ בָּמָאֵד מַאֵד, וַתִּמְלָא
הָאָרֶץ אֶתְכֶם.

"וּרְבָּ" - כַּמָּה שֶׁנֶּאֱמָר: רַבָּה
כִּצְמָח תְּשִׁיחָה נִתְהִיךְ, וַתִּרְבְּ
וַתִּגְדְּלִי וַתִּבָּאֵי בַּעֲדִי עֲדִים,
שְׁדִים נָבְנוּ וַשְׁעַרְךָ צָמָח, וַאֲתָּה

"Few in number" – this is supported by another verse, which states: "Your seventy ancestors went down to Egypt, and now The Eternal your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven."

"And there he became a nation" – this teaches us that Israel remained distinctive in the land of Egypt.

"Great, mighty" – this is supported by another verse, which states: "And the children of Israel were fruitful, increased abundantly, multiplied, and became very, very mighty; and the land became filled with them."

"And numerous" – this is an allusion to another verse: "I have granted you to be like a plethora of plants in the field, and you increased and grew and became very beautiful; your bosom fashioned and your hair grown long,

עָרְם וַעֲרִיה. וַאֲעַבֵּר עַלְיךָ
 וַאֲרָאךְ מִתְבּוֹסֶס בְּדָמִיךְ,
 וַאֲמִרְתִּי לְךָ בְּדָמִיךְ חַיִּי, וַאֲמִרְתִּי
 לְךָ בְּדָמִיךְ חַיִּי.

but you were naked and bare. So I passed over you and saw you wallowing in your collective blood, and I said to you 'By your blood you shall live!' and [again] I said to you 'By your blood you shall live!'" In this verse, the word for "plethora" uses the same Hebrew etymology as our verse does for the word "numerous". This cited verse is an allusion to the commandment of circumcision, as the expression "By your blood you shall live" is recited as part of the ceremony. It is an expression of how even though we sometimes suffer pain, our covenant with The Eternal is forever; He shall always ensure that we grow and thrive.

וַיַּרְא אֹתָנוּ הַמִּצְרִים וַיַּעֲבֹנוּ,
 וַיַּתְנוּ עָלֵינוּ עֲבָדָה קָשָׁה.

"וַיַּרְא אֹתָנוּ הַמִּצְרִים" - בַּמָּה
 שֶׁנֶּאֱמָר: הַבָּה נִתְחַכְּמָה לוֹ פָּנָו
 יְרַבָּה, וְהִיא בַּי תִּקְרַא אֶנְהָ
 מִלְחָמָה וּנוֹסֶף גָּם הַוָּא עַל
 שְׁנָאֵינוּ וּגְלַחַם בָּנוּ, וְעַלְהָ מִן
 הָאָרֶץ.

The Egyptians treated us badly and made us suffer, and they gave us hard work.

"The Egyptians treated us badly," as the story indicates: "Come, let us outwit the people lest they multiply; and if war breaks out, they will join our enemies and fight against us to leave the land." Their paranoia led them to believe we would rise against them before they ever even began to persecute us, thus they treated us with the disdain from the start.

"וַיַּעֲנָנוּ" - בְּמֵה שֶׁנֶּאָמַר:
וַיִּשְׂרִימּוּ עַלְיוֹ שְׂרִי מִסִּים לְמַעַן
עַנְתּוֹ בְּסֻבְלָתָם. וַיַּבְנֵו עָרִי
מִסְכָּנוֹת לְפַרְעָה. אַת פָּתָם
וְאַת רַעֲמָס.

- "וַיִּתְנַגֵּן עַלְיוֹן עֲבָדָה קָשָׁה" -
בְּמֵה שֶׁנֶּאָמַר: וַיַּעֲבֹדוּ מִצְרִים
אַת בָּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּפֶרַךְ.

וַנִּצְעַק אֶל יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֱבֹתֵינוּ
וַיִּשְׁמַע יְיָ אֶת קָלָנוּ, וַיַּרְא אֶת
עֲנָנוּ וְאֶת עַמְלָנוּ וְאֶת לְחֶצְנוּ.

"וַנִּצְעַק אֶל יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֱבֹתֵינוּ" -
בְּמֵה שֶׁנֶּאָמַר: וַיְהִי בִּימִים
הַרְבִּים הָהִם וַיִּמְתַּחַלֵּךְ
מִצְרִים, וַיַּאֲנַחֵוּ בָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִן
הַעֲבֹדָה וַיַּצְעַקוּ, וַתַּעַל שׂוּעָתָם
אֶל הָאֱלֹהִים מִן הַעֲבָדָה.

"וַיִּשְׁמַע יְיָ אֶת קָלָנוּ" - בְּמֵה
שֶׁנֶּאָמַר: וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶת
נָאקוֹתָם, וַיַּכְרֹבֵר אֱלֹהִים אֶת
בְּרִיתָו אֶת אֶבְרָהָם, אֶת יַצְחָק
וְאֶת יַעֲקֹב.

"And they made us suffer," as the story indicates: "They set taskmasters over them to make them suffer with their burdens, and they built storage cities for Pharaoh: Pithom and Ramses."

"And they gave us hard work," as the story indicates: "And the Egyptians made us work in harsh conditions."

The passage continues: "And we cried out to The Eternal, the God of our ancestors, and The Eternal heard our voice and saw our suffering, our labor and our oppression."

"And we cried out to The Eternal, the God of our ancestors," as the story indicates: "During that long period, the king of Egypt died; and the children of Israel moaned and wailed under their servitude; and from their slavery, their supplications ascended to God."

"And The Eternal heard our voice," as the story indicates: "And God heard their agony, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

"וַיַּרְא אֲתָה עֲנֵינוּ" - זו פְּרִיטָה
דֶּרֶךְ אָרֶץ, בְּמָה שֶׁנֶּאָמַר: וַיַּרְא
אֱלֹהִים אֲתָה בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּדַּע
אֱלֹהִים.

"And he saw our suffering" – this refers to the separation of husband and wife, as the story alludes: "And God saw the children of Israel, and it was known to God." The unusual term "it was known" is an allusion to this separation, employing the common biblical euphemism for cohabitation.

"וַיַּאֲתָה עַמְלָנוּ" - אַלְוּ הַבָּנִים
בְּמָה שֶׁנֶּאָמַר: כֹּל הַבָּן הַיּוֹלֵד
הַיָּאָרֶה פָּשַׁלְיָכְהוּ וְכֹל הַבָּת
תִּחְיֶן.

"And our labor" – the labor was overwhelming because Pharaoh had decreed the death of all Jewish sons: "Every boy that is born, you shall throw into the river; but every girl you may keep alive."

"וַיַּאֲתָה לְחַצְנוּ" - זה הַדָּמָק,
בְּמָה שֶׁנֶּאָמַר: וְגַם רָאִיתִי אֲתָה
הַלְּחֵץ אֲשֶׁר מִצְרִים לְחַצִּים
אָתָם.

"And our oppression" – this refers to the pressure placed upon them to complete their tasks, as the verse states: "I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them."

וַיַּצְאָנוּ יְיָ מִמִּצְרַיִם בְּיַד מְזָקָה
וּבְזָרֻעַ נָטוּיה, וּבְמָרָא גָּדוֹל,
וּבְאֲתֹות וּבְמִפְתָּחִים.

The passage continues: "The Eternal took us out of Egypt with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, and with a great manifestation, signs, and wonders."

"וַיַּצְאָנוּ יְיָ מִמִּצְרַיִם" - לֹא עַל
יְדֵי מֶלֶךְ, וְלֹא עַל יְדֵי שָׂרֵף,
וְלֹא עַל יְדֵי שְׁלֵיחַ, אֲלֹא
הַקָּדוֹש בָּרוּךְ הוּא בְּכָבוֹדוֹ
וּבְעָצָמוֹ, שֶׁנֶּאָמַר: וְעַבְרָתִי
בָּאָרֶץ מִצְרַיִם בְּלִילָה הַזֹּה,

"The Eternal took us out of Egypt" – not through an angel, not through a seraph, and not through a messenger; rather the Holy and Blessed One with His honor and by Himself; as the verse states: "On that night I will pass through the land of Egypt, and I will strike every first-born in the land of Egypt, from man to beast, and I will

וְהִכִּיתִי כָּל בָּכֹר בַּאֲרֶץ
מִצְרַיִם מֵאָדָם וְעַד בַּהֲמָה,
וּבְכָל אֱלֹהִי מִצְרַיִם אָעַשָּׂה
שְׁפָטִים. אָנִי יְיָ.

"וְעַבְרָתִי בַּאֲרֶץ מִצְרַיִם בְּלִילָה
הַזָּה" - אָנִי וְלֹא מֶלֶךְ.

"וְהִכִּיתִי כָּל בָּכֹר בַּאֲרֶץ
מִצְרַיִם" - אָנִי וְלֹא שָׂרֵף.

"וּבְכָל אֱלֹהִי מִצְרַיִם אָעַשָּׂה
שְׁפָטִים" - אָנִי וְלֹא הַשְׁלִיחָה.

"אָנִי יְיָ" - אָנִי הוּא וְלֹא אַחֲרָה.

"בַּיד מִזְקָה" - זו הַדָּבָר, כַּמָּה
שָׁנָאָמָר: הַגָּה יָד יְיָ הַזָּה
בַּמִּקְנֵךְ אָשָׁר בְּשַׁדָּה, בְּסֻסִים,
בְּחַמְרִים, בְּגַמְלִים, בְּבָקָר
וּבְצָאן, דָּבָר כְּבָד מַאֲדָם.

וּבְזָרָע נָטוּיה - זו הַחֶרֶב, כַּמָּה
שָׁנָאָמָר: וְחֶרְבוֹ שְׁלוֹפָה בְּיַדָּו,
נָטוּיה עַל יְרוּשָׁלַיִם.

carry out judgments against all the gods of Egypt, I The Eternal." This is further expounded in the following tangent:

"I will pass through the land of Egypt" – I, and not an angel.

"And I will strike every first-born in the land of Egypt" – I, and not a seraph.

"And I will carry out judgments against all the gods of Egypt" – I, and not a messenger.

"I, The Eternal" – I alone, and no other!

Returning to the original passage, we shall continue expounding the earlier verse: "With a strong hand" – this refers to the plague of pestilence, as the verse states: "Behold, the hand of The Eternal will be upon your livestock in the field, upon the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the herds and the flocks, a very severe pestilence." The pestilence was so severe that it could only have been from the hand of The Eternal.

"And with an outstretched arm" – this alludes to the sword, as illuminated by the following verse about King David: "His sword was drawn in his hand, outstretched over

Jerusalem." This is a reference to the slaying of the first-born, who seemed as though they had been slain by the sword.

"And with a great manifestation," this refers to the revelation of the Divine Presence, as is referenced in the verse: "Is there any other god that could ever try to take for himself a nation from the midst of another nation, with spectacles, signs and wonders; with war, a strong hand and an outstretched arm; and with great manifestations, like everything that The Eternal your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes?"

"And with signs" – this refers to the staff of Moses, as the verse indicates when God commands him: "And this staff, take it in your hand; and with it you shall perform the signs."

"וּבְמִרְאָה גָּדֶל" - זו גָּלוּי שְׁכִינָה
בַּמָּה שֶׁנְּאָמַר: או הַנֶּסֶת
אֱלֹהִים לְבָא לְקַחַת לוֹ גּוֹי
מִקְרָב גּוֹי בְּמִסְתָּת בָּאָתָת
וּבְמוֹפְתִים, וּבְמַלְחָמָה וּבִידָּ
חַזְקָה וּבְזָרוּעַ נְטוּיָה,
וּבְמֹרְאִים גָּדְלִים, כִּכְלֵל אֲשֶׁר
עָשָׂה לְכֶם יְיָ אֱלֹהֵיכֶם
בְּמִצְרַיִם לְעִינֵיכֶם.

"וּבָאָתָת" - זה הַמְטָה, בַּמָּה
שֶׁנְּאָמַר: וְאֵת הַמְטָה הַזֹּה
תַּקְחַ בְּיָדֶךָ, אֲשֶׁר תַּعֲשֶׂה בְּ
אֵת הָאָתָת.

It is customary to spill a drop of wine from one's cup while reciting each of the following bolded phrases. One should not drink the wine that is removed; instead it should be discarded at the conclusion of Maggid. Although some may be accustomed to using one's finger to remove the wine, this should be avoided. Instead, wine should be spilled directly from the cup, preferably onto a designated dish rather than one's plate. Alternatively, one can dip a napkin or cloth to soak up some of the wine from the cup instead.

The reason for this custom is because the spilled wine is supposed to symbolize the blood of the Egyptians. Even though they enslaved us, they were still human beings. We respect their humanity enough to acknowledge that their deaths are worthy of limiting our celebration somehow, even if it is only represented by us reducing the amount of wine we consume by a few drops.

It is for this reason that one should avoid using their finger to remove the wine. Given the symbolism, we do not want to convey the notion that we accept the idea that the blood of the Egyptians is on our hands. The Egyptians were punished for their own sins by God, and not because we did them evil. Our only intent is to limit our rejoicing – even if only by a tiny iota – and not to suggest we actively sought the Egyptians' death as the key means to achieve our freedom.

וּבְמִפְתִּים - זֶה הַדָּם, כַּמָּה
שֶׁנֶּאָמַר: וְנִתְּתֵי מִזְבְּחֹת
בְּשָׂמִים וּבָאָרֶץ:

"And wonders" – this refers to the blood, as the following verse alludes to through the juxtaposition of the words: "And I shall show wonders in heaven and on earth:

דָם, blood,

וְאֵשׁ, and fire,

וְתִימְרוֹת עַשְׁן.

דָבָר אֶחָר: בַּיִד חַזְקָה - שְׁתִים
וּבְזָרְעַ נָטוּיה - שְׁתִים, וּבְמֶרְאָ
- גָּדָל - שְׁתִים, וּבְאַתָּות
שְׁתִים, וּבְמִפְתִּים - שְׁתִים.

Another explanation is that this verse refers to the total number of plagues, a count of ten: "Strong hand" indicates two plagues, since the human body has two hands; "Outstretched arm" corresponds to another two, for the same reason;

"Great manifestation," another two, since 'manifestation' is singular and therefore a 'great manifestation' implies one more than that; "Signs," another two, because two is the smallest plural; and "Wonders," another two, for the same reason.

אָלֹה עַשְׂרֵה מִכּוֹת שְׁהַבִּיא
הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא עַל
הַמִּצְרִים בְּמִצְרִים, וְאָלֹה הָנָ:

And thus the verse refers to these ten plagues which the Holy and Blessed One brought upon the citizens of Egypt, enumerated as follows:

דָם, blood,

צַפְרִידָע, frogs,

כֹּנִים, lice,

עֲרֹב, wild animals,

דָבָר, pestilence,

שְׁחִין, boils,

בָּרֶד, meteors,¹

אַרְבָּה, locusts,

חֹשֶׁךְ, darkness,

מִכְתָּה בְּכֹרֹות. slaying of the first-born.

¹The seventh plague is frequently mistranslated as 'hail', but the verses in Exodus 9:18–25 indicate that it was a singularly unique phenomenon: that it had never happened before and never will again; that it was fire raining from the sky, that it broke the trees and killed animals and people that were struck. In context, it seems that the simplest explanation is that it was a plague of meteors.

רַבִּי יְהוּדָה חִיה נֹתֵן בְּחִימָה
סְמִנִּים:
דְּצָחָךְ,
עֲדָשָׁה,
בְּאֵחָב.

Rabbi Yehudah gave them a mnemonic:

רַבִּי יוֹסֵי הַגָּלִילִי אָמֵר: מִנְיוֹן
אַתָּה אָמֵר שֶׁלְקָנוּ הַמִּצְרִים
בְּמִצְרִים עַשֶּׂר מִפְוֹת וְעַל הַיּוֹם
לְקָנוּ חַמְשִׁים מִפְוֹת? בְּמִצְרִים
מַה הוּא אָמֵר? וַיֹּאמֶר
הַחֲרַטְמִים אֶל פְּרָעָה: אַצְבָּע
אֱלֹהִים הוּא, וְעַל הַיּוֹם מַה
הוּא אָמֵר? וַיַּרְא יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת
הַיד הַגְּדוֹלָה אֲשֶׁר עֲשָׂה יְיָ
בְּמִצְרִים, וַיַּרְא הַעַם אֶת יְיָ,
וַיַּאֲמִינוּ בְּיְיָ וּבְמִשְׁהָ עֲבֹדֹ.
כִּמְהָ לְקָנוּ בְּאַצְבָּע? עַשֶּׂר
מִפְוֹת. אָמָר מַעַתָּה: בְּמִצְרִים
לְקָנוּ עַשֶּׂר מִפְוֹת וְעַל הַיּוֹם לְקָנוּ
חַמְשִׁים מִפְוֹת.

The last verse we recited hinted to the fact that there were ten plagues. Rabbi Yossi from the Galilee asked: How do you know that if the Egyptians were stricken by ten plagues in Egypt, then they were struck by fifty plagues at the sea? Because of the following proof:

While in Egypt, the verse states: "The magicians said to Pharaoh: 'This is the finger of God.'" But at the sea, the verse states: "Israel saw the great hand that The Eternal excercised against Egypt; and the people were in awe of The Eternal, and they believed in The Eternal and in His servant Moses."

Based on these verses, how often were they struck by 'the finger'? Ten plagues. From this you must conclude at the sea they were smitten five times more, for a hand has five fingers; in other words, that if in Egypt they were struck by ten plagues, then at the sea they must have been struck with fifty plagues.

רַבִּי אֲלֵيֶזֶר אָמֵר: מִנֵּין שְׁבָל
מִפְּה וּמִפְּה שְׂהִבְיא הַקָּדוֹשׁ
בָּרוּךְ הוּא עַל הַמִּצְרִים
בְּמִצְרִים הִתְה שֶׁל אַרְבָּע
מִפְּוֹת? שְׁגַגָּא מָר:
יְשַׁלֵּח בָּם
חרוֹן אֲפֹו, עֲבָרָה וּזְעָם וְצָרָה,
מִשְׁלָחָת מַלְאָכִי רָעִים. עֲבָרָה
- אַחַת, וּזְעָם - שְׁתִּים, וְצָרָה -
שְׁלֹשׁ, מִשְׁלָחָת מַלְאָכִי רָעִים:
אַרְבָּע. אָמֹר מִעֲתָה:
בְּמִצְרִים לְכוּ אַרְבָּעִים מִפְּוֹת
וְעַל הַיָּם לְכוּ מָאתִים מִפְּוֹת.

While in the context of discussing how many plagues God brought upon Egypt, Rabbi Eliezer offered the following insight: How do we know that each individual plague which the Holy and Blessed One brought upon the citizens of Egypt consisted of four plagues?

We can infer it from this verse: "He sent against them His fierce anger, fury, and indignation, and trouble, a discharge of messengers of evil": 'Fury' is one, 'Indignation' is two, 'Trouble' is three, 'Discharge of messengers of evil' is four.

Therefore you must now say that in Egypt they were actually struck by forty plagues; so at the sea they must have been stricken by two hundred plagues.

