

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 הַשְׁבֵת:

וַיָּכֹל הַשְׁמִים וְהָאָרֶץ וְכָל צְבָאָם.  
וַיָּכֹל אֱלֹהִים בַּיּוֹם הַשְׁבִיעִי  
מִלְאָכְתוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וַיִּשְׁבַת  
בַּיּוֹם הַשְׁבִיעִי מִכֶּל מִלְאָכְתוֹ  
אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה. וַיָּבֹךְ אֱלֹהִים אֲתָּה  
יוֹם הַשְׁבִיעִי וַיִּקְדַּשׁ אֹתוֹ כִּי בָז  
שְׁבַת מִכֶּל מִלְאָכְתוֹ אֲשֶׁר בָּרָא  
אֱלֹהִים לְעֹשֹׂת.

"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."

סְבִרֵי מְרַנּוּ וְרַבְנּוּ וְרַבּוֹתִי:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהִינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם, בָּרוּךְ פָּרִי הַגָּפָן.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהִינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר בָּחר בָּנוּ מִכֶּל עַם  
וּרְומַמְנֵנוּ מִכֶּל לְשׁוֹן וּקְדֹשָׁנוּ  
בָּמִצּוֹתָיו. וְתִתְּנוּ לָנוּ יְיָ אֱלֹהִינוּ  
בָּאַהֲבָה (שְׁבָתוֹת לְמִנִּיחָה מְוּעָדים)  
לְשֻׁמְחָה, חֲגִים וּזְמָנוֹם לְשֻׁזְׁון,  
אֲתָּה (יוֹם הַשְׁבַת הַזָּה וְאַתָּה) יוֹם חֲגַת הַמִּצּוֹת  
הַזָּה, זָמָן חֲרוֹתָנוּ (בָּאַהֲבָה) מִקְרָא  
קָדְשׁ, זָכָר לִיצְיאָת מִצְרָיִם. כִּי  
בָּנו בָּחָרָת וְאוֹתָנוּ קָדְשָׁת מִכֶּל

Attention all:

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

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.

הַעֲמִים, וְשָׁבַת מֹעֵדִי קָדְשָׁךְ (בְּאַחֲרֶה בְּשָׁמָחָה וּבְשָׁשׁוֹן הַנְּחָלָתָנוּ). וּבְרָצָנוּ בְּרוּךְ אֱתָה ייְהוָה מֶקְדָּשָׁךְ (הַשְּׁבָת יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהַמְּגִנִּים).

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

בְּרוּךְ אֱתָה ייְהוָה מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרָא מָאוֹרֵי הַאָשָׁה.

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

בְּרוּךְ אֱתָה ייְהוָה מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם הַמְבָדֵל בֵּין קָדְשָׁךְ לְחַלָּה, בֵּין אֹור לְחַשָּׁךְ, בֵּין יִשְׂרָאֵל לְעַמִּים, בֵּין יוֹם הַשְׁבִּיעִי לְשִׁשָּׁת יְמֵי הַמְעִשָּׂה. בֵּין קָדְשָׁת שְׁבָת לְקָדְשָׁת יוֹם טוֹב הַבְּדָלָת, וְאֵת יוֹם הַשְׁבִּיעִי מְשִׁיחָת יְמֵי הַמְעִשָּׂה קָדְשָׁת. הַבְּדָלָת וּקָדְשָׁת אֶת עַמּוֹד יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּקָדְשָׁתָךְ. בְּרוּךְ אֱתָה ייְהוָה הַמְבָדֵל בֵּין קָדְשָׁךְ לְקָדְשָׁת.

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.

בְּרוּךְ אֱתָה ייְהוָה מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שְׁחַחֵינוּ וְקִימֵנוּ וְהִגִּיעֵנוּ לְמִן הַזֹּה.

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*<sup>1</sup> that are no longer applicable in the modern era; and is in fact not at all related to the laws of Passover.<sup>2</sup>

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 curiosity. The ambiguous relevance of Urchatz is deliberate; it forces 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.*

---

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>The 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.

## כְּרָפָס

## 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 אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בָּרוּךְ פַּרְעֹה הַאֲדָמָה. 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: that while the Jews were enslaved in Egypt, their national character and spirit was cracked, broken, shattered, split – and 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 borrow from 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 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 are not always precise translations 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  
אֶבְהָתְנָא בְּאֶרְעָא דְמִצְרָים. כֹּל  
דְּבָפִין יִתְיַי וַיַּיְכֵל, כֹּל דְּצָרִיךְ יִתְיַי  
וַיְפִסְחָה. הַשְׁתָּא הַכָּא, לְשָׁנָה  
הַבָּא בְּאֶרְעָא דְיִשְׂרָאֵל. הַשְׁתָּא  
עַבְדִּי, לְשָׁנָה הַבָּא בְּנֵי חֶרְןִין.

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.*

מַה נִשְׁתַּבְעָה הַלִּילָה הַזָּה מִכָּל  
הַלִּילוֹת?

Why is this night different from all other nights?

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

שְׁבָכְל הַלִּילוֹת אָנוּ אָכְלִין חַמֵּץ  
וּמַצָּה, הַלִּילָה הַזָּה - כָּלּוּ מַצָּה!  
שְׁבָכְל הַלִּילוֹת אָנוּ אָכְלִין שְׁאָר  
יְרֻקּוֹת, - הַלִּילָה הַזָּה מַרְרוֹ!

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

**שְׁבָכֶל הַלְילוֹת אֵין אָנוּ מַטְבִּילוּן  
אֲפִילוּ פָעַם אַחַת, - הַלִּילָה הַזֶּה  
שְׂתִי פָעַמִים!**

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

**שְׁבָכֶל הַלְילוֹת אֵינוֹ אָוְבְּלִינוּ בֵין  
יוֹשְׁבִין וּבֵין מַסְבִּין, - הַלִּילָה הַזֶּה  
כָּלָנוּ מַסְבִּין!**

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

### WHO IS REQUIRED TO FULFILL THE COMMANDMENT TO RETELL THE EXODUS?

*The matzah is partially uncovered. If the Seder plate was removed from the table, it should be returned.*

**עֲבָדִים חַיָינָג לְפַרְעָה בָמִצְרָיִם  
וַיּוֹצִיאָנוּ יְהָוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִשְׁם בַּיד  
חַזְקָה וּבְרוּעָה נָטוּיה. וְאֵלּוּ לֹא  
הַזִּיא אַקְדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא אֶת  
אָבוֹתֵינוּ מִמִּצְרָיִם, הָרִי אָנוּ וּבָנֵינוּ  
וּבָנֵי בָנֵינוּ מַשְׁעָבָדִים חַיָינָג  
לְפַרְעָה בָמִצְרָיִם. וְאֲפִילוּ כָלָנוּ  
מִכְמִים, כָלָנוּ נְבּוּנִים, כָלָנוּ זְקִנִים,  
כָלָנוּ יוֹדָעִים אֶת הַתּוֹרָה, מְצֻוָה  
עַלְיָנוּ לְסִפְר בִּיצְיאַת מִצְרָיִם. וְכָל  
הַמְּרֻבָה לְסִפְר בִּיצְיאַת מִצְרָיִם  
הָרִי זֶה מַשְׁבָח.**

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.