However, Rabbi Akiva disagreed with Rabbi Eliezer, reframing the count as follows: How do we know that each individual plague which the Holy and Blessed One brought upon the citizens of Egypt consisted of five plagues (rather than four)?

We can infer it from this same verse: "He sent against them His fierce anger, fury, and indignation, and trouble, a discharge of messengers of evil": Unlike Rabbi Eliezer's interpretation, 'fierce anger' should

רַבִּי עֲקִיבָא אָמֵר: מִנֵּין שְׁבָל
מִפְּה וּמִפְּה שְׂהִבְיא הַקָּדוֹשׁ
בָּרוּךְ הוּא עַל הַמִּצְרִים
בְּמִצְרִים הִתְה שֶׁל חֲמֻש
מִפְּוֹת? שְׁגַגָּא מָר:
יְשַׁלֵּח בָּם
חרוֹן אֲפֹו, עֲבָרָה וּזְעָם וְצָרָה,
מִשְׁלָחָת מַלְאָכִי רָעִים. חֲרוֹן
אֲפֹו - אַחַת, עֲבָרָה - שְׁתִּים,
וּזְעָם - שְׁלֹשׁ, וְצָרָה - אַרְבָּע,

**מִשְׁלַחַת מֶלֶךְ רָעִים -
חַמֵּשׁ. אָמֹר מֵעַתָּה: בְּמִצְרַיִם
לְקַיּוּ חֲמִשִּׁים מִכּוֹת וְעַל הַיּוֹם
לְקַיּוּ חֲמִשִּׁים וּמִאַתִּים מִכּוֹת.**

be counted as one; then 'Fury' is two, 'Indignation' is three, 'Trouble' is four, and 'Discharge of messengers of evil' is five.

Therefore you must now say that in Egypt they were actually struck by fifty plagues; so at the sea they must have been stricken by two hundred and fifty plagues.

DAYENU

There are two distinct emotional components of the Seder: one is to feel as though one has been a part of the Exodus, and the other is to praise Hashem for all that He has done for us. This first component is Maggid, the second is Hallel. However, it is essential to understand that these two components are intrinsically linked with each other; therefore the Haggadah maintains a bridge between Maggid and Hallel: we express our gratitude to what the Exodus means for us, and then we continue to praise Him.

**בַּמָּה מְעֻלֹּות טוֹבֹת לְפָקוּם
עֲלֵינוּ!**

How many levels of goodness has the Omnipresent bestowed us!

**אֲלֹו הַזָּכִיאנוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם
וְלֹא עָשָׂה בָּהֶם שְׁפָטִים, דִּיןֵנוּ.**

If He had brought us out from Egypt, but had not carried out judgments against them, it would have been enough!

**אֲלֹו עָשָׂה בָּהֶם שְׁפָטִים,
וְלֹא עָשָׂה בְּאֱלֹהֵיכֶם, דִּיןֵנוּ.**

If He had carried out judgments against them, but not against their idols, it would have been enough!

**אֲלֹו עָשָׂה בְּאֱלֹהֵיכֶם,
וְלֹא הִרְגָּת בְּבָנָרֵיכֶם, דִּיןֵנוּ.**

If He had destroyed their idols, but had not slain their first-born, it would have been enough!

**אֲלֹו הִרְגָּת בְּבָנָרֵיכֶם
וְלֹא נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת מִמּוֹנֵם, דִּיןֵנוּ.**

If He had slain their first-born, but had not given us their wealth, it would have been enough!

אֲלֹו נָתַן לְנוּ אֶת מִמּוֹנָם
וְלֹא קָרַע לְנוּ אֶת הַיּוֹם, דִּיןָנוּ.

If He had given us their wealth, but had not split the sea for us, it would have been enough!

אֲלֹו קָרַע לְנוּ אֶת הַיּוֹם
וְלֹא הָעֲבִירָנוּ בְּתוֹכוֹ בְּחַרְבָּה,
דִּיןָנוּ.

If He had split the sea for us, but had not taken us through it on dry land, it would have been enough!

אֲלֹו הָעֲבִירָנוּ בְּתוֹכוֹ בְּחַרְבָּה
וְلֹא שָׁקַע צִרְנָנוּ בְּתוֹכוֹ, דִּיןָנוּ.

If He had taken us through the sea on dry land, but had not drowned our oppressors in it, it would have been enough!

אֲלֹו שָׁקַע צִרְנָנוּ בְּתוֹכוֹ
וְלֹא סְפָק צִרְנָנוּ בְּמִדְבָּר
אֶרְבָּעִים נָשָׂנה, דִּיןָנוּ.

If He had drowned our oppressors in it, but had not supplied our needs in the desert for forty years, it would have been enough!

אֲלֹו סְפָק צִרְנָנוּ בְּמִדְבָּר
אֶרְבָּעִים נָשָׂנה
וְלֹא הָאכַלְנוּ אֶת הַמָּן, דִּיןָנוּ.

If He had supplied our needs in the desert for forty years, but had not fed us the manna, it would have been enough!

אֲלֹו הָאכַלְנוּ אֶת הַמָּן
וְלֹא נָתַן לְנוּ אֶת הַשְׁבָּת, דִּיןָנוּ.

If He had fed us the manna, but had not given us the Sabbath, it would have been enough!

אֲלֹו נָתַן לְנוּ אֶת הַשְׁבָּת,
וְלֹא קָרַבְנוּ לִפְנֵי הַר סִינֵּי,
דִּיןָנוּ.

If He had given us the Sabbath, but had not brought us before Mount Sinai, it would have been enough!

אֲלֹו קָרַבְנוּ לִפְנֵי הַר סִינֵּי,
וְלֹא נָתַן לְנוּ אֶת הַתּוֹרָה,
דִּיןָנוּ.

If He had brought us before Mount Sinai, but had not given us the Torah, it would have been enough!

אֲלֹו נָתַן לְנוּ אֶת הַתּُוֹרָה
וְלֹא הִבְנִיסֵנוּ לְאָרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל,
דִּיְנָנוּ.

אֲלֹו הִבְנִיסֵנוּ לְאָרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל
וְلֹא בָנָה לְנוּ אֶת בֵּית
הַבְּחִירָה, דִּיְנָנוּ.

עַל אֶחָת, כִּמֶּה וּכִמֶּה, טוֹבָה
כְּפֹולָה וּמִכְפֻּלָּת לְמִקּוֹם עַלְיָנוּ:
שֶׁהָזִיאָנוּ מִמּצְרַיִם, וַעֲשָׂה
בָּהֶם שְׁפָטִים, וַעֲשָׂה
בְּאֱלֹהֵיהֶם, וַתַּרְגַּם
בְּכָוריָהֶם, וַנְתַן לְנוּ אֶת
מִמּוֹנָם, וַיַּךְרְעֵלֵנוּ אֶת הַיּוֹם,
וַיַּעֲבִירֵנוּ בְּתוֹכוֹ בְּחֶרְבָּה,
וַיַּשְׁקַע צִרְנוּ בְּתוֹבוֹ, וַסְפָּלָ
צִרְכָנוּ בְּמִדְבָּר אֶרֶבְעִים שָׁנָה,
וְהַאֲכִילָנוּ אֶת הַמָּן, וַנְתַן לְנוּ
אֶת הַשְּׁבָתָה, וַיַּךְרְבֵנוּ לִפְנֵי הָר
סִינֵי, וַנְתַן לְנוּ אֶת הַתּُוֹרָה,
וְהִבְנִיסֵנוּ לְאָרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל, וַבָּנָה
לְנוּ אֶת בֵּית הַבְּחִירָה לְכֹפֶר
עַל כָּל עֲוֹנוֹתֵינוּ.

If He had given us the Torah, but had not brought us into the land of Israel, it would have been enough!

If He had brought us into the land of Israel, but had not built for us the Chosen House, the Holy Temple – it would have been enough!

Thus how much more so should we be grateful for the doubled and redoubled good that the Omnipresent has placed upon us; for He brought us out of Egypt, and carried out judgments against them and their idols, and killed their first-born, and gave us their wealth, and split the sea for us, and took us through it on dry land, and drowned our tormentors in it, and fulfilled our needs in the desert for forty years, and fed us the manna, and gave us the Sabbath, and brought us before Mount Sinai, and gave us the Torah, and brought us into the land of Israel, and built for us the Chosen House, the Holy Temple, to atone for all our sins.

**רְبָנוֹ גַּמְלִיאֵל הָיָה אָוּמָר: כִּי
נִשְׁלָא אָמֵר שְׁלַשָּׁה דְּבָרִים
אֲלֹו בְּפֶסַח, לֹא יֵצֵא יְדֵי
חוּבָתוֹ, וְאֲלֹו הַן: פֶּסַח, מַצָּה,
וְמַרְורָה.**

One should deliberately not point out the Zeroah on the seder plate while reciting the next paragraph, as it not an actual Paschal Lamb:

**פֶּסַח שְׁחוֹן אֲבוֹתֵינוּ אָוּבָלִים
בֶּזְמָן שְׁבִית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ הָיָה
קִים, עַל שֻׁוּם מָה? עַל שֻׁוּם
שְׁפֵסָח הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא עַל
בְּתִי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ בְּמִצְרָיִם,
שֶׁנֶּאֱמָר: וְאִמְرָתָם זָבֵחׇ פֶּסַח
הֽוּא לִי, אֲשֶׁר פֶּסַח עַל בְּתִי
בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמִצְרָיִם בְּנִגְפּוֹ
אֶת מִצְרָיִם, וְאֶת בְּתִינָה הַצִּיל,
וַיִּקְדַּם הַעַם וַיִּשְׁתַּחַווּ.**

Identify the matzah to all those present and recite the following:

**מַצָּה זוֹ שְׁאָנוּ אָוּבָלִים, עַל
שֻׁוּם מָה? עַל שֻׁוּם נִשְׁלָא
הַסְּפִיק בְּצָקָם שֶׁל אֲבוֹתֵינוּ
לְהַמְּמִיעַ עד שְׁנִגְלָה עַלְיָהּם**

Rabbi Gamliel would say: Whoever does not discuss three things on Passover has not fulfilled their obligation to retell the Exodus; these three things are the Paschal Lamb, the Matzah, and the Bitter Vegetables.

The Paschal Lamb, which our ancestors ate during the time of the Holy Temple, what does it signify? It is because the Holy and Blessed One passed over our fathers' houses in Egypt, as the verse states: "You shall say, 'It is a Passover-offering to The Eternal, because He passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He plagued the Egyptians, but for our houses, He saved them.' And the people bowed and prostrated themselves."

This matzah that we eat – what does it signify? It is because the dough of our ancestors did not have time to rise before the King of Emperors, the Holy and Blessed One, revealed Himself and redeemed them; as the verse states: "They baked the dough

מֶלֶךְ מַלְכֵי הַמָּלְכִים, הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא, וְגַאֲלָם, שֶׁנָּאָמַר:
וַיֹּאמֶר אֶת הַבָּצָק אֲשֶׁר הָזִיאוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם עֲגַת מְצֻוֹת,
כִּי لَا חָמֵץ, כִּי גָּרְשָׂו
מִמִּצְרַיִם וְלَا יָכֹל
לְהַתְּמִימָה, וְגַם צְדָה לֹא עָשָׂו
לָהֶם.

Identify the bitter vegetables to all those present and recite the following:

מְרוֹר זֶה טְאָנוֹ אָוְכְלִים, עַל
שְׁוּם מָה? עַל שְׁוּם שְׁמַרְרוּ
הַמִּצְרַיִם אֶת חַיִּי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ
בְּמִצְרַיִם, שֶׁנָּאָמַר: וַיִּמְرְרוּ אֶת
חַיֵּיהם בְּעָבָדָה קָשָׁה, בְּחַמֵּר
וּבְלַבְגִּים וּבְכָל עָבָדָה בְּשָׁדָה
אֶת כָּל עָבָדָתֶם אֲשֶׁר עָבָדוּ
בָּהֶם בְּפִרְךָ.

that they brought out of Egypt into cakes of matzah, that were not leavened, because they had been expelled out of Egypt and could not hesitate, and they had also not prepared any other provisions."

These bitter vegetables that we eat – what do they signify? It is because the Egyptians embittered our ancestors' lives in Egypt, as the verse states: "And they embittered their lives with hard work; with mortar, bricks, and all the agricultural labor – all of their labor was served under harsh conditions."

בְּכָל דָּוֶר וְדָוֶר חַיֵּב אָדָם
לְרֹאֹת אֶת עַצְמוֹ כִּאֵלֹה הוּא
יֵצֵא מִמִּצְרַיִם, שֶׁנָּאָמַר:
וְהַגְּדָתָ לְבָנֶךָ בַּיּוֹם הַהִיא
לְאָמֶר, בְּעֹבֶר זֶה עָשָׂה יְיָ לִי
בְּצָאתִי מִמִּצְרַיִם. לֹא אֶת

In every generation, a person is obligated to see himself as if he had left Egypt, because the commandment states: "And you shall tell your son on that day, saying: 'it is because of this that The Eternal did for me when I left Egypt.'" Not only did the Blessed and Holy One redeem our ancestors from Egypt, but He even

אָבֹתֵינוּ בַּלְבָד גָּאֵל הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא, אֲלֹא אֲף אָוֹתָנוּ גָּאֵל עֲמֵהֶם, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: וְאָוֹתָנוּ הַזִּיא מִשְׁם, לְמַעַן הַבִּיא אָתָנוּ לְתַת לְנוּ אֶת הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לְאָבֹתֵינוּ.

redeemed us along with them, because the verse says: "And it was us that He brought out from there, in order to bring us to the land that will give us, as He swore to our ancestors."

THE BRIDGE FROM MAGGID TO HALLEL

Raise the cup of wine while reciting the following paragraph:

לְפִיכֹּךְ אָנַחֲנוּ חִיבִּים לְהֽוֹדֹת,
לְהַלֵּל, לְשִׁבְתָּה, לְפָאָר, לְרוֹמָם,
לְהַדָּר, לְבָרֶךְ, לְעַלְלָה וּלְקָלָס
לְמַיִּם שְׁעַשָּׂה לְאָבֹתֵינוּ וּלְנוּ
אֶת כָּל הַנְּסִים הָאַלְגָּוֹן: הַזִּיא אָנוּ
מַעֲבָדֹת לְחֻרוֹת, מִגּוֹן
לְשִׁמְחָה, וּמִאָבֶל לִיּוֹם טֹוב,
גָּדוֹל,
וּמִאֲפָלה לְאֹור
וּמִשְׁעָבָד לְגַאֲלָה. וּנְאִמֵּר
לִפְנֵיו שִׁירָה מִדְשָׁה: הַלְלוּיָה.

Therefore we are obligated to thank, to extoll, to praise, to glorify, to exalt, to adore, to bless, to elevate and to honor the One Who did all these miracles for our ancestors and for us. He took us from slavery to freedom, from sorrow to joy, and from mourning to celebration, and from black void to great light, and from bondage to redemption. Therefore we must say before Him a new psalm, Halleluyah!

הַלְלוּ יְהָה הַלְלוּ עֲבָדֵי יְהָה
הַלְלוּ אֶת שְׁם יְהָה. יְהִי שְׁם
יְהָה מְבָרֶךְ מִעֵתָה וְעַד עוֹלָם.
מִמְּרֹחַ שְׁמֶשׁ עַד מִבְּאוֹן

Halleluyah! Offer praise, servants of The Eternal; praise The Eternal Name. May The Eternal's Name be a source of blessings from now until forever. From the sun's rising to its setting, The Eternal's Name is praised. The Eternal is high above all nations; His

מְהֻלָּל שֶׁם יְהוָה. רַם עַל בָּל
 גּוֹים יְהוָה עַל הַשָּׁמִים כְּבוֹדוֹ.
 מֵי בִּיהוָה אֶלְהֵינוּ הַמְּגַבִּיחַ
 לְשָׁבַת. הַמְּשִׁפֵּילִי לְרָאֹת
 בְּשָׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ. מְקִימִי מַעֲפָר
 דָּל מַאֲשִׁפָּת יְרִים אֶבְיוֹן.
 לְהֽוֹשִׁיבִי עִם נְדִיבִים עִם נְדִיבִי
 עָמוֹ. מַוְשִׁיבִי עַקְרָת הַבִּית אֶם
 הַבָּנִים שְׁמִחָה הַלְלוּ יְהָה.
 בְּצָאת יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמָּצְרִים בַּיּוֹתֶר
 יַעֲקֹב מַעַם לְעֵז. הִתְהַיֵּה יְהוּדָה
 לְקָדְשׁוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמְּשִׁלּוֹתָיו.
 הַיּוֹם רָאָה וַיַּנִּסֶּה הַיַּרְדֵּן יִסְבֶּן
 לְאַחֲרָה. הַהָּרִים רַקְדוּ בָּאִילִים
 גְּבֻעוֹת בָּבְנֵי צָאן. מַה לְּךָ הַיּוֹם
 כִּי תַנוֹס הַיַּרְדֵּן תַּסְבֵּב לְאַחֲרָה.
 הַהָּרִים תַּرְקֹדוּ בָּאִילִים גְּבֻעוֹת
 בָּבְנֵי צָאן. מִלְּפָנֵי אֲדוֹן חֹלֵל
 אָרֶץ מִלְּפָנֵי אֱלֹהָה יַעֲקֹב
 הַהַפְכִּי הַצּוֹר אֲגַם מִים
 חַלְמִישׁ לְמַעַינּוֹ מִים.

glory is over the heavens. Who is like The Eternal, our God, Who dwells on high, yet allows His Essence to descend upon heaven and earth! He raises the poor from the dust, He lifts the destitute from the dung; to seat them with nobles, with the nobles of His people. He returns the barren woman to the house to become a joyful mother of children. Halleluyah!

When Israel exited Egypt, the House of Jacob from amongst a people with a foreign tongue, Judah became His holy one, Israel became His dominion. The sea saw and fled, the Jordan turned backward. The mountains danced like rams, the hills like young sheep. What is with you, O sea, that you flee; O Jordan, that you turn backward? Mountains, why do you skip like rams; hills, like young sheep? It is because you are before your Master, the sands of the earth are before the God of Jacob. It is because The Rock overturns a swamp into a flowing spring of water.

Raise the cup of wine and recite the following blessing:

ברוך אתה ייְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר גָּאַלנוּ וּגָאַל אֶת
אֲבוֹתֵינוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם, וְהִגִּיעֲנוּ
לְלִילָה הַזֶּה לְאַכְל בָּוּ מַצָּה
וּמְרוֹר. בָּן ייְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וּאֱלֹהֵינוּ
אֲבוֹתֵינוּ יִגְיָעֵנוּ לְמוֹעֵדים
הַבָּאִים אֶחָדִים וּלְרָגְלִים
לְקָרָאתֵנוּ לְשָׁלוֹם, שְׁמָחִים
בְּבִנְיָנוּ עִירֵךְ וּשְׁשִׁים בַּעֲבוֹדָתְךָ.
וּנְאַכְל שֶׂם מִן הַבָּחִים וּמִן
הַפְּסָחִים אֲשֶׁר יִגְיַע דָם עַל
קַרְבָּן מִזְבְּחָךְ לְרִצּוֹן, וּנְזַהַה לְךָ
שִׁיר חֶדֶש עַל גָּאַלְתֵּנוּ וּעַל
פְּדוּת נִפְנֵנָנוּ. ברוך אתה ייְהוָה
גָּאַל יִשְׂרָאֵל.

ברוך אתה ייְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הַגֶּפֶן.

Blessed are You, The Eternal our God, King of the Universe, Who has redeemed us and our ancestors from Egypt, and brought us to this night to eat matzah and bitter vegetables. So too, Eternal, our God and God of our ancestors, bring us other holidays and festivals that will come to us in peace; with happiness in the rebuilding of Your city, and with rejoicing in Your Holy Temple service. May we there eat of the sacrifices and Paschal lambs whose blood shall be sprinkled on the wall of Your altar for acceptance; and we shall thank You with a new song for our redemption and for the reclaiming of our souls. Blessed are You, The Eternal, Who redeemed Israel.

Blessed are You, The Eternal our God, King of the Universe; Who creates the fruit of the vine.

Drink the cup of wine while reclining to the left.

רָחְצָה

Rachtzah

The Seder continues with the ritual of Rachtzah, in which participants wash their hands (this time with the recitation of a blessing) as part of the standard process for breaking bread.

Unlike Urchatz, Rachtzah does not deviate from commonplace Jewish rituals.

Fill a cup with water, and then pour it over each hand twice. (Some have the custom to pour three times.) Before drying your hands, recite the following blessing:

ברוך אתה ייְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְשָׁנוּ בְמַצּוֹתֵינוּ
וְצִוָּנוּ עַל נְטִילַת יָדִים.

Blessed are You, The Eternal our God, King of the Universe; Who has sanctified us with His commandments and has commanded us regarding the washing of hands.

Dry your hands with a towel.

מַצְחָא מַצָּה

Motzi Matzah

After the washing of the hands, it is time to eat the matzah.

The commandment to eat matzah at the Seder is the only remaining mitzvah in which eating a particular item is considered the fulfillment of a biblical obligation. In the current era, any other commandment to eat a particular food (such as the bitter vegetables, which will be eaten next) are incumbent upon us only at a rabbinically-mandated level, so that we will not forget how our ancestors were able to fulfill the commandment to its utmost degree.

Because of this uniquely high degree of obligation, halachic authorities stress the gravity of the commandment to eat matzah; and thus provide conservative guidelines as to how much and how quickly one should eat matzah in order to satisfy even the most demanding interpretations in Jewish law. Therefore, the prevalent opinion is that one should eat a measurement of two *zeitim*¹ in a timespan of *k'dei achilat pras*², in order to satisfy all opinions. However, the precise definition of these Talmudic measurements is unclear; and thus there is further debate in which opinions are equally conservative in their estimates.

In practice, it is advisable that one consult with their local respected halachic authority to determine the precise amount to be consumed, and how long one may take to finish eating that required amount. If for some reason one has not been able to inquire or is physically incapable of consuming the suggested amount, one should steadily eat matzah until one's stomach begins to feel as though one has eaten. In effect, this usually entails eating at least three quarters of a matzah over the span of at least five minutes; which is likely to be the smallest amount of time it takes for one's stomach to indicate that it is no longer hungry. Regardless of the quantity and time required to fulfill the obligation, it is clear that one cannot fulfill their obligation by eating a small, cracker-sized quantity of matzah.

Raise the plate of matzah and recite the following blessings:

ברוך אתה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, הַמּוֹצִיא לְחֵם מִן
הָאָרֶץ.

Blessed are You, The Eternal our God,
King of the Universe; Who brings
forth bread from the land.

מוֹצִיא מַצָּה

Motzi Matzah

בָּרוּךְ אֱתָה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קָדַשְׂנוּ בְמַצּוֹתֵינוּ
וְצִוָּנוּ עַל אֲכִילַת מַצָּה.

Blessed are You, The Eternal our God, King of the Universe; Who has sanctified us with His commandments and has commanded us regarding the eating of the matzah.

Eat the required amount of matzah while reclining to the left.

¹The reason for eating two *zeitim* is so that the first *k'zeiyit* will fulfill one's obligation to eat 'bread' on the holiday (a generic obligation that applies to all festivals), and the second *k'zeiyit* to fulfill the biblically-mandated commandment to eat matzah.

Sephardic authorities generally maintain that a singular *k'zeiyit* is 27 grams, therefore two *zeitim* would be 54 grams. Ashkenazic authorities base a *k'zeiyit* on volume rather than weight, and have much more varied opinions as to the precise definition; although the commonly accepted measurement in weight for a *k'zeiyit* is 29 grams; with two *zeitim* being 58 grams. Note that a single sheet of machine-made matzah is typically around 33 grams.

Almost all authorities acknowledge the difficulty of eating this much matzah, and suggest that at bare minimum, one should try to eat 19 grams, which is slightly less than two-thirds of a machine-made matzah. However, individuals should consult a local respected halachic authority for more information and to determine the precise proper practice.

²The widely accepted timespan for *k'dei achilat pras* is approximately 4 minutes. However, this is the standard measurement that is used for commonplace halachic considerations; and may not be suitable with regard to eating matzah, where the convention is to be particularly strict. Some opinions indicate that when eating matzah, one should eat the required amount within even 2 minutes; others are skeptical, arguing that this may be physically impossible, especially given the opinions that suggest one need to eat almost two full sheets of matzah.

Some authorities maintain that as long as one does not take a break from eating, one may take as long as 18 minutes. Additionally, many feel that one need not rush while eating, which may be a factor into the timespan. As mentioned in the previous note, for those interested in the technicalities, one should seek out a qualified halachich authority.

After one has concluded eating the prescribed amount of matzah, it is time to eat the bitter vegetables.

While many have the common practice of using horseradish for marror, it is actually not the recommended food to serve this purpose. Horseradish is not an actual vegetable, it is a root; but more importantly, horseradish is sharp rather than bitter.

Horseradish came into popular practice due to the idea that because of its sharpness, it makes one cry; and these tears are supposed to remind one of the bitter tears of our ancestors. While this is certainly a noble aspect of the practice that should by no means be discouraged, it is preferable to use a vegetable that emphasizes the bitter taste in one's mouth. It is for this reason that romaine lettuce is often suggested. However, many opinions feel that romaine lettuce is not sufficiently bitter for use as marror, since it is commonly eaten as the main ingredient in salad.

However, other salad greens that are not typically the core element of a common salad make excellent choices for marror. Both endive and raddichio have strong, bitter flavors that stand out when eaten alone, and can be considered recommended vegetables for marror.

One should eat a *k'zeiyit*¹ of marror after dipping it in *charoset*. Note that the intent is to use only a small amount of *charoset* when eating marror, as one should primarily taste the bitter essence of the vegetable. It is widely suggested that after dipping, one should actually shake off the *charoset*, since the act of dipping is merely symbolic rather than a fundamental aspect of the commandment to eat marror.

Recite the following blessing:

ברוך אתה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אָשֶׁר קָדַשְׂנוּ בְמִצְוֹתָיו וִצְוָנוּ עַל אֲכִילַת מַרְור.

Blessed are You, The Eternal our God, King of the Universe; Who has sanctified us with His commandments and has commanded us regarding the eating of the bitter vegetables.

Eat the required amount of marror, but do not recline while doing so.

¹Most opinions agree that one may rely on the lenient measurements of a *k'zeiyit* for the purpose of eating marror, which is approximately 19 grams. Notably, it is much easier to eat 19 grams worth of endive or radicchio than fresh horseradish.

After one has concluded eating the prescribed amount of bitter vegetables, there is an established custom to eat a sandwich ('korech' — to 'bundle') of both matzah and marror.

Most halachic authorities indicate that one should make their sandwich from one *k'zeiyit* of matzah with one *k'zeiyit* of marror, folding the matzah over so that it covers both sides of the bitter vegetables. However, all authorities recognize the difficulty of eating yet another *k'zeiyit* of matzah and/or marror and suggest more lenient approaches, since Korech is largely symbolic rather than a direct fulfillment of a commandment. If necessary, a qualified halachic authority can be consulted to determine the proper guidelines.

Recite the following passage:

זָכַר לִמְקָדֵש בְּהַלֵּל. כִּי עֲשָׂה
הַלֵּל בِזְמַן שְׁבִית הַמְּקָדֵש הִיה
קָיִם: הִיה כּוֹרֵךְ מַצָּה וּמְרוֹר
וְאֶזְבֵּל בַּיַּחַד, לְקָיִם מִה
שְׁנָאָמֵר: עַל מַצּוֹת וּמְרָרִים
יַאֲכִילוּ.

We do what Hillel did to commemorate what we used to do when the Holy Temple was still standing: he would combine the Paschal Lamb, the matzah and bitter vegetables, and then eat them together. He based this on an interpretation of the following verse: "They shall eat it [the Paschal Lamb] with matzah and bitter vegetables." This implies one must eat them not only within the same meal, but at exactly the same time.

Eat the matzah and marror sandwich while reclining to the left.

The main meal is served. It is customary to serve meat, fish, or poultry in accordance with the general obligations of a festive meal. Individuals may drink wine if they so choose; however, any wine consumed during the meal will not count towards the overall obligation to drink four cups of wine during the Passover Seder.

One should not eat excessively, as there will be an obligation to eat the Afikoman at the end of the meal, and one is not supposed to eat the Afikoman if they are bloated. In addition, the meal should not take an excessive amount of time, as the Afikoman needs to be eaten prior to chatzot, the halachic definition of midnight.

After the meal, it is time to eat the Afikoman; the matzah that was set aside earlier in the evening.

The Afikoman is the symbolic equivalent to eating the Paschal Lamb during the Passover Seder. As a result, there is great significance attached to it as well as guidelines intended to reflect the laws that were followed during the era when the Paschal Lamb was actually eaten.

Because of this, the Afikoman should be the last food consumed for the evening, and should be eaten before halachic midnight, which varies depending on the time of year. If one is still eating and halachic midnight arrives, one should eat a piece of matzah at that moment with the intent to fulfill the requirement to eat the Paschal Lamb before midnight, and then after finishing their meal, eat the Afikoman so that matzah remains as the last food eaten during the evening.

After partaking the Afikoman, one should refrain from eating; however, one may still consume wine, grape juice, or water.

Similar to the obligation to eat matzah and marror, it is recommended that one eat a *k'zeiyit* of the Afikoman. If there is not enough Afikoman (or it is misplaced) then any matzah will suffice. If one feels that they cannot eat this suggested quantity, it is advisable to at least chew the Afikoman for a significant quantity of time to insure that one adequately tastes the matzah. Similar to all other cases at the Seder, one should consult a local respected halachic authority to determine the proper practice.

Eat the required amount of matzah while reclining to the left.

The Seder continues with Grace After Meals. The third cup of wine should be poured at this time, and will be drunk afterwards. Afterwards, the Cup of Elijah will also be presented as a supplement to the third cup. Some have the custom to pour the cup of Elijah before the Seder or during Maggid; however, if it has not yet been poured, it is customary to wait to pour it until after Grace After Meals is completed.

This version of Grace After Meals follows popular Ashkenazi custom.

שְׁיר הַמְּלֹות. בָּטוּב יִאָת
 שִׁיבַת צִיּוֹן הַיִנּוּ בְּחֶלְמִים: אֲזִ
 יְמֵלָא שְׁחוֹק פִּינּוּ וְלְשׂוֹגְנוּ
 רֶפֶה. אֲזִ יָאמְרוּ בְּגָוִים הַגְּדִיל
 יִיְלַעֲשֹׂת עִם אֱלֹהָה: הַגְּדִיל יִ
 לְעַשֹּׂת עָמָנוּ. הַיִנּוּ שְׁמָחִים:
 שׁוֹבָה יִאָת שְׁבִיתָנוּ
 כְּאַפִּיקִים בְּגַבְבָּה: הַרְעִים
 בְּדִמְעָה בְּרֶפֶה יְקַצְרָה: הַלּוֹךְ
 יַלְךְ וּבָכָה נִשְׁאָמְשָׁךְ הַרְעָעָה:
 בָּא יָבָא בְּרֶפֶה. נִשְׁאָמְתָה:

A Song of Praises: When The Eternal returned the refugees of Zion, it was if we were dreamers. It was then that our mouths were filled with laughter and our tongues with song. Then it was said among the nations: "God has showed His Greatness for these people." God has showed His Greatness on our behalf, and we rejoiced. Return us refugees from exile, O Eternal, like the streams in Israel's southern desert. Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. The one who walks — the one who goes forth weeping, carrying sacks of seeds — should come back in joy, bearing the sheaves [that have grown from them].

When benching with a zimmun — usually defined as the presence of three males above the age of bar-mitzvah — the following preface to Grace After Meals is recited line by line, beginning with the leader. (If a full minyan is present, then the words in parentheses should also be recited.) The leader should hold his third cup of wine until noted, with the specific intention of reciting Grace over the wine.

רְבָוֹתִי נְבָרֶךְ:

Gentlemen, let us recite grace.

**יְהִי שֵׁם יְהָרֵךְ מְעַתָּה וְעַד
עוֹלָם:**

May the name of The Eternal be praised from now until forever.

**בְּרִישָׁת מִרְנָנו וּרְבָנָנו וּרְבָוֹתִי
נְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהֵינוּ שַׁאֲכָלָנוּ
מְשָׁלוֹן:**

With the permission of all attending, let us acknowledge Him (our God) for His food that we have eaten.

**בָּרוּךְ (אֱלֹהֵינוּ) שַׁאֲכָלָנוּ מְשָׁלוֹן
וּבְטוּבוֹ חִיָּנוּ:**

Blessed is He (our God) of Whose food we have eaten and that His goodness sustains us.

בָּרוּךְ הוּא וּבָרוּךְ שְׁמוֹ:

He is blessed and His name is blessed.

Grace After Meals continues from here, even without the presence of a zimmun.

**בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהָרֵךְ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם. הָזֹן אֶת הָעוֹלָם בָּלָן.
בְּטוּבוֹ בְּחִנּוֹ בְּחֶסֶד וּבְרַחְמָם.
הָזָא נוֹתֵן לְחֵם לְכָל בָּשָׂר. בַּי
לְעוֹלָם חֶסְדוֹ: וּבְטוּבוֹ הַגָּדוֹל
תִּמְדֵּיד לֹא חֶסֶר לְנוּ וְאֶל יְחִסְר
לְנוּ מִזְוֹן לְעוֹלָם וְעַד. בְּעַבְור
שְׁמוֹ הַגָּדוֹל. בַּי הָזָא אֶל זֶן**

Blessed are You, The Eternal our God, King of the Universe, Who sustains the entire world with goodness, graciousness and mercy. He gives bread to all flesh, for His mercy is everlasting. And through His immense goodness we do not, and pray we will not, lack sustenance; for the sake of His great name, since He is God Who sustains and provides all, does good to all, and prepares food for all the creatures that He created. Blessed are You, The Eternal, Who sustains everything.

ברך

וּמִפְרִנָס לְכָל וּמֶטַב לְכָל
וּמֶכְיוֹן מֵזָן לְכָל בָּרוּתָיו אֲשֶׁר
בָּרָא: בָּרוּךְ אֱתָה יי. הָזֶן אֶת
הַכָּל:

נוֹדָה לְךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ. עַל
שְׂהַנְחָלָת לְאָבוֹתֵינוּ אֶרֶץ
חַמְדָה טוֹבָה וַרְחָבָה. וּעַל
שְׂהַזְצָאתֵנוּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִאֶרֶץ
מִצְרַיִם. וּפְדִיתֵנוּ מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים.
וּעַל בָּרִיתְךָ שְׂחַתְמָתָךָ בְּבָשָׂרֵינוּ.
וּעַל תּוֹרַתְךָ שְׂלִימָדָתָךָ. וּעַל
חֻקִיךְ שְׂהַדְעָתָנוּ. וּעַל חַיִים חַנוּ
וְחֶסֶד שְׂחַונְגָתָנוּ. וּעַל אֲכִילָת
מֵזָן שְׂאָתָה זוּ וּמִפְרִנָס אָוָתָנוּ
תְּמִיד. בָּכָל יוֹם וּבָכָל עַת וּבָכָל
שְׁעָה:

וּעַל הַכָּל יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֱ�נָחָנוּ
מוֹדִים לְךָ וּמִבְרָכִים אָוָתָךָ.
תָּתִבְרֹךְ שְׁמֶךְ בְּפִי כָל חַי תְּמִיד
לְעוֹלָם וְעַד: כְּפָתּוֹב. וְאֲכַלְתָּ

We thank You, The Eternal our God, for having endowed to our ancestors a lovely, good, and spacious land; and for The Eternal our God taking us out from the land of Egypt and redeeming us from the house of slavery; for Your covenant [of circumcision] which You have sealed in our flesh; and for Your Torah of which we have been taught; for Your laws of which we have been informed; for the life, grace and loving kindness which has been bestowed upon us; and for the sustenance with which God continuously sustains and provides for us, every day in every season, at every time.

For everything, The Eternal our God, we thank You and bless You. May Your name be blessed in the mouth of every living being forever, as it is written: "And you will eat, and you will be satiated, and you will bless The

ברך

וַיְשִׁבַּעֲתָ וּבְרָכָתָ אֶת יְיָ אֱלֹהֵיךְ
עַל הָאָרֶץ הַטְּבָה אֲשֶׁר נָטוּ
לְךָ בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ. עַל הָאָרֶץ
וְעַל הַמִּזְוֹן:

רְחֵם נָא יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל
עַמָּךְ. וְעַל יְרוּשָׁלָם עִירְךָ. וְעַל
צִיּוֹן מְשֻׁבֵּן כְּבוֹדְךָ. וְעַל מַלְכֹות
בֵּית דָוד מֶשְׁיחָךְ. וְעַל הַבִּיטָה
הַגָּדוֹל וְהַקָּדוֹשׁ שְׁנִיקָרָא שְׁמָךְ
עַלְיוֹן: אֱלֹהֵינוּ. אָבִינוּ. רְעָנוּ
לְוָגָנוּ פְּרָנֵסָנוּ וּבְלַבְלָנוּ
וּמְרוּיחָנוּ. וּמְרֻנוּחָ לְנוּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ
מְהֻרָה מִכָּל צְרוֹתֵינוּ. וּנְאָא אַל
תִּצְרִיכָנוּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ לֹא לִידֵי
מִתְנַת בָּשָׂר וְדָם וְלֹא לִידֵי
הַלְוָאתָם. בַּי אָמָ לִידֵי
הַמְּלָאָה. הַפְּתֻווָּה. הַקָּדוֹשָׁה
וְהַרְחָבָה. שְׁלָא גִּבּוֹשׁ וְלֹא
נִכְלָם לְעוֹלָם וְעַד:

Eternal your God for the good land that He has given you." Blessed are You, The Eternal, for the land and its sustenance.