**מַעֲשָׂה בְּרַבִּי אַלְיעָזָר וְרַבִּי יְהוֹשֻׁעַ  
וְרַבִּי אַלְיעָזָר בֶּן עֲזָרִיה וְרַבִּי  
עֲקִיבָא וְרַבִּי טְרָפּוֹן שְׁהִי מַסְבִּין  
בָבָנֵי בָרָק, וְהִי מִסְפָרִים בִּיצְיאַת**

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."

מִצְרַיִם כֹּל אָתוֹ הַלֵּילָה עַד:  
שֶׁבָּאוּ תַּלְמִידֵיכֶם וְאָמְרוּ לָהֶם:  
רְבָותֵינוּ, הָגַע זָמָן קִרְיאַת שְׁמָעָ  
שֶׁל שְׁתְּרִית.

אָמַר רَبִّי אֱלֹעֲזָר בֶּן עֲזָרִיה: הָרִ  
אָנִי בָּבָן שְׁבָעִים שָׁנָה, וְלֹא זְכִירִ  
שֶׁתְּאָמַר יָצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם בְּלִילּוֹת,  
עַד שְׁדָרְשָׂה בֶּן זָמָן: שֶׁנֶּאָמַר,  
לְמַעַן תִּזְכֵּר אֶת יוֹם צָאתְךָ  
מִאָרֶץ מִצְרַיִם כֹּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ, יְמֵי  
חַיֶּיךָ - הַיּוֹם, כֹּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ -  
הַלִּילּוֹת. וְחַבְמִים אָזְמָרִים: יְמֵי  
חַיֶּיךָ - הַעוֹלָם הַזֶּה, כֹּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ  
- לְהַבִּיא לִימוֹת הַמֶּשִׁיחַ.

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.

#### WHAT IS THE COMMANDMENT, AND HOW DOES ONE FULFILL IT?

בָּרוּךְ הַמֶּקוּם, בָּרוּךְ הוּא. בָּרוּךְ  
שֶׁנָּתַן תּוֹרָה לְעַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל, בָּרוּךְ  
הָוָא.

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

בְּנֶגֶד אַרְבָּעָה בָּנִים דָבְרָה תּוֹרָה.  
אֶחָד חָכָם, וֶאֱחָד רָשָׁע, וֶאֱחָד  
קָטָם, וֶאֱחָד שְׁאַיִן יוֹדֵע לְשֹׁאול.  
חָכָם - מָה הוּא אָזְמָר? מָה  
הַעֲדּוֹת וְהַחֲקִים וְהַמְשֻׁפְטִים  
אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהָוָה יְהָוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֶתְכֶם? וְאֲף  
אֲתָה אָמַר לוּ בְּהַלּוּכּוֹת הַפְּסָחָה:  
אֵין מִפְטִירִין אַחֲר הַפְּסָחָה  
אֲפִיקוֹמָן.

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 for Afikomen.

**רְשָׁע -** מַה הוּא אֹמֵר? מַה  
**הַעֲבָדָה** הַזֶּאת לְכֶם? לְכֶם - וְלֹא  
 לו. וְלֹפִי שְׁחוֹצִיא אֶת עָצָמוֹ מִן  
 הַכָּלָל כְּפִר בְּעֵקָר. וְאֶךָ אַפָּה  
 מִקְהָה אֶת שְׁנָיו וְאָמַר לוֹ: בְּעֵbor  
 זֶה עָשָׂה יִי לִי בְּצָאתִי מִמִּצְרַיִם.  
 לִי - וְלֹא לו. אַילוּ הַיְה שֶׁם, לֹא  
 הַיְה נְגָאֵל.

**פָּמ -** מַה הוּא אֹמֵר? מַה זוֹאת?  
**וְאַמְرָתָ אֶלְיוֹ:** בְּחַזְק יָד הַזִּיאָנוּ  
 יִי מִמִּצְרַיִם, מִבֵּית עָבָדִים.

וְשָׁאַיְנוּ יוֹדֵע לְשָׁאָול - אֵת פִתְחָה  
 לו, שְׁנָאָמָר: וְהַגִּדְת לְבָנֶך בַּיּוֹם  
 הַהוּא לְאָמָר, בְּעֵbor זֶה עָשָׂה יִי  
 לִי בְּצָאתִי מִמִּצְרַיִם.

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.

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?

יְכֹל מִרְאֵש חֶדְשׁ, תְּלִמּוֹד לוֹמֵר  
 בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא, אֵי בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא יְכֹל  
 מַבָּעוֹד יוֹם, תְּלִמּוֹד לוֹמֵר בְּעֵbor  
 זֶה - בְּעֵbor זֶה לֹא אַמְרָתִי אֶלָא  
 בְּשַׁעַת שְׁיִיש מַצָּה וּמַרְור מִנְחִים  
 לְפִנֵּיך.

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.

מִתְחַלָּה עֹבֶדֶי עֲבוֹדָה זָרָה הָיוּ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, וְעַכְשִׁיו קָרְבָּנוּ הַמָּקוֹם לְעַבְדָּתוֹ, שֶׁנָּאָמָר: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים כָּל הָעָם, כִּי אָמַר יְהוָה יְשָׁבֹות יִשְׂרָאֵל: בַּעֲבָר הַנָּהָר יִשְׁבֹּה אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם מִעוּלָם, תְּרֵחָ אָבִי אָבָרָהָם וְאָבִי נָחוֹר, וַיַּעֲבֹדוּ אֱלֹהִים אֶחָדים. וַיַּאֲקַח אֶת אֲבִיכֶם אֶת אָבָרָהָם מַעֲבָר הַנָּהָר וַיַּאֲוָלֵךְ אֶת אֹתוֹ בְּכָל אֶרְץ בְּנֵנוּ, וַיַּאֲרַבֵּה אֶת זָרָעוֹ וַיַּאֲתַן לוֹ אֶת יִצְחָק, וַיַּאֲתַן לִיְצָחָק אֶת יַעֲקֹב וַאֲתַת עָשָׂו. וַיַּאֲתַן לְעַשְׂוֹ אֶת הַר שָׁعֵיר לְרִשְׁת אֹתוֹ, וַיַּעֲקֹב וּבְנָיו יָרֹדוּ מִצְרָיִם.

בָּרוּךְ שׁוֹמֵר הַבְּטַחַתּוֹ לִיְשָׂרָאֵל, בָּרוּךְ הוּא. שֶׁמְקֻדּוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא חָשַׁב אֶת הַקִּז, לְעַשׂוֹת כִּמָּה שֶׁאָמַר לְאָבָרָהָם אָבִינוּ בְּבְרִית בֵּין הַבְּתָרִים, שֶׁנָּאָמָר: וַיֹּאמֶר לְאָבָרָם, יְדֻעַּתִּדְעַ בַּיּוֹם יְהִיה זָרָעַ בָּאָרֶץ לֹא לָהֶם, וְעַבְדִּים וְעַנִּי אַתֶּם אֶרְבָּע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה. וְגַם אֶת הָגֹי אָשֶׁר יַעֲבֹדוּ דָּוָן אָנֹכִי וְאָמַרִי כִּי יִצְאָו בְּרֶכֶשׁ גָּדוֹלָה.

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.

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,<sup>1</sup> '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.'"

<sup>1</sup>The 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 שְׁעַמְדָה לְאָבוֹתֵינוּ וּלְנוּן!  
שֶׁלֹא אַחֲד בַּלְבָד עַמְד עַלְינָנוּ  
לְכַלּוֹתֵנוּ, אַלְאָ שֶׁבֶכֶל דָוֶר וְדוֹר  
עוֹמְדים עַלְינָנוּ לְכַלּוֹתֵנוּ, וְהַקְדוּשָׁ  
בָרוּךְ הוּא מַצְיָלֵנוּ מִזְדָם.

*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 praise 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.

צִא וְלִמְדָה מֵה בְקַש לְבָנ הַאֲרָמִי  
לְעִשּׂוֹת לִיעַקְב אָבִינוּ. שְׁפְרָעָה  
לֹא גָזַר אַלְאָ עַל הַזְכָרִים וּלְבָנָו  
בְקַש לְעַקּוֹר אֶת הַבָּل, שָׁגָגָא מָר:  
אֲרָמִי אָבַד אָבִי, וַיַּרְדֵ מַצְרִימָה  
וַיִּגְרֵר שֵׁם בְמִתֵּי מַעַט, וַיַּהַי שֵׁם  
לְגֹוי גָדוֹל, עַצּוּם וּרְבָה.

"וַיַּרְדֵ מַצְרִימָה" - אָנוּס עַל פִי  
הַדָּבָר.

"וַיִּגְרֵר שֵׁם" - מַלְמִיד שֶׁלֹא יָרַד  
יעַקְב אָבִינוּ לְהַשְׁתַקְעַ בְמַצְרִים  
אַלְאָ לְגֹור שֵׁם, שָׁגָגָא מָר: וַיֹּאמְרוּ  
אַל פְרָעָה, לְגֹור בָאָרֶץ בָאָנוּ, בַי

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!

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.

"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

אֵין מֶרְעָה לֹצְאָנוּ אֲשֶׁר לַעֲבָדִים,  
כִּי בָּבֶד הַרְעָב בָּאָרֶץ כִּנְעָן. וְעַתָּה  
יַשְׁבוּ נָא עֲבָדִים בָּאָרֶץ גְּשֻׁן.

"בְּמַתִּי מַעַט" - בָּמָה שָׁגְגָא מָרָ:  
בְּשֶׁבְעִים גַּפְשׁ יָרְדוּ אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם  
מִצְרַיָּה, וְעַתָּה שְׁמַךְ יְיָ אֱלֹהִים  
בְּכָבוֹבָבִי הַשְׁמִים לְרַב.

"וַיְהִי שָׁם לְגוֹי" - מַלְמָד שָׁחַי  
יִשְׂרָאֵל מִצְּגִינִים שָׁם.

"גָּדוֹל, עֲצָום" - בָּמָה שָׁגְגָא מָרָ:  
וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל פָּרוּ וַיִּשְׁרַצּוּ וַיִּרְבּוּ  
וַיַּעֲצְמוּ בָּמָאֵד מִאֵד, וַתִּמְלָא  
הָאָרֶץ אַתָּם.

"וְרַב" - בָּמָה שָׁגְגָא מָרָ: רַבָּה  
בְּצָמָה הַשְׁדָּה נִתְתִּיק, וַתִּרְבִּי  
וַתִּגְדְּלִי וַתִּבְאִי בְּעִדִּי עֲדִים,  
שְׁדִים נִכְנוּ וַשְׁעַרְךָ צִמְחָה, וְאַתָּה  
עָרֵם וְעָרֵיה. וְאַעֲבָר עַלְיךָ וְאַרְאָךָ  
מִתְבּוֹסֶת בְּדִמִּיךָ, וְאָמָר לְךָ  
בְּדִמִּיךָ חִי, וְאָמָר לְךָ בְּדִמִּיךָ חִי.

וַיַּרְעוּ אָתָנוּ הַמִּצְרִים וַיַּעֲפִנוּ  
וַיִּתְּנוּ עַלְינוּ עֲבָדָה קָשָׁה.

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.

"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, 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.

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

"וַיֹּרְאֻ אֶתְנוֹ הַמִּצְרִים" - בָּמָה  
שֶׁנֶּאָמָר: הֲבָה נִתְחַכֵּם לֹא פֹ  
רַבָּה, וְהִיא כִּי תַקְרָא נָה מִלְחָמָה  
וּנוֹסֵף גַּם הוּא עַל שְׂנִינוּ וּגְלַחַם  
בָּנוּ, וְעַלָּה מִן הָאָרֶץ.

"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.

"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."

"וְנִצְעַק אֶל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ,  
וְנִשְׁמַע יְהוָה אֶת קָלֵנוּ, וַיַּרְא אֶת  
עֲנִינוּ וְאֶת עָמְלֵנוּ וְאֶת לְחִצֵּנוּ.  
- וְנִצְעַק אֶל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ" -  
בָּמָה שֶׁנֶּאָמָר: וְיִהְיֶה בַּיָּמִים הָרַבִּים  
הַהִם וַיָּמָת מֶלֶךְ מִצְרָיִם, וַיַּאֲנַחַ  
בָּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִן הַעֲבֹדָה וַיַּעֲקֹב,  
וְתַעַל שׁוֹעַטָּתְמָן אֶל הָאֱלֹהִים מִן  
הַעֲבֹדָה.

"וַיַּשְׁמַע יְהוָה אֶת קָלֵנוּ" - בָּמָה  
שֶׁנֶּאָמָר: וַיַּשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶת  
נְאָקְתָּם, וַיִּזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים אֶת  
בְּרִיתֵנוּ אֶת אֶבְרָהָם, אֶת יִצְחָק  
וְאֶת יַעֲקֹב.

"וַיַּרְא אֶת עֲנִינָנוּ" - זו פְּרִישָׁוֹת דֶּרֶךְ אֶרֶץ, כַּמָּה שֶׁנֶּאֱמָר: וַיַּרְא אֱלֹהִים אֶת 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" - אל הַבְּנִים. כַּמָּה שֶׁנֶּאֱמָר: כִּל הַבָּן הַיּוֹלֵד הַיְאָרָה תְּשֻׁלְּכָהוּ וְכִל הַבָּת תְּחִזֵּן.

"וַיַּאֲתָה לְמַצָּנוּ" - זה הַדְּחָק, כַּמָּה שֶׁנֶּאֱמָר: וְגַם רָאִיתִי אֶת הַלְּחֵץ אֲשֶׁר מִצְרִים לְחָצִים אֶתְם.

וַיַּצְאָנוּ יְיָ מִמִּצְרַיִם בִּיד תְּזָקָה וּבְזָרָע נָטוּיה, וּבִמְرָא גָּדוֹל וּבָאתּוֹת וּבִמְפַתִּים.

"וַיַּצְאָנוּ יְיָ מִמִּצְרַיִם" - לא על ידי מלאך, ולא על ידי שֶׁרֶף, ולא על ידי שליח, אלא הקדוש ברוך הוא בא בְּכָבוֹד וּבְעַצְמוֹ, שֶׁנֶּאֱמָר: וַעֲבָרָתִי בָּאָרֶץ מִצְרִים בְּלִילָה הַזֹּה, וַהֲפִיכָתִי כָּל בָּכֹור בָּאָרֶץ מִצְרִים מִאָדָם וְעַד בָּהֶמה, וּבְכָל אֱלֹהִים מִצְרִים אָעָשָׂה שְׁפָטִים. אָנִי יְיָ.

"וַעֲבָרָתִי בָּאָרֶץ מִצְרִים בְּלִילָה הַזֹּה" - אָנִי ולא מלאך.