May You, The Eternal our God, have mercy on Your nation Israel; and on Your city Jerusalem; and on Zion, the abode of Your Glory; and on the royal house of David, Your anointed one; and on the great and holy Temple that bears Your Name. Our God, our Father, [please] tend us, sustain us, provide for us, nourish us, bestow us [with what we need to fulfill our need], and quickly relieve us from all of our troubles. Please, The Eternal our God, do not make us dependent on the charity of mankind or loans of others, but rather on Your full, open, holy and generous Hand, so that we may never be embarrassed or humiliated.

On the Sabbath, the following paragraph should be included:

רָצָה וְחַלִּיכָנוּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ
בְמִצּוֹתֶיךָ וּבְמִצּוֹת יוֹם הַשְׁבִּיעִי
הַשְׁבָּת הַגָּדוֹל וַהֲקֹדֶשׁ הַזָּה.
כִּי יוֹם זֶה גָדוֹל וַהֲקֹדֶשׁ הוּא
לִפְנֵיךְ לְשָׁבָת בָּו וְלִנְוחָת בָּו
בָאַהֲבָה בְמִצּוֹת רְצׂוֹנֶךָ
וּבְרְצׂוֹנֶךָ הַנִּיחָת לָנוּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ
שֶׁלֹּא תְהִיא צְרָה וְגַעַן וְאַנְחָה
בַיּוֹם מִנּוֹחָתֵנוּ וְהַרְאָנוּ יְיָ
אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְנִיחָמת צִיּוֹן עִירְךָ
וּבְבָנָיו יְרוּשָׁלָם עִיר קָדְשָׁךָ כִּי
אַתָּה הוּא בַעַל הַיְשׁוּעָת
וּבַעַל הַנִּחְמוֹת.

Satisfy and strengthen us, The Eternal our God, with Your commandments and the commandment of the seventh day, this great and holy Sabbath, because today is great and holy before You; to rest and to relax on with love according to Your will. And may it be Your will to grant us comfort, O Eternal our God, so that we have no trouble, despair or grief on our day of rest. Show us, The Eternal our God, the comfort of Your city Zion, and the rebuilding of Jerusalem, Your Holy City; because You are the Master of Salvation and Comfort.

אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ יָעַלְה
וַיָּבוֹא וַיָּגִיעַ וַיָּרַאֲה וַיָּרַצֵּחַ
וַיָּשִׁמע וַיִּפְקַד וַיִּזְכַּר זְכָרוֹנֵינוּ
וַיִּקְדּוֹנֵנוּ וַיִּכְרֹן אֲבוֹתֵינוּ
וַיִּכְרֹן מֶשֶׁיחַ בֶּן דָוד עַבְדָךְ
וַיִּכְרֹן יְרוּשָׁלָם עִיר קָדְשָׁךְ
וַיִּכְרֹן כָל עַמֶךְ בֵית יִשְׂרָאֵל
לִפְנֵיךְ לְפָלִיטָה לְטוּבָה לְחִןָה

Our God and God of our ancestors – ascend, come, approach, show, desire, listen, recall, and remember our memories and recollections, the memory of our ancestors, the memory of the Messiah from the lineage of David, Your servant; the memory of Jerusalem, Your holy city; and the memory of all of Your nation, the House of Israel, before You, for respite, goodness, favor, kindness, mercy, life, and peace on this Festival

ברך

וְלֹחֶסֶד וּלְרַחֲמִים לְחַיִם
וְלִשְׁלוֹם בַּיּוֹם חֶג הַמְצֻוֹת הָזֶה
לְכָרְנוּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ בָּזֶה לְטוּבָה
וּפְקִידָנוּ בָּזֶה לְבָרְכָה וְהַושְׁעֵנוּ בָּזֶה
לְחַיִם. וּבְדִבָּר יְשׁוּעָה וּרְחַמִּים
חוֹס וּמְגַנֵּן וּרְחַם עָלֵינוּ
וְהַoshעֵנוּ כי אליך עִינֵינוּ כי
אל מֶלֶךְ חַנוֹן וּרְחֹם אַתָּה:

Many Ashkenazi Jews have the custom to recite the parenthesized word in the following paragraph, even though it does not appear in the original text of Grace After Meals that is found in the Talmud.

וּבְנָה יְרוּשָׁלָם עִיר הַקָּדָשׁ
בִּמְהֻרָה בְּיָמֵינוּ. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי.
בּוֹנָה (בְּרַחֲמֵיו) יְרוּשָׁלָם: אָמֵן:
בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם. הָאָל. אָבִינוּ. מֶלֶכְנוּ.
אָדִירָנוּ. בּוֹרָאָנוּ. גּוֹאָלָנוּ.
יוֹצְרָנוּ. קָדוֹשָׁנוּ קָדוֹשׁ יַעֲקֹבָ
רוּעָנוּ רֹועָה יִשְׂרָאֵל. הַמֶּלֶךְ
הַטּוֹב וְהַמְּטִיב לְכָל. שָׁבֵךְ לִיּוֹם
לִיּוֹם הוּא הַטּוֹב הוּא מְטִיב
הַוּא יִטּוֹב לָנוּ. הַוּא גּוֹמְלָנוּ
הַוּא גּוֹמְלָנוּ הַוּא יִגְמְלָנוּ לְעֵד

of Matzot. Remember us, O Eternal our God, on it for goodness and recall us on it for blessing, and save us on it for life. And in this matter of salvation and mercy, pity, grace us, and have mercy on us, and save us; as our eyes are to You because You are God, the Gracious and Merciful King.

[Please] rebuild Jerusalem, the holy city, speedily in our days. Blessed are You, The Eternal, Who (mercifully) rebuilds Jerusalem. Amen.

Blessed is The Eternal our God, King of the Universe, Who is our God, our Father, our King, our Exalted, our Creator, our Redeemer, our Maker, the Holy One Who Sanctified Jacob, our Shepherd of Israel, the Good King who does good to all – for every day He has benefitted us, benefits us, and will benefit us. He was, is, and will attend to us forever in grace, kindness, mercy, abundance, deliverance, blessing, salvation, consolation, monetary means,

ברך

לְחֵן וָלְחֶסֶד וָלְרִחְמָם וָלְרוּחַ
 הַצְּלָה וְהַצְּלָחוֹת בְּרָכָה וַיְשׁוּעָה
 נְחַמָּה פָּרָנָסָה וּבְלִבְלָה
 וְרִחְמָם וְתִיְם וַיְשַׁלָּום וּבְלַבְלָה
 טֹב, וּמְבָל טֹב לְעוֹלָם אֲלָל
 יְחִיטָרְנוּ:

When reciting with a zimmun, the leader may put down his cup of wine.

הַרְחָמָן הַזָּא יְמַלֵּךְ עַלְנוּ
 לְעוֹלָם וְעַד:
 הַרְחָמָן הַזָּא יִתְבָּרֵךְ בְּשָׁמִים
 יְבָאָרֵץ:
 הַרְחָמָן הַזָּא יִשְׂתַּבְחַה לְדוֹר
 דּוֹרִים, וַיִּתְפָּאֶר בָּנוּ לְעַד
 וְלִגְצָח נְצָחִים, וַיִּתְהַדֵּר בָּנוּ
 לְעַד וְלִעְולָמִי עוֹלָמִים:
 הַרְחָמָן הַזָּא יִפְרְנַסְנוּ בְּכֻבֹּד:
 הַרְחָמָן הַזָּא יִשְׁבַּר עַלְנוּ מִעַל
 צָבָאֵינוּ וְהַזָּא יוֹלִיכְנוּ קֹמְמִיזָה
 לְאָרָצָנוּ:
 הַרְחָמָן הַזָּא יִשְׁלַח לְנוּ בְּרָכָה
 מִרְבָּה בְּבֵית הַזָּה וְעַל שְׁלָחוֹ
 לְה שְׁפָאָבְלָנוּ עַלְיוֹ:

sustenance, mercy, life, peace, and all goodness; and [we pray] that from this goodness, may God never withhold any of it from us.

May the Merciful One rule over us forever and ever.

May the Merciful One be blessed [from all places] in heaven and earth.

May the Merciful One be praised in all generations, glorified by us forever in the most extolled manner, and beautified by us forever in all universes.

May the Merciful One provide us monetary means in a respectful fashion.

May the Merciful One break the yoke [of burdens] upon us, upon our necks, and may He bring us from the farthest corners of the earth to our homeland.

May the Merciful One send us a blessing of abundance to this house and to this table that we dine at.

May the Merciful One send us the Prophet Elijah, who will remember us

ברך

הַרְחָמֵן הָוֹא יִשְׁלַח לֶנוּ אֶת
אֱלֹהֵינוּ הַנְּבִיא זָכָר לְטוֹב
וַיְבָשֵׂר לֶנוּ בְּשׂוֹרוֹת טוֹבוֹת
יְשֻׁ�וּת וְגִנְחָמוֹת:

The following paragraph is a blessing bestowed upon the host, the host's spouse, and the host's children and grandchildren. Even the host is expected to request a blessing on his or her behalf, although many have the custom to include their guests as well. In the presence of one's parents, grandparents, rabbi, or teachers, it is customary to acknowledge them first. Each participant should recite the next paragraph accordingly.

הַרְחָמֵן הָוֹא יִבָּרֵךְ אֶת (אָבִי
מוֹרִי) בֶּעֶל הַבָּיִת הַזֶּה וְאֶת
(אָמִי מוֹרָתִי) בֶּעֶלְתִּי הַבָּיִת
הַזֶּה. אֲוֹתָם וְאֶת בִּתְמֵם וְאֶת
זָרָעֵם וְאֶת כָּל אָשָׁר לָהֶם.
(הַרְחָמֵן הָוֹא יִבָּרֵךְ אֹתָי וְאֶת
אָשָׁתִי וְאֶת זָרְעִי וְאֶת כָּל
אָשָׁר לִי/לֶנוּ), אֲוֹתָנוּ וְאֶת כָּל
אָשָׁר לֶנוּ. כְּמוֹ שְׁגַנְתָּבָרְכוּ
אֲבוֹתֵינוּ אֶבְרָהָם יַצְחָק וַיַּעֲקֹב,
בְּפָל. מִפְל. פָל. כְּנָוָן יִבָּרֵךְ אֲוֹתָנוּ
כֶּלֶנוּ יְחִיד בְּבָרְכָה שְׁלִמָּה.
וְנִאֵמֶר אָמֶן:

for good and herald great proclamations of salvation and consolation [i.e. the arrival of the Messiah].

May the Merciful One bless (my father / my mother / my grandfather / my grandmother / my rabbi / my teacher), (me / my wife / my husband / our children / our grandchildren / our guests), (the host / his wife / her husband / their children / their grandchildren), us and everything that is ours; just as our ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob have been blessed with everything, from everything, and in every way. In this vein, may He bless us all together with a comprehensive blessing – and we shall say Amen.

ברך

בָּמָרוֹם יְלִמְדוּ עַלְيָהֶם וְעַלְיָנוּ
 זְבוֹת נְשָׁתָה אָ לְמֵשֶׁמֶרֶת
 שְׁלוּם. וּנְשָׂא בָּרְכָה מֵאָתָה יִיּוּ
 וְצִדְקָה מֵאֱלֹהִי יִשְׁעָנוּ. וּנְמַצָּא
 חָן וְשַׁכְלָל טֻוב בְּעִינֵינוּ אֱלֹהִים
 וְאָדָם:

In the Highest of Heights, may merit be transmitted to them [those we have just blessed] and to us, so that we may take part in an era of peace; and a blessing from The Eternal will be carried forth, with righteousness from the God of our salvation, so that grace and good sense are found in the eyes of God and man.

On the Sabbath, include the following:

לִיּוֹם הַרְחִמָּן הַזֶּה יְנַחֵלֵנוּ
 לְמַיִּהְיוֹת שְׁבָת שְׁבָט
 וּמְנוֹתָה שְׁכָלָל שְׁכָלָל
 הַעוֹלָמִים:

May the Merciful One hand down to us a day that is entirely Sabbatical and a rest for all inhabitants of the universe.

הַרְחִמָּן הַזֶּה יְנַחֵלֵנוּ יוֹם שְׁכָלָל
 טֻוב:

May the Merciful One hand down to us a day that is entirely good.

May the Merciful One merit us [to see] the days of the Messiah and to live in the World to Come.

הַרְחִמָּן הַזֶּה יְצַבֵּנוּ לִימוֹת
 הַמֶּשִׁיחַ וְלִחְיֵי הַעוֹלָם הַבָּא:
 מְגֹדָל יְשׁוּעָת מֶלֶכְנוּ וְעַשָּׂה
 חֶסֶד לְמֶשִׁיחּוּ לְדוֹד וְלִזְרָעּוּ עַד
 עוֹלָם: עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוּם בָּמְרוֹמָיו
 הַזֶּה יְעַשֵּׂה שְׁלוּם עַלְיָנוּ וְעַלְיָנוּ
 כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן:

The King's salvations are a tower [that watches over us]; and He does kindness for His anointed one, David and his offspring, forever.

He Who makes peace in His highest of heights, may He establish peace for us and for all of Israel, and let us say: Amen.

ברך

יראו אֲתָּה יְיָ קָדוֹשָׁךְ כִּי אֵין
מַחְסָר לִירְאֵי: בְּפִירִים רֶשֶׁת
וְרַעַב וְדֹרֶשִׁי יִי לֹא יִחְסַרְךָ כָּל
טֻוב: הַזָּהָן לִי כִּי טֻוב כִּי
לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד: פָּוֹתַח אֲתָּה יְהִי
וּמְשִׁבְעַת לְכָל מֵרָצֵנוּ: בָּרוּךְ
הָגָבָר אֲשֶׁר יִבְטַח בֵּינוֹ וְהִיא יִ
מְבַטְּחוֹ: נָעַר הַיִתִּי גַּם זָקַנֵּתִי
וְלֹא רָאִיתִי צָדִיק נָעַזְבָּן וְזָרָעָן
מִבְקָשׁ לְחַם: יִי עַז לְעַמּוֹ יִתְּן יִ
בָּרוּךְ אֲתָּה עַמּוֹ בְּשָׁלוֹם:

Be in awe of The Eternal, His Consecrated; for there will be no lacking for those who look to him with awe. Those who deny Him are destitute and hungry, but those who seek The Eternal shall not lack anything that is good. Express gratitude to The Eternal, for He is good; God's kindness endures forever. He opens His Hand and satiates every living thing with will. Blessed is the man who trusts in The Eternal, for The Eternal will be his promise. "I have been a youth, and I have also been an elder, but I have not seen a saint abandoned, nor that person's offspring begging for bread." May The Eternal give strength to our people; may The Eternal bless our people with peace.

All participants should raise their glass of wine. If a zimmun was present for Grace After Meals, the leader of the zimmun should lead the recitation of the blessing for the third cup of wine.

סְבִּרִי מְרַבָּנו וּרְבָנָנו וּרְבָותֵינוּ:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, בָּרוּךְ פַּרְיָה הַגֶּפֹן.

Attention all:

Blessed are You, The Eternal our God, King of the Universe; Who creates the fruit of the vine.

Drink the cup of wine. One should lean to the left while drinking.

The Seder continues with the Cup of Elijah.

Pour a separate cup of wine (i.e. one not already belonging to a participant of the Seder) and place it on the table. Many have the custom to open a door to their residence while reciting the next paragraph. The Cup of Elijah should not be partaken of, but rather left on the table until the conclusion of the Seder.

שְׁפֵךְ חַמְתָּךְ אֶל הָגּוּם אֲשֶׁר
 לֹא יִדְעֹךְ וְעַל מַמְלָכּוֹת אֲשֶׁר
 בְּשַׁמְךָ לֹא קָרָאוּ: כִּי אָכַל אֶת
 יַעֲקֹב וְאֶת נָחוֹת הַשְׁמָמוֹ: שְׁפֵךְ
 עֲלֵיכֶם זָעַם וְחַרְון אֲפָךְ
 יִשְׁיָגֶם: תִּרְדַּף בָּאָף וְתִשְׁמַיְידָם
 מִתְחַת שְׁמֵי יְיָ:

Pour your wrath on the nations that do not acknowledge You¹ and on the kingdoms that do not call out Your Name — For they have devoured Jacob and have devastated his habitats. Pour upon them Your fury, and let Your anger overtake them. Pursue them in anger and persecute them under The Eternal's heavens.

¹The paragraph recited over the Cup of Elijah is of a drastically different sentiment than previous points in the Seder. Many may even feel uncomfortable by this seemingly vengeful and spiteful inclusion, or be confused as to why this particular passage is chosen to be recited in reference to Elijah's Cup.

One must understand that the holiday of Passover, first and foremost, is a holiday about Jewish identity. This identity is not merely spiritual, but also national. Passover does not merely reflect that Jews share the same religion, but that we are members of a single nation, no matter how scattered we are across the world. We take this time to reflect on how we have a unique mission, how we are supposed to lead other nations to enlightenment rather than assume we are no different than the rest of the world.

The Egyptians attempted to eradicate us. They would not be the last nation to rise up and attempt to annihilate us. Many others would try, from Haman of Purim to Antiochus of Chanukah and their modern-era counterparts, Hitler and Eichmann of the Nazis, Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Ayatollah. Yet even during our darkest times, God has never allowed us to be completely destroyed. We have always survived.

Until this point, the Haggadah has been reflective of the past and how it has shaped us. We are thankful for what The Almighty has done for us, and grateful for what He continues to do for us. Elijah, however, is an emissary of the future. It is at this point in the Seder that we begin to not only look at how the past has shaped the present, but how the present will shape the future. What we are thankful for now will form our outlook for the future. Similarly, we cannot adequately face that future if we do not recognize the reality of the present.

As much as we strive for a world of peace and tolerance for all, at this juncture the Haggadah wants to remind us that there are those who do not. There is evil in the world, and it does not want the same outcome — and those that have forsaken their moral authority by unjustly persecuting us cannot be dismissed. We cannot overlook their rejection of The Eternal's desire for mankind to live in peace and harmony. We cannot just meekly hope that they will eventually change their worldview; that we can negotiate with those who wish to destroy us. It takes more than our hope for peace; the other side must respect our right to exist.

The key message is that it is not enough to be merely free. We also must know that freedom is worth fighting for, over and over again. We must remind ourselves that even while we celebrate our freedom, we are not yet done fighting for it. True peace can only come after Elijah arrives to herald the Messiah, and before then, we ask that God remove those who wish otherwise.

Thus, if only for a paragraph, the Haggadah takes a moment to drastically shift tone. The remainder of the Seder, Hallel and Nirtzah, correspond to the freedom of worship and celebration that underscore our true redemption from slavery. Yet as long as there are those who still wish to destroy us, our freedom is constrained. The Haggadah wants us to take this moment to beseech God to free us from those who may wish to re-enslave us, even if it breaks from our celebration and revelry. It is only then, after we acknowledge the challenges still yet to come, that we are prepared to continue with the Seder.

Pour the fourth cup of wine. It will be drunk after Hallel.

The first two paragraphs of the traditional Hallel liturgy were recited at the end of Maggid, so Hallel continues from the third paragraph. In addition to the standard text of Hallel, additional prayers from the holiday liturgy are included. Singing is encouraged, and it is meritorious to recall and recount personal thanks to God that inspire and foster an atmosphere of gratitude to the Almighty.

This version of Hallel follows popular Ashkenazi custom.

Hallel is intended to be a poetic set of praises that show our gratitude to God for all that He has done for us – not just in the past by saving us from Egyptian slavery, but also now and forever more. Many of the nuances, subtleties, and majesty of these praises from Psalms and the holiday liturgy are lost in translation. Furthermore, many of the passages in Psalms are nearly impossible to properly understand without the relevant historical context in which they were written – such as those penned while the nascent King David was fleeing King Saul. Therefore, while the translation that follows will aim to preserve the spirit of the Hebrew text, some liberties were taken in an effort to assist those who rely on the English text.

לֹא לְנוּ יְיָ לֹא לְנוּ, בַּי לְשָׁמֶךְ
 תִּן כְּבוֹד, עַל חִסְדֶּךָ, עַל
 אַמְתָּךְ. לְמַה יֹאמְרוּ הָגּוּם
 אֲיָה נָא אֱלֹהֵיכֶם, וְאֱלֹהֵינוּ
 בְּשָׁמִים, כָּל אֲשֶׁר חִפֵּץ עָשָׂה.
 עַצְבֵיכֶם בְּסֻף וּזְהָבֵב מְעִשָּׂה יְדֵי
 אָדָם. פֶה לְהָם וְלֹא יִדְבְּרוּ,
 עַינֵיכֶם לְהָם וְלֹא יִרְאוּ. אַזְנֵיכֶם
 לְהָם וְלֹא יִשְׁמְעוּ, אַף לְהָם
 וְלֹא יִדְחַזּוּן. יְדֵיכֶם וְלֹא

We sing not for us, but rather for You; it is not for us, but rather for God's true kindness. Other nations may challenge us to find God, but we know that God is in the heavens and He does all that He desires. They worship silver and gold, the makes of man – a mouth with no voice, eyes with no sight, ears that cannot even hear silence; a nose that inhales no scent, hands that sense nothing nor feet that travel, and a throat with no voice. Anyone who puts their faith in such soulless beings will undoubtedly become just like them. But we, the nation of Israel, should trust only in

הַלֵּל

יְמִישׁוֹן, רָגְלֵיכֶם וְלֹא יַהֲלֹבָן,
לֹא יַחֲנוּ בְגָרוֹנֶם. כִּמְוֹחָם יְהִי
עַשְׂיוֹחָם, כָּל אָשָׁר בַּטְּחָבָה.
יְשֻׁרָּאֵל בַּטְּחָבָה בֵּין עָזָרָם וּמְגַנָּם
הַזָּא. בֵּית אַהֲרֹן בַּטְּחָבָה בֵּין
עָזָרָם וּמְגַנָּם הַזָּא. יְרָאֵי יְיָ
בַּטְּחָבָה בֵּין עָזָרָם וּמְגַנָּם הַזָּא:

יְיָ זָכָרָנוּ יְבָרֵךְ, יְבָרֵךְ אֶת בֵּית
יְשֻׁרָּאֵל, יְבָרֵךְ אֶת בֵּית אַהֲרֹן.
יְבָרֵךְ יְרָאֵי יְיָ, הַקְּטָנִים עִם
הַגְּדָלִים. יְסַפֵּר יְיָ עַלְיכֶם, עַלְיכֶם
וּעַל בָּנֶיכֶם. בְּרוֹכִים אַתֶּם לִי,
עֲשֵׂה שְׁמִים וְאָרֶץ. הַשְּׁמִים
שְׁמִים לִי וְהָאָרֶץ נְתָן לְבָנֵי
אָדָם. לֹא הַמְּתִים יַהֲלִלוּ יְהָ
וְלֹא כָּל יַרְדֵּי דִוְמָה. וְאַנְחָנוּ
בָּרָךְ יְהָ מְעַתָּה וְעַד עוֹלָם.
הַלְלוּיָה:

אַהֲבָתִי בַּי יִשְׁמַע יְיָ אֶת קֹולִי,
תְּחִנּוּנִי. בַּי הַטָּה אָזְנוּ לִי וּבִימִי
אַקְרָא. אַפְפּוּנִי חַבְלִי מְוֹת
וּמְצִירִי שְׁאוֹל מְצָאוּנִי, צְרָה

The Eternal, for He is our Assistance and our Shield. The house of Aaron should trust in The Eternal, our Assistance and our Shield. All who revere God should trust in The Eternal, our Assistance and our Shield.

Dear Eternal, Who remembers us – bless us, bless all of Israel and the House of Aaron. Bless those who revere You, from the youth to the eldest sages. God, please increase Your children and Your children's children – For You have said, "Blessed are you to The Eternal, He Who has made the heavens and earth." The heavens may be the realm of the Eternal, but the earth was given to mankind. The dead cannot praise God, the forevermore silent cannot praise God – That task is ours! We can praise God, from now until forever – Hallelujah!

I love God, because He listens to me; my voice and prayers reach Him. He turns His ear to hear my cry, each and every day that I call out to Him. The ropes of death wish to encase me, the narrows of the grave find me, where I

וְיָגֹן אֶמְצָא. וּבְשָׁם יִי אֶקְרָא,
 אָנָּא יִי מַלְטָה נְפָשִׁי. חֲנוּן יִי
 וְצָדִיק, וְאֱלֹהֵינוּ מַרְחָם. שְׁמַר
 פְּתַאֲים יִי, דָלוֹתִי וְלִי יְהוֹשִׁיעַ.
 שׂוּבִי נְפָשִׁי לְמִנוֹתִיכִי, כִּי יִי
 גָּמֵל עַלְיכִי. כִּי חַלְצָתִ נְפָשִׁי
 מִמְּפֹתָה, אֲתִ עִינִי מִן דְמֻעָה, אֲתִ
 רָגֵלִי מִדְחָה. אֲתָה לְךָ לְפָנִי יִי
 בְּאֶרְצֹת הַחַיִם. הָאָמָנוּתִי כִּי
 אָדָבָר, אָנִי עֲנִיתִי מִאָד. אָנִי
 אָמָרָתִי בְּחַפְזִי, כָּל הָאָדָם
 בְּזָבָ:

מָה אָשִׁיב לִי כָל תְּגִמְזוֹהִי
 עַלִי. בָּסֵט יְשׁוּעוֹת אָשָׁא וּבְשָׁם
 יִי אֶקְרָא. נְדָרִי לִי אָשְׁלָם
 גָּדָה נָא לְכָל עַמּוֹ. יִקְרָב עִינִי
 יִי הַמְּנוֹתָה לְחַסִּידָיו. אָנָּא יִי כִּי
 אָנִי עֲבָדָךְ, אָנִי עֲבָדָךְ בְּנוֹ
 אָמָתָךְ, פְּתַחַת לְמוֹסְרִי. לְךָ

would find trouble and despair. But it is at these times that I call out His Name — "Please, God, save my soul!" Gracious and righteous as He is, our God has mercy: For The Eternal watches over the simple, and when I descended to those depths, He saved me. "Return to your rest, My Soul, for I, God, have bestowed kindness upon you." You rescued my soul from death when my eyes were full of tears and my feet stumbled wherever they went. Thus I shall walk before God, in the land of the living. I have kept faith despite my great suffering — And when others deny You, I am quick to say that man is known to lie.

How can I repay The Eternal for all the kindness that He has bestowed upon me? I shall raise my cup that symbolizes my salvation, and I will call out His Name. I shall fulfill my promises to Him, for all our nation to see. We are precious in the Eyes of The Eternal, even though the most righteous of us must eventually pass on. Please, God, for I am Your servant — I am even Your servant's servant, for You have freed me from bondage. To You, I will sacrifice a thanksgiving offering, and call out Your Name. I shall fulfill my promises to The

הַלְלָה

אָזִבָּחْ לְבָחָתْ תֹּדָה וּבְשָׁטָם יְיָ
אֶקְרָא. נְדָרֵי לְיִי אַשְׁלִים נְגַדָּה
נָא לְכָל עַמּוֹ. בְּחִצְרוֹת בֵּית יְיָ,

בְּתוּכְכִי יְרוּשָׁלָם, הַלְלוּיָה:

הַלְלוּ אֶת יְיָ כָּל גּוֹיִם, שְׁבָחוּהוּ
כָּל הָאָמִים. בַּי גָּבָר עַלְינוּ
חֶסְדָוּ, וְאֶמְתָה יְיָ לְעוֹלָם,

הַלְלוּיָה:

The following four verses should be recited responsively.

הַזְדָּנוּ לְיִי בַּי טֻב בַּי לְעוֹלָם
חֶסְדָוּ:

Thank The Eternal, for He is good: His kindness is neverending!

יְאָמֵר נָא יְשָׂרָאֵל בַּי לְעוֹלָם
חֶסְדָוּ:

Proclaim, Israel: His kindness is neverending!

יְאָמֵר֙ נָא בֵּית אַהֲרֹן בַּי
לְעוֹלָם חֶסְדָוּ:

Proclaim, House of Aaron: His kindness is neverending!

יְאָמֵר֙ נָא יְרָאֵי יְיָ בַּי לְעוֹלָם
חֶסְדָוּ:

Proclaim, those who are awed by God: His kindness is neverending!

מִן הַמִּצְרָיִם קָרָא תִי יְהָ, עֲנָנִי
בְּמִרְחָב יְהָ. יְיָ לִי לֹא אִירָא,
מַה יַעֲשֵׂה לִי אָדָם. יְיָ לִי
בְעֹזָרִי וְאַנִי אֶרְאָה בְשָׁנָנִי.
טֻב לְחִסּוֹת בַּי מִבְטָח בְּאָדָם.

I called out to God from my confines, and He provided me with a limitless answer. When God is with me, I have no fear — what could mere man possibly do to me? God supports me through my companions and assistants, so that I may face my foes. It is better to seek protection in God

Eternal, for all our nation to see — there, in the courtyards of The Lord's House, the heart of Jerusalem — Hallelujah!

All nations, extoll The Eternal! All peoples, praise Him! For His kindness alone sustains us, and that is the everlasting truth — Hallelujah!

טוֹב לְחִסּוֹת בַּיִם מִבְּטָח
 בְּנִדִּיבִים. כֵּל גּוֹים סְבֻבוֹנִי,
 בְּשֶׁם יְיָ כִּי אֲמִילִם. סְבֻבוֹנִי גַּם
 סְבֻבוֹנִי, בְּשֶׁם יְיָ כִּי אֲמִילִם.
 סְבֻבוֹנִי כְּדָבָרִים, דָּעַכְוּ כְּאֶשְׁ
 קֹצִים, בְּשֶׁם יְיָ כִּי אֲמִילִם.
 דָּחָה דְּחִיתְנִי לְגַפְלָה, וַיְיָ עַזְרָנִי.
 עַזְיָ וְזָמְרָת יְהָ וַיְהִי לִי לִישׁוּעָה.
 קֹול רְנָה וִישׁוּעָה בָּאַהֲלִי
 צְדִיקִים, יְמִין יְיָ עַשָּׂה חִיל.
 יְמִין יְיָ רֹומָה, יְמִין יְיָ עַשָּׂה
 חִיל. לֹא אֲמוֹת כִּי אָחִיה,
 וְאַסְפֵּר מַעֲשֵׂי יְהָ. יִסְרָר יִסְרָרִי
 יְהָ, וְלֹמַת לֹא נִתְגַּנִּי. פָּתָחוּ לִי
 שַׁעֲרֵי צִדְקָה, אָבָא בָּם, אָזְדָה
 יְהָ. זֶה הַשְׁעָר לִי, צְדִיקִים
 יִבָּאוּ בָוּ. אָזְדָה כִּי עֲנִיתָנִי וְתַהֲ
 לִי לִישׁוּעָה. אָזְדָה כִּי עֲנִיתָנִי
 וְתַהֲ לִי לִישׁוּעָה. אָבָנו מַאֲסָוָה
 הַבּוֹנִים הִיְתָה לְרָאשׁ פֶּנֶה.
 אָבָנו מַאֲסָוָה הַבּוֹנִים הִיְתָה
 לְרָאשׁ פֶּנֶה. מַאֲתָה יְיָ הִיְתָה

than the promises of man. It is better to seek protection in The Eternal than the wealthy and prestigious. All other nations surround me, but in the name of God, I cleave them. They encompass me as they surround me, but in the name of God, I cleave them. They envelop me like bees, but they will shrivel as a bush of thorns cast in fire; in the name of God, I cleave them. I was shoved hard to make me fall, but The Eternal has assisted me. The sound of joy and salvation can be found in the tents of the righteous, The Eternal's right hand is indomitable. The Eternal's right hand is His Eminence; The Eternal's right hand is valiant. I cannot die, for I must live; so that I may proclaim the deeds of God. God has made me suffer, but he has not handed me death. Open up the gates of righteousness for me, and I will come to them and thank The Lord. For this is The Eternal's gate, the righteous come to it.

I thank You for answering me, Your answer has been my salvation.

I thank You for answering me, Your answer has been my salvation.

The rock that was rejected by the architects has ultimately become the foundation's cornestone.

The rock that was rejected by the architects has ultimately become the foundation's cornestone.

זאת היא נפלאת בְּעִינֵינוּ.
מאות יי' הִתְהִזְהִיר זאת היא
נפלאת בְּעִינֵינוּ. זה היום עשה
יי' נגילה ונטחה בו. זה היום
עשה יי' נגילה ונטחה בו:

All of this has been God's will, and it is a wondrous sight to behold.
All of this has been God's will, and it is a wondrous sight to behold.
This day was made by The Eternal, we shall rejoice and be happy with it.
This day was made by The Eternal, we shall rejoice and be happy with it!

The following four verses should be recited responsively.

אנָא יי', הוֹשִׁיעָה נָא:

Please, Eternal, save us!

אנָא יי', הוֹשִׁיעָה נָא:

Please, Eternal, save us!

אנָא יי', הַצְלִיחָה נָא:

Please, Eternal, help us succeed!

אנָא יי', הַצְלִיחָה נָא:

Please, Eternal, help us succeed!

ברוך הבא בְּשָׁם יי', בְּרֻכָּנוּכֶם
מִבֵּית יי'. ברוך הבא בְּשָׁם יי',
ברֻכָּנוּכֶם מִבֵּית יי'. אל יי' וַיַּאֲרֵ
לֵנוּ. אָסְרוּ חַג בְּעַבְתִּים עַד
קָרְנוֹת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ. אל יי' וַיַּאֲרֵ
לֵנוּ. אָסְרוּ חַג בְּעַבְתִּים עַד
קָרְנוֹת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ. אֱלֹהִים אַתָּה
וְאַזְכֵּר, אֱלֹהִים אַרְזֹמָמֶךָ. אֱלֹהִים
אַתָּה וְאַזְכֵּר, אֱלֹהִים אַרְזֹמָמֶךָ.
הַזְדָּנו לְיִי כִּי טוֹב, כִּי לְעוֹלָם
חִסְדָּנו. הַזְדָּנו לְיִי כִּי טוֹב, כִּי
לְעוֹלָם חִסְדָּנו:

Blessed is one who comes in the Name of The Eternal; we bless you from The Eternal's House.

Blessed is one who comes in the Name of The Eternal; we bless you from The Eternal's House.

The Eternal is the Almighty, He has illuminated us — prepare for Him a festive offering on the corners of the altar.

The Eternal is the Almighty, He has illuminated us — prepare for Him a festive offering on the corners of the altar.

You are my Almighty God and I will thank You, my God that I exalt.

You are my Almighty God and I will thank You, my God that I exalt.

יְהִלְלוּךְ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ כָּל מְעַשְׁיךָ,
וּמְסִידֶיךָ צְדִיקִים עֲוֹנִי רְצִוְתֶךָ,
וּכְלָל עַמְךָ בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּרָנָה
יוֹדָה וִיבְרָכוּ, וַיְשַׁבְּחוּ וַיְפִאָרוּ,
וַיְרֻומְמוּ וַיְעַרְיכּוּ, וַיְקִדְשּׁוּ
וַיִּמְלִיכּוּ אֶת שָׁמָךָ, מֶלֶבֶנוּ. כִּי
לְךָ טוֹב לְהֹדוֹת וְלִשְׁמַךָ נָאָה
לְזֹמֶר, כִּי מְעוּלָם וְעַד עוֹלָם
אָתָּה אֱלֹהִים:

Thank God, for He is Good: His kindness is neverending!

Thank God, for He is Good: His kindness is neverending!

All of Your handiwork shall praise You, The Eternal our God; the pious saints who do Your will. And the whole house of Israel will gladly thank, bless, praise, glorify, exalt, laud, sanctify, and venerate Your Name, Our King! For it is good to thank You and pleasant to sing in Your Name, because in this world and the next, You will always be the Almighty God.

The following verses should either be recited responsively, or together in unison.

הֹדוֹ לְיִהְיָ כִּי טוֹב Thank The Eternal, for He is Good:

כִּי לְעוּלָם חָסְדוֹ His kindness is neverending!

הֹדוֹ לְאֱלֹהִי חָאֱלָהִים Thank God of All Powers:

כִּי לְעוּלָם חָסְדוֹ His kindness is neverending!

הֹדוֹ לְאָדָני חָאָדָנִים Thank The Master of Masters:

כִּי לְעוּלָם חָסְדוֹ His kindness is neverending!

לְעֵשָׂה נְפָلָאות גְּדָלוֹת לְבָדוֹ

To The One Who makes great wonders all by Himself:

כִּי לְעוּלָם חָסְדוֹ His kindness is neverending!

לְעֵשֶׂה הַשְׁמִים בְּתִבְונָה

To The One Who makes the heavens
with insight:

His kindness is neverending!

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֶךְ

לְרוֹקֵעַ הָאָרֶץ עַל הַמִּים

To The One Who encases earth on
water in an atmosphere:

His kindness is neverending!

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֶךְ

לְעֵשֶׂה אֹורִים גָּדְלִים

To The One Who makes the great
lights in the sky:

His kindness is neverending!

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֶךְ

אֶת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ לְמַמְשֵׁלָת בַּיּוֹם

Who established the sun that rules by
day:

His kindness is neverending!

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֶךְ

אֶת הַיְּרֵחַ וּכְבָבִים לְמַמְשֵׁלָות
בַּלְילָה

Who established the moon and stars
that rule by night:

His kindness is neverending!

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֶךְ

לְמַפָּה מִצְרָיִם בְּבָכֹרֵיהֶם

To The One Who smote the Egyptians
via their firstborn:

His kindness is neverending!

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֶךְ

וַיּוֹצֵא יִשְׂרָאֵל מִתּוּבָם

And Who brought out Israel from
amongst them:

His kindness is neverending!

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֶךְ

בְּיַד מְזֻקָּה וּבְזַרְעוֹנָה בְּטוּבָה

With a strong hand and an
outstretched arm:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד־

His kindness is neverending!

לְגַזֵּר יָם סֻוִּף לְגַזְרִים

To The One Who sliced the Sea of Reeds into channels:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד־

His kindness is neverending!

וְהַעֲבִיר יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּתוֹכוֹ

And Who led Israel into the sea:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד־

His kindness is neverending!