"וַהֲפִיכָתִי כָּל בָּכֹור בָּאָרֶץ מִצְרִים - אָנִי ולא שֶׁרֶף.

"וּבְכָל אֱלֹהִים מִצְרִים אָעָשָׂה שְׁפָטִים" - אָנִי ולא הַשְּׁלִיחָה.

"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."

"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."

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."

"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 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.

"אֲנִי יְהוָה" - אֲנִי הוּא וְלֹא אַחֶר.

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

"בְּ יָד מֵזָקָה" - זו הַדָּבָר, כַּמָּה שֶׁנֶּאֱמָר: הַגָּה יָד יְהוָה בְּמִקְנֵן אֲשֶׁר בְּשָׂדָה, בְּסֶוסִים, בְּחַמְרִים, בְּגִמְלִים, בְּבָקָר וּבָצָאן, דָּבָר כְּבָד מַאֲד.

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: "His sword was drawn in his hand, outstretched over Jerusalem." This alludes 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?"

"וּבְמִרְאָה גָּדוֹלָה" - זו גָּלוּי נְשִׁכִּינָה, כַּמָּה שֶׁנֶּאֱמָר: אוֹ הַנֶּסֶת אֱלֹהִים לְבָא לְקַחְתָּ לוּ גּוֹי מִקְרָב גּוֹי בְּמִסְתָּת בְּאַתָּה וּבְמוֹפְתִּים, וּבְמִלְחָמָה וּבְיָד מֵזָקָה וּבְזָרוּעָנָה, וּבְמִזְרָאִים גָּדוֹלִים, כָּל אֲשֶׁר עֲשָׂה לְכֶם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם בְּמִצְרָיִם לְעִינֵיכֶם.

"וּבְאַתָּות" - זֶה הַמְּטָה, כַּמָּה שֶׁנֶּאֱמָר: וְאֵת הַמְּטָה הַזֶּה תַּקְחֵה בְּיָדֶךָ, אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשֵׂה בּוּ אֵת הַאֲתָה.

"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."

*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 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 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.

וּבְמִפְתָּחִים - זֶה הַדָּם, בִּמְהָ  
שְׁנָאָמָר: וְנַתְּפֵי מַזְפָּתִים בְּשָׁמִים  
וּבְאָרֶץ:

"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:

דָּם, blood,

וְאָשׁ, and fire,

וְתִמְרוֹת עַשְׁן.

דָּבָר אֶחָר: בַּיד תְּזִקָּה - שְׁתִים,  
וּבֹרֶעֶת נְטוּיה - שְׁתִים, וּבְמִרְאָ  
גָּדָל - שְׁתִים, וּבְאַתּוֹת - שְׁתִים,  
וּבְמִפְתָּחִים - 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.

אֵלּוּ עֲשָׂר מִפְתָּחִים שַׁהְבִיא הַקָּדוֹשׁ  
בָּרוּךְ הוּא עַל הַמִּצְרִים בְּמִצְרִים,  
וְאֵלּוּ הֵן:

דָּם, blood,

צְפִירֶעֶת, frogs,

כְּנִינִים, lice,

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

- עֲרוֹב,** wild animals,  
**דָּבָר,** pestilence,  
**שְׁחִין,** boils,  
**בָּرֶד,** hail,  
**אַרְבָּה,** locusts,  
**חֹשֶׁךְ,** darkness,  
**מֵתָּה בְּכֹרֹות.** slaying of the first-born.  
**רַبִּי יְהוּדָה נָתָן בְּחַם סְמִינִים:**  
**דְּצַח**, *detzach*,  
**עֲדַשׁ**, *adash*,  
**בְּאַחֲרָב.**

**רַבִּי יוֹסֵי הַגְּלִילִי** אוֹמֵר: מִנּוֹן  
**אַתָּה** אוֹמֵר שֶׁלְקֹו הַמְּצָרִים  
**בְּמִצְרִים** עַשֶּׂר מִפּוֹת וְעַל הַיּוֹם  
**לְקֹו חֲמִשִּׁים** מִפּוֹת? **בְּמִצְרִים** מָה  
**הַזָּא** אוֹמֵר? **וַיֹּאמְרוּ** הַחֲרַטְמִים  
**אֶל פְּרֻעָה:** אַצְבָּע אֱלֹהִים הַזָּא,  
**וְעַל הַיּוֹם** מָה הַזָּא אוֹמֵר? **וַיַּרְא**  
**יִשְׂרָאֵל** אֶת הַיד הַגְּדוֹלָה אֲשֶׁר  
**עָשָׂה** יְיָ **בְּמִצְרִים**, **וַיַּרְא** הַעַם  
**אֶת** יְיָ, **וַיַּאֲמִינֵו** בְּיְיָ **וּבְמִשְׁה** עַבְדוּ.  
**כַּמָּה** לְקֹו **בְּאַצְבָּע?** עַשֶּׂר מִפּוֹת.  
**אֹמֵר** מִעְטָה: **בְּמִצְרִים** לְקֹו עַשֶּׂר  
**מִפּוֹת** וְעַל הַיּוֹם לְקֹו חֲמִשִּׁים  
**מִפּוֹת.**

The last verse we recited hinted to the fact that there were ten plagues. Rabbi Yossi from the Gallilee 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 אֱלִיעֶזֶר אָמֵר:** מִנֵּין שְׁבָל  
מִפְּהָ וּמִפְּהָ שַׁהֲבִיא הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ  
הֽוּא עַל הַמִּצְרִים בְּמִצְרִים הִתְהַ  
שֶׁל אַרְבָּעַ מִכּוֹת? שֶׁנֶּאָמָר: יִשְׁלַח  
בָּם חֶרְוֹן אַפּוֹ, עֲבָרָה וַעַם וַצְרָה,  
- מְשֻׁלָּחָת מֶלֶאכִי רְעִים. עֲבָרָה  
- אַחַת, וַעַם - שְׁפָטִים, וַצְרָה  
- שְׁלִשׁ, מְשֻׁלָּחָת מֶלֶאכִי רְעִים -  
אַרְבָּעַ. אָמָר מִעֵדָה: בְּמִצְרִים  
לְקַיּוּ אַרְבָּעִים מִכּוֹת וְעַל הַיּוֹם לְקַיּוּ  
מֶאתִים מִכּוֹת.

**רַבִּי עֲקִיבָּא אָמֵר:** מִנֵּין שְׁבָל  
מִפְּהָ וּמִפְּהָ שַׁהֲבִיא הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ  
הֽוּא עַל הַמִּצְרִים בְּמִצְרִים הִתְהַ  
שֶׁל חֲמִשׁ מִכּוֹת? שֶׁנֶּאָמָר: יִשְׁלַח  
בָּם חֶרְוֹן אַפּוֹ, עֲבָרָה וַעַם וַצְרָה,  
מְשֻׁלָּחָת מֶלֶאכִי רְעִים. חֶרְוֹן  
אַפּוֹ- אַחַת, עֲבָרָה - שְׁפָטִים, וַעַם  
- שְׁלִשׁ, וַצְרָה - אַרְבָּעַ, מְשֻׁלָּחָת  
מֶלֶאכִי רְעִים - חֲמִשׁ. אָמָר  
מִעֵדָה: בְּמִצְרִים לְקַיּוּ חֲמִשִּׁים  
מִכּוֹת וְעַל הַיּוֹם לְקַיּוּ חֲמִשִּׁים  
וְמֶאתִים מִכּוֹת.