וְנִגְעַר פְּרָעָה וְחַיּוֹ בַּיָּם סֻוִּף

And Who shook off Pharaoh and his army into the Sea of Reeds:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד־

His kindness is neverending!

לְמַזְלִיךְ עַמּוֹ בְּמִדְבָּר

To The One Who led His nation through the wilderness:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד־

His kindness is neverending!

לְמַפְתֵּח מֶלֶכִים גָּדְלִים

To The One Who smote great kings:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד־

His kindness is neverending!

וַיִּהְרֹג מֶלֶכִים אַדִּירִים

And The One Who killed mighty kings:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד־

His kindness is neverending!

לְסִיחוֹן מֶלֶךְ הָאָמְרוֹן

Such as Sichon, King of the Emorites:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד־

His kindness is neverending!

וְלֶעָוג מֶלֶךְ הַבְּשָׁן

And such as Og, King of the Bashan:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד־

His kindness is neverending!

וַיִּנְתֶּן אֶרְצָם לְגַתְלָה
And Who gave their lands as inheritance:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֶךְ

His kindness is neverending!

גַּתְלָה לִיְשָׁרַאֵל עֲבָדוֹ

Inheritance to Israel, His servant:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֶךְ

His kindness is neverending!

שְׁבַטְפְּלָנוּ זָכַר לְנוּ

That in our humiliation, He remembered us:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֶךְ

His kindness is neverending!

וַיִּפְרַקְנוּ מִצְרָינָנוּ

And that He unburdened us from our troubles:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֶךְ

His kindness is neverending!

נָתַן לְחַם לְכָל בָּשָׂר

Who gives bread to all flesh:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֶךְ

His kindness is neverending!

הָזְדוֹ לְאֵל הַשְׁמִימִים

Thank the Almighty of the Heavens:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֶךְ

His kindness is neverending!

נְשָׂמַת כָּל חַי תִּבְרֹךְ אֶת שְׁמֶךָ
יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, וְרוּחַ כָּל בָּשָׂר
תִּפְאַר וְתִרְזְמִם זָכַר מַלְכָנוּ
צָמִיד. מִן הָעוֹלָם וְעַד הָעוֹלָם
אַתָּה אֱלֹהִים, וְמִבְּלֻעַדְךָ אֵין לְנוּ
מֶלֶךְ גּוֹאֵל וּמוֹשִׁיעַ, פּוֹדֵה

The breath of all living things will bless Your Name, The Eternal, our God, and the spirit of all flesh will glorify and exalt Your Memory, our King, always. From universe to universe, You are the Almighty; and without You we have no king nor liberator nor savior — Redeemer, Rescuer, and Who is merciful at our time of trouble and distress, we have

וְמַצִּיל וְמַפְרִגֵּס וְמַרְחָם בְּכָל
 עַת צָּרָה וְצֹוקָה. אֵין לְנוּ מֶלֶךְ
 אֶלָּא אֲתָּה. אֱלֹהִי הַרְאשׁוֹנוֹם,
 וְהַآخֲרֹנוֹם, אֱלֹהָה כָּל בְּרִiyות,
 אֲדוֹן כָּל תּוֹלְדוֹת, הַמְּהֻלָּל בְּרַב
 הַתְּשֻׁבּוֹת, הַמְנַהָּג עַולְמוֹ
 בְּחֶסֶד וּבְרִiyותיו בְּרִיחָמִים. וַיְיִ
 לֹא יָנוּם וְלֹא יִשְׁן, הַמְעוֹרֵר
 יְשָׁנִים וְהַמְקִיעֵן גְּרָדִים,
 וְהַמְשִׁיעֵחַ אֶלְמִים וְהַמְתִיר
 אַסּוּרִים, וְהַסּוֹמֵךְ נַפְלִים
 וְהַזּוֹקֵף כְּפּוֹפִים, לְךָ לְבִדְךָ
 אַנְחָנוּ מְזִדִּים. אֶלָּו פִּינוּ מְלָא
 שִׁירָה בַּיִם, וְלִשְׁוֹגָנוּ רְנָה
 בְּהַמּוֹן גָּלִיל, וְשִׁפְתֹּוֹתֵינוּ שְׁבָח
 בְּמִרְמָבֵי רְקִיעֵ, וְעִינֵינוּ
 מְאִירֹות כְּשֶׁמֶשׁ וּבְיִרְמָת, וַיְדֵינוּ
 פְּרוֹשֹׁות בְּגַשְׁרֵי שָׁמִים,
 וּרְגַלֵּינוּ קָלוֹת בְּאַיְלוֹת, אֵין
 אַנְחָנוּ מְסֻפִּיקִים לְהַזּוֹת לְךָ,
 יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהִי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ,
 וּלְבָרֵךְ אֶת שְׁמֵךְ, עַל אַחֲת

no king except You. God of the Beginnings and the Endings, God of all beings, Master of all outcomes, Who is accoladed with a myriad of praises, Who guides His universe with kindness and His creatures with mercy. And The Eternal never slumbers nor sleeps, He awakens sleepers and alerts the drowsy, Who grants speech to the mute and releases the imprisoned, and Who supports the fallen and straightens the hunched over — to You, You alone, we acknowledge!

For if our mouths were filled with song as vast as the ocean, if our tongues full of joy like the multitude of its waves, our lips full of praise as expansive as the stratosphere, and our eyes shining like the sun and the moon, and our hands spread wide like eagles of the heavens, and our feet as swift as gazelles — even with all this it would never suffice to thank You, The Eternal Our God and God of our forefathers, or to praise Your name for even one of the thousands and millions and billions of many good things You have done with our forefathers and for us.

מִאֶלְף אֶלְף אֶלְפיים וָרְבִי
 רְבָבוֹת פְּעָמִים הַטּוּבּוֹת
 שְׁעִשְׁיָת עִם אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְעַמּוּנוּ.
 מִמְצָרִים גַּאֲלָתֵנוּ, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ,
 וּמִבֵּית עֲבָדִים פְּדִיבֵתֵנוּ, בְּרַעַב
 לִנְתֵּנוּ וּבְשִׁבְעָה כְּלִפְלַתֵּנוּ, מִחְרָב
 הַצְּלַתֵּנוּ וּמִדָּבָר מַלְטַתֵּנוּ,
 וּמִחְלָים רְعִים וּרְבִים וּגְאָמָנים
 דְּלִיתֵתֵנוּ. עַד הַנֶּה עַזְרֵנוּ רַחֲמֵיכָךְ
 וְלֹא עַזְבֵנוּ חָסְדֵיכָךְ, וְאֶל
 תִּטְשִׂנוּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ לְנֶצֶח. עַל
 כֵּן אֲבָרִים שְׁפָלָגָת בָּנוּ וּרוּחָת
 וּנְשָׁמָה שְׁגַפְחָת בָּאָפִינָנוּ וּלְשָׁוֹן
 אֲשֶׁר שְׁמָת בְּפִינָנוּ, הֵן הֵם יוֹדוֹ
 וַיִּפְאַרְךְ וַיִּשְׁבַּחְךְ
 וַיִּרְוֹמְךְ וַיִּעֲרִיכְךְ
 וַיִּמְלִיכְךְ אֶת שְׁמֵךְ מַלְכֵנוּ. כִּי
 כָּל פֶּה לְךָ יוֹדֵה, וּכָל לְשׁוֹן לְךָ
 תִּשְׁבֻעַ, וּכָל בָּךְ לְךָ תִּכְרֹעַ,
 וּכָל קָוָה לְפָנֶיךָ תִּשְׁתַחַזֵּה,
 וּכָל לְבָבוֹת יִרְאוֹךָ, וּכָל קָרְבָּן
 וּכְלִילָות יִזְמְרוּ לְשֵׁמֶךָ, כְּדָבָר

From Egypt you liberated us, The Eternal Our God, and from the house of slaves You redeemed us, in hunger You nourished us and during times of abundance You provided for us. From the sword, You rescued us; and from plague, you gave us sanctuary; from many unremitting dread diseases You spared us. Until here and now Your mercy has assisted us and Your compassion has not departed us, so never abandon us, The Eternal Our God, ever. Therefore with every facet of our bodies that You designed within us, the spirit and soul that you breathed into our nostrils, and the tongue that You placed in our mouths – these very things will thank and bless and praise and glorify and extol and appreciate and sanctify and crown Your Name, our King.

For every mouth will thank You, every tongue will swear allegiance to You, every knee bend before You, every spine will bow before You, all hearts will be in awe of You, and every fiber of our kidneys will sing Your Name; as the verse states: "All of my bones will say: 'Eternal, who is like You?' You rescue the poor from those who are stronger and the poor and destitute from thieves." Who is like You, who could be compared to You, who could be valued like You; The Great

שְׁבָתּוֹב, כִּל עֲצָמָתִי תָּאַמְּרָנָה:
 יְיָ, מֵי בָּמוֹן; מַצִּיל עַנִּי מַחְזָקָ
 מִמֶּנוּ וַעֲנִי וַאֲבִיוֹן מַגְזָלוֹ. מֵי
 יְדָמָה לְךָ וּמֵי יְשֻׁוָּה לְךָ וּמֵי
 יַעֲרֵךְ לְךָ, הָאֵל הַגָּדוֹל, הָגִבּוֹר
 וַהֲנֹרָא, אֵל עַלְיוֹן, קִנְהָ שְׁמִים
 וַאֲרָצָ. נַהֲלֵלךְ וַנְשַׁבְּחָךְ
 וַנְפַאֲרָךְ וַנְבַּרְךְ אֶת שְׁם

קָדְשָׁךְ, פָּאָמָרָה: לְדוֹד, בְּרָכִי
 נְפָשִׁי אֶת יְיָ וּכְלַ קָרְבִּי אֶת
 שְׁם קָדְשָׁוּ.

הָאֵל בְּתַעֲצָמוֹת עַזָּךְ, הַגָּדוֹל
 בְּכָבוֹד שְׁמָךְ, הָגִבּוֹר לְנִצְחָ
 וַהֲנֹרָא בְּנֹרָאוֹתֶיךָ, הַמֶּלֶךְ
 הַיֹּשֵׁב עַל כֶּסֶא רַמָּה וְגַשְׁאָ.

שָׁוכֵן עַד מָרוֹם וְקָדוֹשׁ שְׁמוֹ.
 וּבְתוֹבָה: רְגָנָנוּ צְדִיקִים בִּיהוָה,
 לִישְׁרִים נָאָה תְּהִלָּה.

בְּפִי יְשָׁרִים תִּתְהַלֵּל,

וּבְדִבְרֵי צְדִיקִים תִּתְבָּרֵךְ,

Almighty, mighty and awesome, The Supreme Being Who established heaven and earth? Let us extol and praise and glorify and bless Your Holy Name, as it is written: "As per David: My soul should bless The Eternal and every part of me should bless His Name."

The Almighty, in the power of Your strength, great is the honor of Your Name, The Forever Mighty and Who is awesome in Your spectacle, The King that sits on the highest throne above.

He Who dwells forever, exalted and holy is His Name. And the verse states: "The righteous rejoice in The Eternal, praise for the honest is fitting."

In the mouths of the honest You will be lauded,

and in the words of the righteous You shall be blessed,

וּבְלֶשׁוֹן חֲסִידִים תִּתְהַרְּמֶם,

וּבְקָרְבָּן קָדוֹשִׁים תִּתְקַדֵּשׁ.

וּבְמִקְהָלוֹת רַבּוֹת עַמְךָ בֵּית
יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּרָנָה יְתִפְאֵר שְׁמָךְ,
מַלְכָנוּ, בְּכָל דָּור וָדָר, שְׁבָנוּ
חוּבָת כָּל הַצּוֹרִים לְפָנֶיךָ, יְיָ
אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ,
לְהֻזּוֹת לְהַלֵּל לְשִׁבחָת, לְפָאֵר
לְרוֹמָם לְהַדָּר לְבָרֶךָ, לְעַלְלָה
וּלְקָלָם עַל כָּל דְּבָרֵיךָ שִׁירֹות
וּתְשִׁבְחוֹת דָּוֹד בֶּן יְשִׁי עַבְדָךָ,
מְשִׁיחָךְ.

יְשִׁתְבָּח שְׁמָךְ לְעֵד - מַלְכָנוּ,
הָאֵל הַמֶּלֶךְ הַגָּדוֹל וְהַקָּדוֹשׁ
בְּשָׁמַיִם וּבָאָרֶץ, כִּי לְךָ נָאָה, יְיָ
אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, שִׁיר
וּשְׁבָחָה, הַלֵּל וּזְמָרָה, עַל
וּמְמִשְׁלָה, נִצְחָה, אַדְלָה וְגִבּוֹרָה,
תִּהְלָה וּתְפָאָרָת, קָדְשָׁה
וּמִלְבּוֹת, בָּרְכוֹת וְהַזָּדוֹת
מִעַתָּה וְעַד עוֹלָם. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה

In the tongue of the pious You will be exalted,

and amongst the holy people You shall be sanctified.

And in the gatherings of tens of thousands of Your people, the House of Israel, in joy they will exalt Your Name — Our King! — in every generation. For this is the obligation of all creations: before You, The Eternal our God and the God of our forefathers, to thank and extol and praise and exalt and elevate and glorify and raise and acclaim all of the songs and praises of David, son of Jesse, Your servant; Your anointed one.

May Your Name be praised forever; Our King — The Almighty Great and Holy King of Heaven and Earth — for You it is fitting, The Eternal our God and the God of our forefathers, song and praise, laud and song, power and sovereignty, timelessness, greatness and strength, praise and glory, holiness and kingship, blessings and gratitude, now and forevermore. Blessed are You, The Eternal, The

הַלְל

Hallel

יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָדָל בְּתִשְׁבָחוֹת,
אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֲדוֹן הַחֲזָקָות,
הַנְּפָלָאות, הַבּוֹחָר בְּשִׁירֵינוּ
לְמִרְחָה, מֶלֶךְ אֱלֹהִים הַעוֹלָמים.

Almighty Great King of Praises, God of Gritudes, Master of Wonders, Who chooses melody and song, The Almighty Life-Granting King.

Raise your cup of wine and recite the following blessing:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הַעוֹלָם, בּוֹרָא פַּרְיָה הַגֶּפֶן.

Blessed are You, The Eternal our God, King of the Universe; Who creates the fruit of the vine.

Drink the cup of wine. One should lean to the left while drinking.

The Seder ends with Nirtzah, which is an official proclamation that the essential requirements of the Seder have been fulfilled, followed by songs and poems intended to celebrate the themes of the evening and the holiday as a whole. Most importantly, we specifically celebrate our freedom and hope that next year we will celebrate the holiday in a fully rebuilt Jerusalem.

Additionally, for those who live in the Diaspora, on the second Seder night it is the scheduled time to fulfill the last commandment of the evening — to count the Omer.

Much of the nuance and poetic beauty of the songs and praises in Nirtzah are lost in translation. Rather than attempt to recapture this poetry in another language, the translation instead aims to provide clarity to the overall meaning and sentiment of each piece.

חֶסֶל סֵדֶר פַּסְחָה בְּהַלְכָתָו,

בְּכָל מְלֹפְטוֹ וְחֲקָתוֹ.

בְּאַשְׁר זָכִינוּ לְסִדְרָ אָתוֹ,

בְּנוּ נִזְכָּה לְעַשׂוֹתָו.

The Seder has been completed according to its laws,

according to each and every law and rule.

Just as we have merited by reciting and discussing it,

so too we should merit the true execution of the Passover rituals in the future.

זֶה שׁוֹכֵן מַעֲונָה,
קֹמֶם קְהֻלָּת מִמְנָה.
בְּקָרוֹב נָהָל נְטָעֵי כְּבָנָה,
פְּדוּיִם לְצִיּוֹן בְּרָנָה.

Purest Being, Who Resides in the Expanse of Heaven,
raise Your community so that no one can count their number,
soon may You lead the preparations You've planted,
redeeming all of us to Zion with joy.

**לְשָׁנָה הַבָּאָה בִּירוּשָׁלָיִם
הַבְּנוּיה!**

Outside of Israel, the Seder is performed on both the first and second nights of Passover. On the second night of Passover, the mitzvah of Sefirat HaOmer (the Counting of the Omer) begins.

Every evening for 49 days, the day of Sefirah is counted, leading up until the holiday of Shavuot. The first night of counting the Omer always begins on the second night of Passover, and for those outside of Israel who have a Seder on the second night, it is traditional to count the Omer at this point.

The blessing is first recited, and then the evening is counted. Many have the custom to count the Omer in their native language even after they have already counted in Hebrew.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, אָשֶׁר קִדְשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתֶיךָ וְצִוּנוּ עַל סִפְירַת
הַעֲמָר.

הַיּוֹם יוֹם אֶחָד בְּעָמָר.

Today is the first day of the Omer.

Strictly speaking, the remainder of Nirtzah is optional; however the widely accepted custom is to sing most, if not all, of the songs that follow. Many families have at least one beloved tune that has been passed down for generations, and it is tradition for guests to share their own family tunes with their hosts.

The selection of songs below are from popular Ashkenazi custom.

VAYEHI B'CHATZI HALAILAH

The Jewish people were ushered out of Egypt in such a rush that they did not have time to let their dough rise, hence the origin of matzah and the prohibition of chametz (leavened products) on Passover. Additionally, the tenth plague — the slaying of the first born — happened exactly at midnight. In an alphabetic series, VaYehi B'Chatzi HaLailah recalls the many miracles and turning points in Jewish history that occurred on or because of the dark hours of the night — thus showing that redemption can come even when it feels like hope is lost.

The three-word refrain is inserted to intentionally segment the text into stanzas, but it does not necessarily punctuate distinct or separate thoughts. Stanzas often break mid-thought to be picked up after the refrain.

Some references, many of which are quite obscure, are indicated in brackets for clarity but are not directly cited in the Hebrew.

For those who live in Diaspora, VaYehi B'Chatzi HaLailah is omitted on the second night.

וַיְבֹכֵן וַיְהִי בַּחֲצִי הַלִּילָה And so too, it occurred in the middle of the night.

אֵז רׂוב נֶסֶים הָפְלָאת בַּלִּילָה,
בְּרֹאשׁ אַשְׁמָרוֹת זוֹה הַלִּילָה, So many miracles occurred at night,
At the beginning of the darkest hours which is night,

גַּר צִדְקָה נִצְחָתוֹ בְּנִיחָלָק לוֹ
לִילָּה,
וַיְהִי בָּחָצֵי הַלְּילָה.

The righteous sojourner [Abraham] won that which was apportioned to him at night [his victory in the Five-vs.-Four Kings War occurred at night];

And it occurred in the middle of the night.

דָּנָת מֶלֶךְ גָּרָר בְּחֲלוֹם הַלְּילָה,
הַפְּחַדְתָּ אַרְמַנִּי בְּאָמֵשׁ לִילָּה,
וַיִּשְׂרַר יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמִלְאָךְ וַיִּכְלֶל לוֹ
לִילָּה,
וַיְהִי בָּחָצֵי הַלְּילָה.

The King of Gerar [Avimelech] learned of judgement in his dream at night,

The Aramean [Laban] was frightened in a dream [by God] at night,

And Israel [Jacob] fought with an angel and overpowered him that night;

And it occurred in the middle of the night.

לִרְעָב בְּכֹורִי פְּתֻרוֹס מַחְצָטָה
בָּחָצֵי הַלְּילָה,
חִילָם לֹא מִצְאוֹ בְּקוּמָם
בְּלִילָה,
טִיסְתָ גָגִיד חֲרִשָת סְלִית
בְּכֹובָבִי לִילָה,
וַיְהִי בָּחָצֵי הַלְּילָה.

You smote the firstborn offspring of Patros [i.e. Pharaoh] in the middle of the night,

His army found no purchase [in the sea] at night,

You paved over the prince of Charoshet [Sisera] with the stars of the night;

And it occurred in the middle of the night.

יְעֵץ מַחֲרֵף לִנְפָר אֹוֵן
הַוּבֶשֶׁת פָּגְרִיו בְּלִילָה,

The blasphemous counselor [Sennacharib] who waved his hands in mockery [at Jerusalem] found his armies became dried corpses at night,

כְּרָע בֵּל וּמַצְבָּו בְּאִישָׁוֹן לִילָה,

The Idol of Bale and its foundation were toppled at night,

לֹאִיש חַמּוֹדֹת נְגַלָּה רֹז חַזּוֹת
לִילָה,

And the darling man [Daniel] was revealed the secrets of visions at night;

וַיְהִי בְּחָצֵי הַלִּילָה.

And it occurred in the middle of the night.

מַשְׁתְּפֵר בְּכָלִי קָדֵשׁ נִהְרָג בָּזֶה
בְּלִילָה,

He who intoxicated himself from The Temple's Holy Vessels [Belshazar] was killed in the night,

נוֹשֵׁעַ מִבּוֹר אֲרִיוֹת פּוֹתָר
בְּעַתּוֹתִי לִילָה,

The one saved from the pit of lions [Daniel] interpreted phobias of night,

שְׁנָאָה נָטָר אַגָּגִי וּכְתָב סְפָרִים
בְּלִילָה,

Hatred that permeated the Agagite [Haman] and who wrote his writs of decree at night,

וַיְהִי בְּחָצֵי הַלִּילָה.

And it occurred in the middle of the night.

עוֹרְרָת נַצְחָק עַלְיוֹ בְּנִידָד שְׁנִית
לִילָה,

You awakened Your victory over him [Haman] in the tossing and turning of a sleepless night,

פּוֹרָה תְּדֻרוֹךְ לְטוֹמֵר מָה
מַלְילָה,

We stomped them like grapes in a wine vat; we ask the Watchman [God] "What happened overnight?"

צַרְחַ בְּשׁוֹמֵר וְשֶׁחָ "אַתָּא בְּקָר
וְגַם לִילָּה",

וַיְהִי בְּחָצֵי הַלְּילָה.

The Watchman bellows, "The morning has come – and so has the night!"

And it occurred in the middle of the night.

קָרְבַּ יוֹם אֲשֶׁר הוּא לֹא יוֹם
וְלֹא לִילָּה,

רָם הַזְׁדָע בַּי לְךָ הַיּוֹם אַף לְךָ
הַלְּילָה,

"Here comes the day that is neither truly day nor truly night!" [i.e. the End of Days]

Most High, announce that all is Yours, both day and even night!

This next line is often sung all by itself as its own song, not only on Passover but throughout the year.

שׁוֹמְרִים הַפְּקָד לְעִירָךְ כָּל
הַיּוֹם וּכָל הַלְּילָה,

פָּאֵיר בָּאֹר יוֹם חַטְבָת לִילָה,

וַיְהִי בְּחָצֵי הַלְּילָה.

Appoint watchmen to guard over your city [Jerusalem] every day and every night!

Illuminate, with daylight, the darkest part of night!

And it occurred in the middle of the night.

V'AMARTEM ZEVACH PESACH

This song focuses on how Passover seems to be a constant time of redemption throughout Jewish history, and this redemption is a fundamental component of what the Paschal Lamb symbolizes. It follows a similar structure and refrain to VaYehi B'Chatzi HaLailah above.

V'Amartem Zevach Pesach is filled with many obscure references and allusions. The bracketed phrases do not appear in the original Hebrew but are instead provided for clarity.

For those who live in Diaspora, V'Amartem Zevach Pesach is omitted on the first night.

וְכֹן וְאַמְرָתֶם זְבַח פֶּסֶח And so too, you shall refer to the Passover sacrifice.

הַפְּלָאתָךְ אֲמֵץ אָבוֹרוֹתְּךָ בְּפֶסֶח, The might of Your strength you demonstrated on Passover,

בָּרָאשׁ כָּל מִזְעָדוֹת נִשְׁאָתָךְ, The first of all holidays, You uplifted Passover,

גָּלִית לְאַזְרָחִי מִצּוֹת לַיְלָה בְּפֶסֶח, You revealed Yourself to Your citizen [Abraham] on the night of Passover,

וְאַמְרָתֶם זְבַח פֶּסֶח. And you shall refer to the Passover sacrifice.

הַיּוֹם בְּחָם דְּפִקְדָּךְ דְּלָתָיו בְּפֶסֶח, On his [Abraham's] door You knocked in the heat of the day on Passover,

נוֹצָצִים עֲגוֹת מִצּוֹת הַסְּעִיד בְּפֶסֶח, He lavished Sparkling Ones [angels] a feast of matzot on Passover,

וַיֹּאֶל הַבָּקָר רַץ זָכָר לְשׁוֹר עֲרֵךְ
פֶּסֶחּ,

And he ran to [slaughter] the cattle,
which recalls the ox [in the Torah
reading for the morning of the second
day] of Passover,

וְאִמְרָתֶם זְבַח פֶּסֶחּ.

*And you shall refer to the Passover
sacrifice.*

דוֹעַמּו סְדוּמִים וְלוֹהַטּו בְּאַשׁ
בְּפֶסֶחּ,

Your fury blazingly scorched the
people of Sodom on Passover,

חָלֵץ לוֹט מֵהֶם וְמַצּוֹת אֲפָה
בְּקַצּוֹן פֶּסֶחּ,

Lot extricated himself from them and
baked matzot at the end of Passover,

טָאַטְאָת אֶדְמָת מִרְ וְנִנְ
בְּעַבְרֹךְ בְּפֶסֶחּ,

You swept up the land of Mof & Nof
[Egypt] as You passed by on Passover,

וְאִמְרָתֶם זְבַח פֶּסֶחּ.

*And you shall refer to the Passover
sacrifice.*

יְהָ רָאשׁ כָּל אֹזֶן מְחַצֵּת בְּלִיל
שְׁמֹור פֶּסֶחּ,

God, You smote the first of their
strength [the Egyptian firstborn] on
the Night of Watching – Passover,

בְּבֵיר, עַל בֶּן בְּכֹר פֶּסֶחְתָּ בְּדִם
פֶּסֶחּ,

Grandest, on the firstborn sons You
passed over [whose houses] had the
blood [on the doorposts which came
from the lamb that was sacrificed] for
Passover,

לְבָלְתִּי תְּתִ מְשֻׁחִית לְבָא
בְּפִתְחֵי בְּפֶסֶחּ,

So as not to give out destruction by
coming into the doorways of [those
celebrating] Passover,

וְאִמְرַתֶּם זֹבֵחַ פֶּסֶחַ.

And you shall refer to the Passover sacrifice.

מִסְגָּרָת סָגָרָה בְּעִתּוֹתִי פֶּסֶחַ,

And the enclosed [Jericho, the walled city] was closed at the time of Passover [during the conquest of Joshua],

**בְּשִׁמְדָה מִדְיוֹן בְּצִלְיל שְׁעוֹרִי
עַמְרָר פֶּסֶחַ,**

Midian was decimated from an Omer barley cake [which, during Gideon's war against them in the Book of Judges, this giant barley cake appeared to them in a dream and steamrolled their armies, instilling fear and chaos in their camp before their battle] on Passover,

**שְׂוִרְפוֹ מִשְׁמְנִי פּוֹל וְלוֹד בִּיקָד
יְקוֹד פֶּסֶחַ,**

The fat [of the Paschal Lambs] of Pul and Lud [Assyria, where some Jewish tribes had been exiled during the reign of King Hezekia; these tribes managed to return to Jerusalem to offer the Paschal Lambs despite their Assyrian captivity] was burned on the bonfire that had been kindled on Passover,

וְאִמְרַתֶּם זֹבֵחַ פֶּסֶחַ.

And you shall refer to the Passover sacrifice.

**עַזְזֵל הַיּוֹם בָּנְבָן לְעַמּוֹד עַד גַּעַת
עוֹנֶת פֶּסֶחַ,**

"Yet today, he [Sennacherib] will stand in Nob" [the first verse of the Haftarah of the eighth day of Passover], until the arrival of the season of Passover,

פָּס יַד בְּתִבְהָ לְקַעֲקָע צוֹל
בְּפֶסֶח,

The palmed hand wrote to engrave across [the writing on the wall in the time of Belshazar] on Passover,

צְפָה הַצְּפִית עֲרוֹךְ הַשְׁלָחוֹן
בְּפֶסֶח,

Light the candles, set the table [a reference to Isaiah 21:5, which our Sages teach us was an allusional prophecy to the feast that Belshazar had prepared when the writing on the wall would occur] on Passover,

וְאִמְרָגָם זָבֵחַ פֶּסֶח.

And you shall refer to the Passover sacrifice.

קְהַל בְּנָסָה הַדְּסָה לְשִׁלְשָׁ צוֹם
בְּפֶסֶח,

The community entered Hadassah's [Queen Esther's] three-day fast on Passover,

רָאשׁ מִבֵּית רְשָׁע מְחֻצָּת בְּעֵץ
חַמְשִׁים בְּפֶסֶח,

You smote the head of the wicked house [Haman] on a fifty [cubit] tree on Passover,

שְׂתִּי אֱלֹהֶ רְגֻע תְּבִיא לְעוֹזִית
בְּפֶסֶח,

Cause these two things [bereavement and widowhood, a reference to Isaiah 47:9] to come to the Uzzite [i.e. Edom, the children of Esau who settled in the land of Uz] on Passover,

פָּעֹז יָד וַתְּרֹום יְמִינְךָ בְּלִיל
הַתְּקִידָשׁ חַג פֶּסֶח,

Make a show of force with Your hand and raise Your right hand, as the night You [first] sanctified our festival of Passover,

וְאִמְרָגָם זָבֵחַ פֶּסֶח.

And you shall refer to the Passover sacrifice.

KI LO NAEH

A king must have citizens, armies, scribes, advisors, supporters, and many others who comprise his kingdom. A powerful king who has the support of his people not only rules over them, but is also praised and extolled by all of his subjects. Ki Lo Naeh is an alphabetic series of praises proclaiming how God is King Over All and how He is deserving of all praises, ascribing these praises to metaphorical members of His kingdom.

Some customs omit the words in brackets.

כִּי לוֹ נָאָה, כִּי לוֹ יָאָה [כַּפְתָּר
מְלוֹכָה].

Because it is proper, Because it is fitting [the Crown of Kingship].

אֲדִיר בְּמֶלֶכֶתְּךָ, בְּחוֹר בְּהַלְכָה,
גָּדוּקִיו יֹאמְרוּ לוֹ: לְךָ וּלְךָ, לְךָ
כִּי לְךָ, לְךָ אַף לְךָ, לְךָ יֵ
הַמֶּלֶכֶתְּךָ, כִּי לוֹ נָאָה, כִּי לוֹ
יָאָה [כַּפְתָּר מְלוֹכָה].

Noble in Kingship, Choicest in all ways, His forces say of Him:

To You, to You – to You because it is You, to You and only You – to You, The Eternal, is Kingship – because it is proper, because it is fitting [the Crown of Kingship]!

דָּגָול בְּמֶלֶכֶתְּךָ, הַדּוֹר בְּהַלְכָה,
וְתִיקְרֹא יֹאמְרוּ לוֹ: לְךָ וּלְךָ, לְךָ
כִּי לְךָ, לְךָ אַף לְךָ, לְךָ יֵ
הַמֶּלֶכֶתְּךָ, כִּי לוֹ נָאָה, כִּי לוֹ
יָאָה [כַּפְתָּר מְלוֹכָה].

Paraded in Kingship, Glorious in all ways, His most senior advisors say of Him:

To You, to You – to You because it is You, to You and only You – to You, The Eternal, is Kingship – because it is proper, because it is fitting [the Crown of Kingship]!

גְּרָצָה

לְכָאִ בַּמֶּלֶכֶת, חֲסִין פֵּהַלְכָה
טְפֵסְרוֹן יֹאמְרוּ לוּ: לְךָ וְלְךָ, לְךָ
בַּי לְךָ, לְךָ אָף לְךָ, לְךָ יְיָ
הַמֶּמֶלֶכֶת, בַּי לוּ נָאָה, בַּי לוּ
יָאָה [כַּתְרֵן מֶלֶכֶת].

לְחַידָּה בַּמֶּלֶכֶת, פְּבִיר פֵּהַלְכָה
לְמוֹדִין יֹאמְרוּ לוּ: לְךָ וְלְךָ, לְךָ
בַּי לְךָ, לְךָ אָף לְךָ, לְךָ יְיָ
הַמֶּמֶלֶכֶת, בַּי לוּ נָאָה, בַּי לוּ
יָאָה [כַּתְרֵן מֶלֶכֶת].

מוֹשֵׁל בַּמֶּלֶכֶת, נֹרָא פֵּהַלְכָה
סְבִיבִין יֹאמְרוּ לוּ: לְךָ וְלְךָ, לְךָ
בַּי לְךָ, לְךָ אָף לְךָ, לְךָ יְיָ
הַמֶּמֶלֶכֶת, בַּי לוּ נָאָה, בַּי לוּ
יָאָה [כַּתְרֵן מֶלֶכֶת].

עֲנֵנוּ בַּמֶּלֶכֶת, פּוֹדֵה פֵּהַלְכָה
צְדִיקִין יֹאמְרוּ לוּ: לְךָ וְלְךָ, לְךָ
בַּי לְךָ, לְךָ אָף לְךָ, לְךָ יְיָ
הַמֶּמֶלֶכֶת, בַּי לוּ נָאָה, בַּי לוּ
יָאָה [כַּתְרֵן מֶלֶכֶת].

Meritorious in Kingship, Sturdy in all ways, His scribes say of Him:

To You, to You – to You because it is You, to You and only You – to You, The Eternal, is Kingship – because it is proper, because it is fitting [the Crown of Kingship]!

Unique in Kingship, Grandest in all ways, His disciples say of Him:

To You, to You – to You because it is You, to You and only You – to You, The Eternal, is Kingship – because it is proper, because it is fitting [the Crown of Kingship]!

Sovereign in Kingship, Awesome in all ways, His entourages say of Him:

To You, to You – to You because it is You, to You and only You – to You, The Eternal, is Kingship – because it is proper, because it is fitting [the Crown of Kingship]!

Humble in Kingship, Redeemer in all ways, His righteous say of Him:

To You, to You – to You because it is You, to You and only You – to You, The Eternal, is Kingship – because it is proper, because it is fitting [the Crown of Kingship]!

קָדוֹשׁ בָּמַלְכָה, רָחוֹם בָּמַלְכָה
 שְׁנָאָנוּ יִאָמְרוּ לוֹ: לְךָ וּלְךָ, לְךָ
 בַּי לְךָ, לְךָ אֲפָר לְךָ, לְךָ יְיָ
 הַמֶּמֶלֶכה, בַּי לוֹ נָאָה, בַּי לוֹ
 יָאָה [כַּתְרֵם לְבוֹכָה].

Holy in Kingship, Merciful in all ways,
 His proclaimers say of Him:

To You, to You – to You because it is
 You, to You and only You – to You,
 The Eternal, is Kingship – because it
 is proper, because it is fitting [the
 Crown of Kingship]!

תַּקְיִיף בָּמַלְכָה, תָּזִימֵךְ בָּמַלְכָה
 תִּמְיִמְיוּ יִאָמְרוּ לוֹ: לְךָ וּלְךָ, לְךָ
 בַּי לְךָ, לְךָ אֲפָר לְךָ, לְךָ יְיָ
 הַמֶּמֶלֶכה, בַּי לוֹ נָאָה, בַּי לוֹ
 יָאָה [כַּתְרֵם לְבוֹכָה].

Resolute in Kingship, Supporter in all
 ways, His perfections say of Him:

To You, to You – to You because it is
 You, to You and only You – to You,
 The Eternal, is Kingship – because it
 is proper, because it is fitting [the
 Crown of Kingship]!

ADIR HU

Adir Hu is a song with a single, simple theme: a request that God speedily rebuild the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. The request is repeated, with each refrain prefixed with a set of praises following the Hebrew alphabet.

אֲדִיר הַוָּא; יִבְנֶה בֵּיתוֹ בָּקָרוֹב.

בָּמִתְהָרָה, בָּמִתְהָרָה, בָּיִמִּינָנוּ
בָּקָרוֹב. אֵל בְּנָה, אֵל בְּנָה, בְּנָה
בְּיִתְךָ בָּקָרוֹב.

בָּחוֹר הַוָּא, גָּדוֹל הַוָּא, דָּגָול
הַוָּא; יִבְנֶה בֵּיתוֹ בָּקָרוֹב.
בָּמִתְהָרָה, בָּמִתְהָרָה, בָּיִמִּינָנוּ
בָּקָרוֹב. אֵל בְּנָה, אֵל בְּנָה, בְּנָה
בְּיִתְךָ בָּקָרוֹב.

הָדוֹר הַוָּא, וְתִיק הַוָּא, זָכָאי
הַוָּא, חָסִיד הַוָּא; יִבְנֶה בֵּיתוֹ
בָּקָרוֹב. בָּמִתְהָרָה, בָּמִתְהָרָה,
בָּיִמִּינָנוּ בָּקָרוֹב. אֵל בְּנָה, אֵל
בְּנָה, בְּנָה בְּיִתְךָ בָּקָרוֹב.

He will build His house soon. Speedily, speedily, soon in our days. Almighty, build! Almighty, build! Build Your house soon!

He is choicest, He is greatest, He is most paraded!

He will build His house soon. Speedily, speedily, soon in our days. Almighty, build! Almighty, build! Build Your house soon!

He is glorious, He is timeless, He is meritorious, He is pious!

He will build His house soon. Speedily, speedily, soon in our days. Almighty, build! Almighty, build! Build Your house soon!

טָהוֹר הַוָּא, יִיחִיד הַוָּא, כְּבֵיר
הַוָּא, לְמַוד הַוָּא, מֶלֶךְ הַוָּא;
יִבְנָה בַּיְתָו בְּקָרוֹב. בָּמִתְרָה,
בָּמִתְרָה, בִּימֵינו בְּקָרוֹב. אֶל
בְּנָה, אֶל בְּנָה, בְּנָה בַּיְתָן
בְּקָרוֹב.

He is pure, He is unique, He is grand,
He is versed in all, He is King!