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 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.

**בִּמְהָ מְעֻלוֹת טוֹבֹת לְמִקּוֹם עֲלֵינוּ!**

How many levels of goodness has the Omnipresent bestowed us!

אֲלֹו הָזִיאָנוּ מִמְצָרִים  
וְלֹא עָשָׂה בָּהֶם שְׁפָטִים, דִּיןָנוּ.

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,  
וְلֹא עָשָׂה בַּאלֹהִים, דִּיןָנוּ.

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

אֲלֹו עָשָׂה בַּאלֹהִים,  
וְלֹא הָרַג אֶת בָּכֹרֵיָהֶם, דִּיןָנוּ.

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

אֲלֹו הָרַג אֶת בָּכֹרֵיָהֶם  
וְלֹא נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת מִמּוֹנָם, דִּיןָנוּ.

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

אֲלֹו נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת מִמּוֹנָם  
וְלֹא קָרַע לָנוּ 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 לָנוּ אֶת הַיּוֹם  
וְלֹא הָעֲבִירָנוּ בְּתוֹכוֹ בַּחֲרָבָה,  
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 בַּחֲרָבָה  
וְלֹא שִׁקְעָ צְרָנוּ 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 שִׁקְעָ צְרָנוּ בְּתוֹכוֹ  
וְלֹא סְפִיקָ צְרָפָנוּ בַּמִּדְבָּר אַרְבָּעים  
שָׁנָה, 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 סְפִיקָ צְרָפָנוּ בַּמִּדְבָּר אַרְבָּעים  
שָׁנָה

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

וְלֹא הָאָכַלָּנוּ אֶת הַמָּן, דִּיןָנוּ.  
אֲלֹו הָאָכַלָּנוּ אֶת הַמָּן  
וְלֹא נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת הַשְׁבָת, דִּיןָנוּ.

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

אֲלֹו נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת הַשְׁבָת,  
וְלֹא קָרְבָּנוּ לִפְנֵי הַר סִינֵּי, דִּיןָנוּ.

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

אֲלֹו קָרְבָּנוּ לִפְנֵי הַר סִינֵּי,  
וְלֹא נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת הַתּוֹרָה, דִּיןָנוּ.

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

אֲלֹו בָּנָנוּ לְנוּ אֶת הַתּُוֹרָה  
וְלֹא הַבְּנִיסָנוּ לְאָרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל,  
דִּיןָ.

אֲלֹו הַבְּנִיסָנוּ לְאָרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל  
וְלֹא בָּנָה לְנוּ אֶת בֵּית הַבְּחִירָה,  
דִּיןָ.

עַל אַחֲת, בִּמְהַ וּבִמְהַ, טוֹבָה  
כְּפֹולָה וּמִכְפָּלָת לְמִקּוֹם עָלֵינוּ  
שְׁחוֹצִיאָנוּ מִמּצְרִים, וַעֲשָׂה בָּהֶם  
שְׁפָטִים, וַעֲשָׂה בְּאֱלֹהִים, וַהֲרָגָ  
אֶת בָּכְורֵיָם, וַנְתַן לְנוּ אֶת הַיּוֹם,  
מִמּוֹנָם, וַקְרָעָ לְנוּ אֶת הַיּוֹם,  
וְהַעֲבִירָנוּ בְּתוֹכוֹ בְּחַרְבָּה, וַשְּׁקָעָ  
צְרָנוּ בְּתוֹכוֹ, וַסְּפָקָ צְרָפָנוּ בְּמִדְבָּר  
אַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה, וְהַאֲכִילָנוּ אֶת  
הַמּוֹן, וַנְתַן לְנוּ אֶת הַשְׁבָּת, וַקְרָבָנוּ  
לִפְנֵי הַר סִינֵי, וַנְתַן לְנוּ אֶת  
הַתּُוֹרָה, וְהַבְּנִיסָנוּ לְאָרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל,  
וַבָּנָה לְנוּ אֶת בֵּית הַבְּחִירָה לְכֶפֶר  
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.

#### THE CORE COMMANDMENT TO RETELL THE EXODUS

רְبָן גַּמְלִיאֵל הָיָה אוֹמֵר: כָּל  
שֶׁלֹּא אָמַר שְׁלֹשָׁה דָבָרִים אֲלֹו  
בְּפַסְחָה, لֹא יֵצֵא יְדֵי חֹזֶבֶתָו, וְאֲלֹו  
הַן: פַּסְחָה, מְצָה, וּמְרוֹרָה.

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.

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

פסח שְׁהִיו אֲבוֹתֵינוּ אָוֶבְּלִים  
בָּזְמַן שְׁבִית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ תִּהְיָ קִים,  
עַל שֻׂוּם מָה? עַל שֻׂוּם שְׁפֵסֶח  
הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא עַל בְּתִי  
אֲבוֹתֵינוּ בָּמִצְרָיִם, שְׁנָאָמָר:  
וְאָמָרְתֶּם זֶבֶח פְּסֶח הוּא לִי,  
אֲשֶׁר פְּסֶח עַל בְּתִי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל  
בָּמִצְרָיִם בְּנֶגֶפּו אֶת מִצְרָיִם, וְאֶת  
בְּתִינּוּ הַצִּיל, וַיַּקְרֹב הַעַם וַיַּשְׁתַּחַוו.

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

מַצָּה זוּ שְׁאָנוּ אָוֶבְּלִים, עַל שֻׂוּם  
מָה? עַל שֻׂוּם נִשְׁלָא הַסְּפִיק בְּצָקָם  
שֶׁל אֲבוֹתֵינוּ לְהַחְמִין עַד שְׁנֶגֶלָה  
עַלְיָהֶם מֶלֶךְ מֶלֶכִי הַמֶּלֶכִים,  
הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא, וְגַאֲלָם,  
שְׁנָאָמָר: וַיָּאֹפוּ אֶת הַבָּצֶק אֲשֶׁר  
הַזִּיאוּ מִמִּצְרָיִם עֲגַת מַצּוֹת, כִּי  
לֹא חָמֵץ, כִּי גָּרְשָׂו מִמִּצְרָיִם וְלֹא  
יָכְלוּ לְהַתְמִהָה, וְגַם צְדָה לֹא  
עָשָׂו לָהֶם.

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

מְרוֹר זֶה שְׁאָנוּ אָוֶבְּלִים, עַל שֻׂוּם  
מָה? עַל שֻׂוּם שְׁמְרוּ הַמִּצְרָיִם  
אֶת חֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ בָּמִצְרָיִם,  
שְׁנָאָמָר: וַיִּמְרֹר אֶת חֵיָהֶם  
בְּעֲבָדָה קָשָׁה, בְּחָמֵר וּבְלִבְנִים  
וּבְכָל עֲבָדָה בְּשָׁדָה אֶת כָּל  
עֲבָדָתֶם אֲשֶׁר עָבְדוּ בָּהֶם בָּפָרָךְ.

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 that they brought out of Egypt into cakes of matzah, that were not leavened, since 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 דֹּור וְדֹור חִיב אָדָם לְרָאֹת  
 אֶת עַצְמוֹ בְּאֵלָיו הַוָּא יֵצֵא  
 מִמְצָרִים, שָׁגָגָאמֶר: וְהַגְּדָתָ לְבָנֶךָ  
 בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לְאָמֶר, בַּעֲבוּר זֶה  
 עָשָׂה יְיָ לִי בָּצָאָתִי מִמְצָרִים. לֹא  
 אֶת אָבוֹתֵינוּ בַּלְבֵד גַּאֲלַת הַקָּדוֹשׁ  
 בְּרוּךְ הוּא, אֶלָּא אֶפְתַּח אֶת גַּאֲלָת  
 עַמֹּהָם, שָׁגָגָאמֶר: וְאֶת גַּאֲלָת  
 מַשְׁם, לְמַעַן חַבְיאָתֵנוּ לְתַתָּה  
 לְנוּ אֶת הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע  
 לְאָבֹתֵינוּ.

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 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:*

לְפִיכָּךְ אָנָּחָנוּ חִיבִּים לְהֻזּוֹת,  
 לְהַלֵּל, לְשִׁבְטָה, לְפָאָר, לְרוּםָם,  
 לְהַזָּר, לְבָרֶךָ, לְעַלְהָ וּלְקָלָס לְמַיִּ  
 שְׁעָשָׂה לְאָבוֹתֵינוּ וְלְנוּ אֶת כָּל  
 הַגְּסִים הָאֵלָיו: הַזִּיאָנוּ מִעֲבָדֹת  
 לְחַרְות, מִגּוֹן לְשִׁמְחָה, וּמִאָבֶל  
 לִיּוֹם טָוב, וּמִאָפְלָה לְאָזְרָן גָּדוֹל,  
 וּמִשְׁעָבֹד לְגַאֲלָה. וּנְאָמֶר לְפָנָיו  
 שִׁירָה מְדֻשָּׁה: הַלְלוּיה.

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 עַבְדֵי יְהָה הַלְלוּ  
 אֶת שֵׁם יְהָה. יְהָיָ שֵׁם יְהָה  
 מְבָרֵךְ מִעֵתָה וְעַד עוֹלָם. מִמְּזָרָח  
 שְׁמֵשׁ עַד מִבּוֹאוֹ מִמָּחָלָל שֵׁם  
 יְהָה. רַם עַל כָּל גּוֹיִם יְהָה עַל  
 הַשָּׁמַיִם בָּבּוֹדוֹ. מַיּוֹתָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ

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 glory is over the heavens. Who is like The Eternal, our God, Who dwells on high, yet allows his His Essence to descend upon heaven and

**הַמְגִבֵּיהַי** לְשָׁבַת. **הַמְשֻׁפִילִי** לְרֹאֹות בְּשָׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ. **מַקִּימִי** מַעֲפָר ذָל מַאֲשֶׁפֶת יְרִים אַבְיוֹן. **לְהֹשִׁיבִי** עִם נְדִיבִים עִם נְדִיבִי עַמּוֹ. **מוֹשִׁיבִי** עַקְרָת הַבַּיִת אֵם

הַבְּנִים שְׁמִיחָה הַלְלוּ יְהָה.

**בְּצָאת יִשְׂרָאֵל** מִמִּצְרַיִם בֵּית  
יַעֲקֹב מִעַם לְעֵז. **הַיְתָה יְהוָה** לְקָדְשׁוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמְּשֻׁלָּוֹתָיו. הַיּוֹם  
רָאָה וַיָּנָס הַיַּרְדֵּן יַסֵּב לְאַחֲרָה.  
הַחֲרִים רַקְדוּ בָּאִילִים גָּבֻעוֹת  
כְּבָנֵי צָאן. מַה לְךָ הַיּוֹם כִּי תְנוּס  
הַיַּרְדֵּן תַּסֵּב לְאַחֲרָה. הַחֲרִים  
תַּرְקְדוּ בָּאִילִים גָּבֻעוֹת כְּבָנֵי צָאן.  
מִלְּפָנֵי אָדוֹן חֹזֵל אָרֶץ מִלְּפָנֵי  
אָלוֹהָה יַעֲקֹב. הַהְפָכִי הַצּוֹר אַגְם  
מִים חַלְמִישׁ לְמַעַינָו מִים.

*Raise the cup of wine and recite the following blessing:*

**בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם, אָשָׁר גָּאַלְנוּ וְגָאַל אֶת  
אֲבוֹתֵינוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם, וְהִגִּיעֵנוּ לְלִילָה  
הַזֹּה לְאָכֵל בּוֹ מֵצָה וּמַרְורָה. כֹּן יְיָ  
אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ יִגְּיעֵנוּ  
לְמוֹעָדים וּלְרָגְלִים אֶחָרִים  
הַבָּאִים לְקָרְאַתֵּנוּ לְשָׁלוֹם,  
שְׁמָחִים בְּבָנֵינוּ עִירָךְ וּשְׁשִׁים  
בְּעַבּוֹדֶתְךָ. וּנְאָכֵל שֶׁם מִן הַזְּבָחִים  
וּמִן הַפְּסָחִים אָשָׁר יִגְּיעַ דָם עַל**

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.

כִּי רַמְצָנָה לְרַצְנוֹ, וְנוֹצָה לְקַדְשֵׁי  
חֲדָשׁ עַל גָּאַלְתָּנוּ וְעַל פְּדוּת  
נְפִישָׁנוּ. בָּרוּךְ אֱתָה יְיָ גָּאַל  
יִשְׂרָאֵל.

בָּרוּךְ אֱתָה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הַגַּפְן.

*Drink the cup of wine while reclining to the left.*

## רָחְצָה

## Rachtzah

The Seder continues with Rachtzah, which 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 יי אֱלֹהִינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם, אָשֵר קְדַשְּנוּ בְמִצְוֹתָיו  
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.

*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 two *zeitim*<sup>1</sup> in a timespan of *k'dei achilat pras*<sup>2</sup>, 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.

ברוך אתה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קָדְשָׂנוּ בְמִצְוֹתָיו וַצְוָנוּ 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.*

<sup>1</sup>The 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.

<sup>2</sup>The 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 marmor, 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 marmor, since it is commonly eaten as the main ingredient in salad.

However, other salad greens that are less focal elements in common salads make excellent choices for marmor. Both endive and raddichio have strong, bitter flavors that stand out when eaten alone, and can be considered recommended vegetables for marmor.

One should eat a *k'zeiyit*<sup>1</sup> of marmor after dipping it in *charoset*. Note that the intent is to use only a small amount of *charoset* when eating marmor, 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 marmor.

*Recite the following blessing:*

**בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְשָׁנוּ בְמִצְוֹתֶיךָ  
וְצִוָּנוּ עַל אַכְילַת מַרְוָר.**

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 marmor, but do not recline while doing so.*

<sup>1</sup>Most opinions agree that one may rely on the lenient measurements of a *k'zeiyit* for the purpose of eating marmor, which is approximately 19 grams. Notably, it is much easier to eat 19 grams worth of endive or raddichio 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 Koraich is largely symbolic rather than a directly fulfillment a commandment. If necessary, a qualified halachic authority can be consulted to determine the proper guidelines.

*Recite the following passage:*

זִכְרָה לַמְּקֹדֵשׁ בְּהַלֵּל. כְּנָא עֲשָׂה הַלֵּל  
בָּזְמָן שְׁבִיתַת הַמְּקֹדֵשׁ הָיָה קִים:  
הָיָה פּוֹרֶךְ מַצָּה וּמַרְורָה וְאוֹכֵל  
בְּיַחַד, לְקִים מִה שְׁגַגָּאָמָר: עַל  
מַצּוֹת וּמַרְרִים יַאֲכִלוּ.