He will build His house soon. Speedily,
speedily, soon in our days. Almighty,
build! Almighty, build! Build Your
house soon!

נוֹרָא הַוָּא, סָגִיב הַוָּא, עַזְזָעָז
הַוָּא, פּוֹדֵה הַוָּא, צָדִיק הַוָּא;
יִבְנָה בַּיְתָו בְּקָרוֹב. בָּמִתְרָה,
בָּמִתְרָה, בִּימֵינו בְּקָרוֹב. אֶל
בְּנָה, אֶל בְּנָה, בְּנָה בַּיְתָן
בְּקָרוֹב.

He is awesome, He is mighty, He
grants all strength, He is The
Redeemer, He is righteous!

He will build His house soon. Speedily,
speedily, soon in our days. Almighty,
build! Almighty, build! Build Your
house soon!

קָדוֹשׁ הַוָּא, רְחוּם הַוָּא, שְׁדִי
הַוָּא, תְּקִיףָ הַוָּא; יִבְנָה בַּיְתָו
בְּקָרוֹב. בָּמִתְרָה, בָּמִתְרָה,
בִּימֵינו בְּקָרוֹב. אֶל בְּנָה, אֶל
בְּנָה, בְּנָה בַּיְתָן בְּקָרוֹב.

He is holy, He is merciful, He is The
Nurturer, He is resolute!

He will build His house soon. Speedily,
speedily, soon in our days. Almighty,
build! Almighty, build! Build Your
house soon!

The main purpose of the Seder is to educate children about Jewish history and our collective experience. To this end, Who Knows One is a simple nursery-like repetitive counting song, a format perfectly designed for even the smallest of children to learn, digest, and sing along.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>אֶחָד מִי יֹדֵעַ, אֶחָד אָנִי יֹדֵעַ.</p> <p>שְׁבַטְשָׁמִים אֱלֹהִינוּ אֶחָד בָּאָרֶץ.</p> <p>שְׁנַיִם מִי יֹדֵעַ, שְׁנַיִם אָנִי יֹדֵעַ.</p> <p>שְׁנַיִן לְחוֹת הַבְּרִית. אֶחָד
אֱלֹהִינוּ שְׁבַטְשָׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ.</p> <p>שְׁלַשָּׁה מִי יֹדֵעַ, שְׁלַשָּׁה אָנִי
יֹדֵעַ.</p> <p>שְׁלַשָּׁה אֲבוֹת, שְׁנַיִן לְחוֹת
הַבְּרִית, אֶחָד שְׁבַטְשָׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ.</p> <p>אֶרְבֻּעַ מִי יֹדֵעַ, אֶרְבֻּעַ אָנִי
יֹדֵעַ.</p> <p>אֶרְבֻּעַ אִמְהוֹת, שְׁלַשָּׁה אֲבוֹת,
שְׁנַיִן לְחוֹת הַבְּרִית, אֶחָד
אֱלֹהִינוּ שְׁבַטְשָׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ.</p> <p>חֲמִשָּׁה מִי יֹדֵעַ, חֲמִשָּׁה אָנִי
יֹדֵעַ.</p> | <p>Who knows one? I know one!</p> <p>One is our God in heaven and on earth.</p> <p>Who knows two? I know two!</p> <p>Two are the Tablets of the Ten Commandments; One is our God in heaven and on earth.</p> <p>Who knows three? I know three!</p> <p>Three are the patriarchs; Two are the Tablets of the Ten Commandments; One is our God in heaven and on earth.</p> <p>Who knows four? I know four!</p> <p>Four are the matriarchs; Three are the patriarchs; Two are the Tablets of the Ten Commandments; One is our God in heaven and on earth.</p> <p>Who knows five? I know five!</p> |
|---|---|

חֲמִשָּׁה חֻמֶּשִׁי תֹּרַה, אַרְבַּע
אִמְהוֹת, שְׁלֵשָׁה אֲבוֹת, שְׁנֵי
לְחוֹת הַבְּרִית, אֶחָד אֱלֹהִינוּ
שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ.

שְׁשָׁה מֵי יְדָעָה, שְׁשָׁה אָנֵי
יְדָעָה.

שְׁשָׁה סִדְרִי מְשֻנָּה, חֲמִשָּׁה
חֻמֶּשִׁי תֹּרַה, אַרְבַּע אִמְהוֹת,
שְׁלֵשָׁה אֲבוֹת, שְׁנֵי לְחוֹת
הַבְּרִית, אֶחָד אֱלֹהִינוּ
שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ.

שְׁבַעָה יְמִי שְׁבָתָא, שְׁשָׁה
סִדְרִי מְשֻנָּה, חֲמִשָּׁה חֻמֶּשִׁי
תֹּרַה, אַרְבַּע אִמְהוֹת, שְׁלֵשָׁה
אֲבוֹת, שְׁנֵי לְחוֹת הַבְּרִית,
אֱלֹהִינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים אֶחָד

שְׁבַעָה יְמִי שְׁבָתָא, שְׁשָׁה
סִדְרִי מְשֻנָּה, חֲמִשָּׁה חֻמֶּשִׁי
תֹּרַה, אַרְבַּע אִמְהוֹת, שְׁלֵשָׁה
אֲבוֹת, שְׁנֵי לְחוֹת הַבְּרִית,
אֱלֹהִינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים אֶחָד
וּבָאָרֶץ.

שְׁמֻנוֹה מֵי יְדָעָה, שְׁמֻנוֹה אָנֵי
יְדָעָה.

Five are the Books of the Torah; Four are the matriarchs; Three are the patriarchs; Two are the Tablets of the Ten Commandments; One is our God in heaven and on earth.

Who knows six? I know six!

Six are the orders of the Mishnah; Five are the Books of the Torah; Four are the matriarchs; Three are the patriarchs; Two are the Tablets of the Ten Commandments; One is our God in heaven and on earth.

Who knows seven? I know seven!

Seven are the days of the week; Six are the orders of the Mishnah; Five are the Books of the Torah; Four are the matriarchs; Three are the patriarchs; Two are the Tablets of the Ten Commandments; One is our God in heaven and on earth.

Who knows eight? I know eight!

שְׁמֻנוֹה יָמִי מִילָה, שְׁבֻעָה יָמִי
שְׁבַתָּא, שְׁשָׁה סְדֵרִי מִשְׁנָה,
חֲמִשָּׁה חֲוֹמֶטִי תּוֹרָה, אַרְבָּעָה
אַמְהוֹת, שְׁלִשָּׁה אֲבוֹת, שְׁנִי
לְחוֹת הַבְּרִית, אַחֲד אֱלֹהִינוּ
שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ.

תְּשִׁיעָה מִי יוֹדֵעַ, תְּשִׁיעָה אָנִי
יוֹדֵעַ.

תְּשִׁיעָה יְרַחִי לְדָה, שְׁמֻנוֹה יָמִי
מִילָה, שְׁבֻעָה יָמִי שְׁבַתָּא,
שְׁשָׁה סְדֵרִי מִשְׁנָה, חֲמִשָּׁה
חֲוֹמֶטִי תּוֹרָה, אַרְבָּעָה אַמְהוֹת,
שְׁלִשָּׁה אֲבוֹת, שְׁנִי לְחוֹת
הַבְּרִית, אַחֲד אֱלֹהִינוּ
שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ.

עֲשָׂרָה מִי יוֹדֵעַ, עֲשָׂרָה אָנִי
יוֹדֵעַ.

עֲשָׂרָה דְבָרִיא, תְּשִׁיעָה יְרַחִי
לְדָה, שְׁמֻנוֹה יָמִי מִילָה,
שְׁבֻעָה יָמִי שְׁבַתָּא, שְׁשָׁה
סְדֵרִי מִשְׁנָה, חֲמִשָּׁה חֲוֹמֶטִי

Eight are the days until circumcision; Seven are the days of the week; Six are the orders of the Mishnah; Five are the Books of the Torah; Four are the matriarchs; Three are the patriarchs; Two are the Tablets of the Ten Commandments; One is our God in heaven and on earth.

Who knows nine? I know nine!

Nine are the months of pregnancy; Eight are the days until circumcision; Seven are the days of the week; Six are the orders of the Mishnah; Five are the Books of the Torah; Four are the matriarchs; Three are the patriarchs; Two are the Tablets of the Ten Commandments; One is our God in heaven and on earth.

Who knows ten? I know ten!

Ten are the Ten Commandments; Nine are the months of pregnancy; Eight are the days until circumcision; Seven are the days of the week; Six are the orders of the Mishnah; Five are the Books of the Torah; Four are the matriarchs; Three are the patriarchs; Two are the Tablets of the Ten Commandments; One is our God in heaven and on earth.

תּוֹרָה, אֶרְבַּע אִמְהוֹת, שֶׁלֶשׁ
אָבוֹת, שְׁנֵי לְחֽוֹת הַבְּרִית,
אֶחָד אֱלֹהִינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים
וּבָאָרֶץ.

אֶחָד עָשָׂר מִי יְדַע, אֶחָד
עָשָׂר אָנִי יְדַע.

אֶחָד עָשָׂר כּוֹכְבִּיא, עָשָׂר
דְּבָרִיא, תְּשִׁיעָה יְרַחִי לְדָה,
שְׁמוֹנָה יְמִי מִילָה, שְׁבַעָה יְמִי
שְׁבַתָּא, שְׁשָׁה סְדָרִי מִשְׁנָה,
חֲמָשָׁה חֹמֶשִׁי תּוֹרָה, אֶרְבַּע
אִמְהוֹת, שֶׁלֶשׁ אָבוֹת, שְׁנֵי
לְחֽוֹת הַבְּרִית, אֶחָד אֱלֹהִינוּ
שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ.

שְׁנֵים עָשָׂר מִי יְדַע, שְׁנֵים
עָשָׂר אָנִי יְדַע.

שְׁנֵים עָשָׂר שְׁבָטִיא, אֶחָד
עָשָׂר כּוֹכְבִּיא, עָשָׂר דְּבָרִיא,
תְּשִׁיעָה יְרַחִי לְדָה, שְׁמוֹנָה יְמִי
מִילָה, שְׁבַעָה יְמִי שְׁבַתָּא,
שְׁשָׁה סְדָרִי מִשְׁנָה, חֲמָשָׁה

Who knows eleven? I know eleven!

Eleven are the stars in Joseph's dream; Ten are the Ten Commandments; Nine are the months of pregnancy; Eight are the days until circumcision; Seven are the days of the week; Six are the orders of the Mishnah; Five are the Books of the Torah; Four are the matriarchs; Three are the patriarchs; Two are the Tablets of the Ten Commandments; One is our God in heaven and on earth.

Who knows twelve? I know twelve!

Twelve are the Tribes of Israel; Eleven are the stars in Joseph's dream; Ten are the Ten Commandments; Nine are the months of pregnancy; Eight are the days until circumcision; Seven are the days of the week; Six are the orders of the Mishnah; Five are the Books of the Torah; Four are the matriarchs; Three are the patriarchs; Two are the Tablets of the Ten Commandments; One is our God in heaven and on earth.

חוּמְשֵׁי תֹּרֶה, אַרְבָּע אִמְהוֹת,
שֶׁלֶשֶׁה אֲבוֹת, שְׁנִי לְחוֹת
הַבְּרִית, אֶחָד אֱלֹהִינוּ
שְׁבָשָׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ.

שֶׁלֶשֶׁה עָשָׂר מֵי יוֹדֵע, שֶׁלֶשֶׁה
עָשָׂר אָנִי יוֹדֵע.

שֶׁלֶשֶׁה עָשָׂר מִדיָּא. שְׁנִים
עָשָׂר שְׁבָטִיא, אֶחָד עָשָׂר
בּוֹכְבִּיא, עָשָׂרָה דָּבְרִיא,
צְשֻׁעָה יְרַחִי לְדָה, שְׁמוֹנָה יָמִי
מִילָה, שְׁבָעָה יָמִי שְׁבָעָתָא,
שְׁשָׁה סְדָרִי מְשֻׁנָה, חֲמָשָׁה
חוּמְשֵׁי תֹּרֶה, אַרְבָּע אִמְהוֹת,
שֶׁלֶשֶׁה אֲבוֹת, שְׁנִי לְחוֹת
הַבְּרִית, אֶחָד אֱלֹהִינוּ
שְׁבָשָׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ.

Who knows thirteen? I know thirteen!

Thirteen are the Divine Attributes of Mercy; Twelve are the Tribes of Israel; Eleven are the stars in Joseph's dream; Ten are the Ten Commandments; Nine are the months of pregnancy; Eight are the days until circumcision; Seven are the days of the week; Six are the orders of the Mishnah; Five are the Books of the Torah; Four are the matriarchs; Three are the patriarchs; Two are the Tablets of the Ten Commandments; One is our God in heaven and on earth.

While at first glance Chad Gadya seems unconnected to the themes expressed in the Seder, it is all about how events are interconnected. It begins with a loss but builds towards triumph, and the poor goat never even realizes that he is the beginning of the ultimate redemption. Similarly, the Jewish people can never really completely know *how* God orchestrates their destiny — but we can nonetheless celebrate that destiny, knowing that God is behind everything that happens.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>חַד גָּדִיא, חַד גָּדִיא</p> <p>הַזְבִּין אֲבָא בְּתִרִי זֹויִ, חַד</p> <p>גָּדִיא, חַד גָּדִיא.</p> <p>וְאַתָּא שׁוֹנְרָא וְאֶכֶּלֶת לְגָדִיא,</p> <p>הַזְבִּין אֲבָא בְּתִרִי זֹויִ, חַד</p> <p>גָּדִיא, חַד גָּדִיא.</p> <p>וְאַתָּא בְּלַבָּא וְנַשְׁךְ לְשׁוֹנְרָא,</p> <p>דְּאֶכֶּלֶת לְגָדִיא, הַזְבִּין אֲבָא</p> <p>בְּתִרִי זֹויִ, חַד גָּדִיא, חַד גָּדִיא.</p> <p>וְאַתָּא חֻוְטָרָא וְהַפְּהָה לְבְלַבָּא,</p> <p>דְּנַשְׁךְ לְשׁוֹנְרָא, דְּאֶכֶּלֶת</p> <p>לְגָדִיא, הַזְבִּין אֲבָא בְּתִרִי זֹויִ,</p> <p>חַד גָּדִיא, חַד גָּדִיא.</p> <p>וְאַתָּא נֹרָא וְשָׁרֵף לְחֻוְטָרָא,</p> <p>דְּהַפְּהָה לְבְלַבָּא, דְּנַשְׁךְ</p> <p>לְשׁוֹנְרָא, דְּאֶכֶּלֶת לְגָדִיא,</p> <p>הַזְבִּין אֲבָא בְּתִרִי זֹויִ, חַד</p> | <p>One goat – just one goat.</p> <p>One goat, just one goat; that Father bought for two coins.</p> <p>And along came a cat that ate the goat – One goat, just one goat; that Father bought for two coins.</p> <p>And along came a dog that bit the cat that ate the goat – One goat, just one goat; that Father bought for two coins.</p> <p>And along came a stick that hit the dog that bit the cat that ate the goat – One goat, just one goat; that Father bought for two coins.</p> <p>And along came a fire that burnt the stick that hit the dog that bit the cat that ate the goat – One goat, just one goat; that Father bought for two coins.</p> |
|---|---|

גָּדִיא, מַד גָּדִיא.

וְאַתָּא מַיִא וּכְבָה לְנוֹרָא,
דֶּשֶׁרֶת לְחֻוּטָרָא, דְּהַפָּה
לְכַלְבָּא, דְּנַשְׂעֵד לְשׁוֹנָרָא,
דְּאַכְלָה לְגָדִיא, דְּזַבְּין אֲבָא
בְּתִרְיִ זַוִּי, מַד גָּדִיא, מַד גָּדִיא.
וְאַתָּא תּוֹרָא וְשַׁתָּה לְמַיִא,
דְּכָבָה לְנוֹרָא, דֶּשֶׁרֶת לְחֻוּטָרָא,
דְּנַשְׂעֵד, דְּהַפָּה לְכַלְבָּא,
לְשׁוֹנָרָא, דְּאַכְלָה לְגָדִיא,
דְּזַבְּין אֲבָא בְּתִרְיִ זַוִּי, מַד
גָּדִיא, מַד גָּדִיא.

וְאַתָּא הַשׁוֹחֵט וְשַׁחַט לְתוֹרָא,
דְּשַׁתָּה לְמַיִא, דְּכָבָה לְנוֹרָא,
דֶּשֶׁרֶת לְחֻוּטָרָא, דְּהַפָּה
לְכַלְבָּא, דְּנַשְׂעֵד לְשׁוֹנָרָא,
דְּאַכְלָה לְגָדִיא, דְּזַבְּין אֲבָא
בְּתִרְיִ זַוִּי, מַד גָּדִיא, מַד גָּדִיא.
וְאַתָּא מֶלֶאךְ הַמֹּות וְשַׁחַט
לְשׁוֹחֵט, דְּשַׁחַט לְתוֹרָא,
דְּשַׁתָּה לְמַיִא, דְּכָבָה לְנוֹרָא,
דֶּשֶׁרֶת לְחֻוּטָרָא, דְּהַפָּה

And along came water that doused the fire that burnt the stick that hit the dog that bit the cat that ate the goat – One goat, just one goat; that Father bought for two coins.

And along came an ox that drank the water that doused the fire that burnt the stick that hit the dog that bit the cat that ate the goat – One goat, just one goat; that Father bought for two coins.

And along came a butcher that slaughtered the ox that drank the water that doused the fire that burnt the stick that hit the dog that bit the cat that ate the goat – One goat, just one goat; that Father bought for two coins.

And along came the Angel of Death that slayed the butcher who slaughtered the ox that drank the water that doused the fire that burnt the stick that hit the dog that bit the cat that ate the goat – One goat, just one goat; that Father bought for two coins.

לְבִלְבָא, דָּנֵשׁ לְשׂוֹנָרָא,
 דָּאָכַלְהָ לְגָדִיא, דָּזְבִּין אֲבָא
 בְּתִירִי זָווִי, חַד גָּדִיא, חַד גָּדִיא.
 וְאַתָּא הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא
 רִשְׁחָט לְמַלְאָךְ הַמֹּות, דִשְׁחָט
 לְשׂוֹחָט, דִשְׁחָט לְתֹרָא,
 דִשְׁתָּה לְמִיאָ, דְכָבָה לְנֹרָא,
 דִשְׁרָף לְחוּטָרָא, דְהַבָּה
 לְבִלְבָא, דָנֵשׁ לְשׂוֹנָרָא,
 דָאָכַלְהָ לְגָדִיא, דָזְבִּין אֲבָא
 בְּתִירִי זָווִי, חַד גָּדִיא, חַד גָּדִיא.

And along came The Holy One, Blessed Be He; Who slayed the Angel of Death that slayed the butcher who slaughtered the ox that drank the water that doused the fire that burnt the stick that hit the dog that bit the cat that ate the goat – One goat, just one goat; that Father bought for two coins.

The Seder ends here.

Despite this, all participants are encouraged to continue celebrating the Exodus from Egypt, praising God for His kindness and His direction, and studying Jewish law and tradition.