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 in 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 Afikomen at the end of the meal, and one is not supposed to eat the Afikomen if they are bloated. In addition, the meal should not take an excessive amount of time, as the Afikomen needs to be eaten prior to chatzot, the halachic definition of midnight.*

*After the meal, it is time to eat the Afikomen; 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.

שיר המעלות. בשבב יי אַת  
 שיבת ציון ח'ינו בחלמים: אָד  
 ימלא שחוק פינו ולשוננו רנה.  
 אָד יאמרו בגוים הגדיל יי  
 לעשות עם אלה: הגדיל יי  
 לעשות עמן. ח'ינו שמחים:  
 שובה יי אַת שביבתנו באפיקים  
 בנגב: הזרעים בדמעה ברנה  
 יקצרו: הלוּך ילוּך ובבה נשא  
 משך הזרע. בא יבא ברנה. נשא  
 אלמתיו:

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 banching 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.

רבותי נברך:

Gentleman, let us recite grace.

יהי שם יי מברך מעטה ועד  
 עולם:

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

ברשות מרנו ורבנו ורבותי נברך  
 (אליהנו) שאלכלנו משלו:

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

ברוך (אליהנו) שאלכלנו משלו  
 ובטובו ח'ינו:

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

ברוך הוא וברוך שמו:

He is blessed and His name is blessed.

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

בָּרוּךְ אֱתָה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם. הִזְון אֶת הָעוֹלָם בְּלֹא  
בְּטוּבוֹ בְּחִנוּ בְּחֶסֶד וּבְרִתָּמִים. הַוָּא  
נוֹתֵן לְחֵם לְכָל בָּשָׂר. כִּי לְעוֹלָם  
חֶסֶדוֹ וּבְטוּבוֹ הַגָּדוֹל תָּמִיד לֹא  
חֲסֵר לְנוּ וְאֶל יִחְסַר לְנוּ מִזּוֹן  
לְעוֹלָם וְעַד. בְּעֵבֶור שְׁמוֹ הַגָּדוֹל.  
כִּי הַוָּא אֵל זֶן וּמְפִרְגֵּס לְכָל  
וּמְטִיב לְכָל וּמְכִין מִזּוֹן לְכָל  
בְּרִיאוֹתָיו אָשֵר בָּרָא: בָּרוּךְ אֱתָה  
יי. הִזְון אֶת הַபָּל:

נוֹצָה לְךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ. עַל שְׁהַנְּחַלְתָּ  
לְאָבוֹתֵינוּ אֶרְץ חֶמְדָה טוֹבָה  
וּרְחָבָה. וְעַל שְׁהַזְּצָאתֵנוּ יי  
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֵאֶרְץ מִצְרַיִם. וּפְדִיכָתֵנוּ  
מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים. וְעַל בְּרִיתְךָ  
שְׁחַתְמָתָ בְּבָשְׂרֵנוּ. וְעַל תָּרְתַּחַ  
שְׁלָמְדָתֵנוּ. וְעַל חֶקְיקָת שְׁהַזְּדַעַתָּנוּ.  
וְעַל חַיִם חַן וְחֶסֶד שְׁחַונְגָתָנוּ.  
וְעַל אֲכִילָת מִזּוֹן שְׁאָתָה זֶן  
וּמְפִרְגֵּס אָוֹתָנוּ תָּמִיד. בְּכָל יוֹם  
וּבְכָל עַת וּבְכָל נְשָׁעָה:

וְעַל הַבָּל יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֲנַחֲנוּ מַזְדִים  
לְךָ וּמַבְרָכִים אָוֹתָךְ. יְתִבְרֹךְ שְׁמֶךְ  
בְּפִי כָּל חַי תָּמִיד לְעוֹלָם וְעַד:  
בְּכַתּוֹב. וְאֲכַלְתָּ וְשַׁבְעָתָ וּבְרָכָתָ

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.

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 freed 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

# ברך

את יי אֱלֹהִיךְ עַל הָאָרֶץ הַטְבָה  
אֲשֶׁר נָתָן לְךָ בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי. עַל  
הָאָרֶץ וְעַל הַמִּזְוֹן:

רְחֵם נָא יי אֱלֹהִינוּ עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל  
עַמָּךְ. וְעַל יְרוּשָׁלַיִם עִירְךְ. וְעַל  
צִיּוֹן מַשְׁבֵּן כָּבוֹדךְ. וְעַל מֶלֶכְתְּךָ  
בֵּית דָוד מֶשְׁיחָךְ. וְעַל הַבִּית  
הַגָּדוֹל וְהַקָּדוֹשׁ שְׁנִיקָרָא שָׁמֶךְ  
עָלָיו אֱלֹהִינוּ אָבִינוּ. רְעֵנוּ זָוְנוּ  
פָּרְנָסָנוּ וּבְלֶבֶלָנוּ וְהַרְוִיחָנוּ. וְהַרְוִוח  
לָנוּ יי אֱלֹהִינוּ מִהְרָה מִכֶּל  
צָרוֹתֵינוּ. וּנְאָאֵל תָּצְרִיכָנוּ יי  
אֱלֹהִינוּ לֹא לִידֵי מִתְנָתָה בְּשָׁר וְדָם  
וְלֹא לִידֵי הַלּוֹאַתָּם. כִּי אִם לִידֵךְ  
הַמֶּלֶאָה. הַפְּתֻנוֹתָה. הַקָּדוֹשָׁה  
וְהַרְחָבָה. שְׁלָא נְבוֹשׁ וְלֹא נְכִילָם  
לְעוֹלָם וְעַד:

you will be satiated, and you will bless The 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 not 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:*

רְצָחָה וְהַחְלִיאָנוּ יי אֱלֹהִינוּ  
בְּמִצּוֹתְךָ וּבְמִצּוֹת יּוֹם הַשְׁבִּיעִי  
הַשְׁבָּת הַגָּדוֹל וְהַקָּדוֹשׁ הַזָּה. כִּי  
יּוֹם זֶה גָּדוֹל וְקָדוֹשׁ הוּא לְפָנֶיךָ  
לְשָׁבָת בּוּ וְלִנְעָח בּוּ בְּאַהֲבָה  
בְּמִצּוֹת רְצֹונֶךָ. וּבְרְצֹונֶךָ הַנִּיח לְנוּ  
יי אֱלֹהִינוּ שְׁלָא תְּהִא צָרָה וִיגּוֹן  
וְאַנְחָה בַּיּוֹם מִנוֹחָתָנוּ. וְהַרְאָנוּ יי

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 בְּנִחְמָת צַיּוֹן עִירֵנוּ וּבְבָנֵינוּ  
יְרוּשָׁלָם עִיר קָדְשָׁן כִּי אַתָּה  
הַוָּא בֶּעֶל הַיְשׁוּעָה וּבֶעֶל  
הַנִּחְמָות.

אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ יַעֲלֵה  
וַיָּבוֹא וַיָּגַע וַיָּרַא וַיַּצְחַק וַיִּשְׁמַע  
וַיִּפְקַד וַיִּזְכַּר זָכְרוֹנֵנוּ וַיִּפְקַד זָכְרוֹנֵנוּ  
וַיִּזְכַּר אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וַיִּזְכַּר בָּנוּ מֶשֶׁיחַ בָּנוּ  
הַזֶּד עַבְדָךְ וַיִּזְכַּר יְרוּשָׁלָם עִיר  
קָדְשָׁךְ וַיִּזְכַּר כָּל עַמְךָ בֵּית  
יִשְׂרָאֵל לִפְנֵיךְ לְפָלִיטָה לְטוֹבָה  
לְחֵן וְלִחְסָד וְלִרְחָמִים לְחַיִם  
וְלִשְׁלָום בַּיּוֹם חֶג הַמְּצֻוֹת הַזֹּה  
זָכְרָנוּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ בָּזֶה לְטוֹבָה  
וַיִּפְקַדֵּנוּ בָּזֶה לְבָרָכה וְהַשְׁיִיעָנוּ בָּזֶה  
לְחַיִם. וּבְדִבָר יְשׁוּעָה וְרִחְמָמִים  
חַיָּס וְחַגָּנוּ וְרִחָם עָלֵינוּ וְהַשְׁיִיעָנוּ  
כִּי אַלְיכָ עִינֵינוּ כִּי אַל מַלְךָ חָנוֹן  
וְרִחְום 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  
בָּמָהָרָה בְּיַמִּינוּ. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ  
בּוֹנָה (בְּרִחְמָיו) יְרוּשָׁלָם: אָמֵן:

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 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.

ברוך אתה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
 הָעוֹלָם. הָאֱלֹהִים. אֲבִינוּ. מֶלֶכְנוּ.  
 אֲדִירָנוּ. בָּרוּאָנוּ. גּוֹאָלָנוּ. יוֹצְרָנוּ.  
 קָדוֹשָׁנוּ קָדוֹשׁ יַעֲקֹב. רָוֹעָנוּ רָוֹעָה  
 יִשְׂרָאֵל. הַמֶּלֶךְ הַטּוֹב וְהַמְּטוּבָב  
 לְפָלָל. שִׁבְכָּל יוֹם וַיּוֹם הַוָּא הַטּוֹב  
 הַוָּא מְטוּבָב הַוָּא יִיטּוּב לָנוּ. הַוָּא  
 גִּמְלָנוּ הַוָּא גּוֹמְלָנוּ הַוָּא יִגְמְלָנוּ  
 לְעֵד לְחֵן וְלְחֶסֶד וְלִרְחָמִים וְלִרְוחָה  
 הַצָּלָה וְהַצָּלָחָה בְּרָכָה וַיְשֻׁועָה  
 נְחָמָה פְּרִנְסָה וּכְלִכְלָה וּרְחָמִים  
 וּתְהִימָּה וּשְׁלוּזָם וּכְלָ טָוב, וּמְכָל טָוב  
 לְעוֹלָם אֶל יְחִיסָּרָנוּ:

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

הַרְחָמָן הַוָּא יִמְלֶךְ עָלֵינוּ לְעוֹלָם  
 וְעַד:  
 הַרְחָמָן הַיָּא יִתְבָּרֵךְ בְּשָׁמִים  
 וּבָאָרֶץ:  
 הַרְחָמָן הַוָּא יִשְׁתְּבַח לְדוֹר דּוֹרִים,  
 וַיִּתְפָּאֵר בָּנוּ לְעֵד וְלִנְצָח נְצָחִים,  
 וַיִּתְהַדֵּר בָּנוּ לְעֵד וְלִעְוָלָמִי  
 עוֹלָמִים:  
 הַרְחָמָן הַוָּא יִפְרִנְסָנוּ בְּכָבוֹד:  
 הַרְחָמָן הַוָּא יִשְׁבַּר עָלֵינוּ מַעַל  
 צְוֹאָרָנוּ וְהַיָּא יוֹלִיכָנוּ קּוֹמְמִית  
 לְאָרָצָנוּ:  
 הַרְחָמָן הַוָּא יִשְׁלַח לָנוּ בְּרָכָה  
 מִרְבָּה בְּבֵית הָזֹה וְעַל שְׁלֹחֵנוּ זֶה

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

שֶׁאָכְלָנוּ עַלְיוֹ:  
הָרְמַמֵּן הַוָּא יִשְׁלַח לָנוּ אֶת  
אֲלֵיהוּ הַנְּבִיא זָכָר לְטוֹב וִיבָּשָׂר  
לָנוּ בְּשֻׁרוֹת טוֹבוֹת יְשֻׁועָות  
וְנִצְחָמוֹת:

*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.*

הָרְמַמֵּן הַוָּא יִבְרַךְ אֶת (אָבִי  
מָזְרִי) בָּעֵל הַבָּיִת הַזֶּה וְאֶת (אָמִי  
מָזְרָתִי) בָּעֵלָת הַבָּיִת הַזֶּה. אָוֹתָם  
וְאֶת בִּיתָם וְאֶת זָרְעָם וְאֶת כָּל  
אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם. (הָרְמַמֵּן הַוָּא יִבְרַךְ  
אָוֹתֵי וְאֶת אַשְׁתֵּי וְאֶת זָרְעֵי וְאֶת  
כָּל אֲשֶׁר לִי/לָנוּ), אָוֹתָנוּ וְאֶת כָּל  
אֲשֶׁר לָנוּ. בָּמוֹ שְׁנַתְּבָרְכוּ  
אָבוֹתֵינוּ אֶבְרָהָם יִצְחָק וַיַּעֲקֹב,  
בְּכָל. מִכָּל. כָּל. כָּן יִבְרַךְ אָוֹתָנוּ  
כָּלָנוּ יְחִיד בְּבָרְכָה שְׁלָמָה. וּנְאָמַר  
אָמַן:

בְּמָרוֹם יָלְמֹדו עַלְיָהֶם וּעַלְיָינוּ זָכָות  
שְׁתַּהְא לְמִשְׁמָרָת שְׁלוּם. וּנְשָׁא  
בְּרָכָה מֵאָת יִי. וַצְדָּקָה מִאָלֹהִי  
יִשְׁעָנוּ. וּנְמִצְאָ חָנוּ וַיְשַׁבֵּל טוֹב  
בְּעִינֵי אֱלֹהִים וְאַדְמָם:

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 perfect  
blessing - and we shall say Amen.

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:*

הַרְחָמָן הָוֹא יִנְחִילֵנוּ לַיּוֹם שְׁבָת וְמִנְיָחָה לְחַיִּי הָעוֹלָמִים:

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

הַרְחָמָן הָוֹא יִנְחִילֵנוּ יוֹם שְׁבָת טוב:

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.

הַרְחָמָן הָוֹא יַצְבִּינוּ לִימוֹת הַמֶּשִׁיחָה וְלִחְיֵי הָעוֹלָם הַבָּא:

מְגֹדָל יִשְׁוּעָת מֶלֶבֶן וְעַשְׂתָּה חֶסֶד לְמֶשִׁיחָה לְדָוד וְלִזְרָעָו עַד עוֹלָם עַשְׂתָּה שְׁלוּם בְּמָרוּמָיו הָוֹא יִעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוּם עַלְינָנוּ וְעַל 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.

יראו אֲתֶךָ יְיָ קָדוֹשָׁיו בְּיַי אַיִן מְחַסּוֹר לִירָאֵינוּ: בְּפִירִים רְשָׁיו וְרַעֲבוּ וְדָוְרָשִׁי יִי לֹא יִחְסְרוּ כָּל טוב: הַדָּוָה לִי בְּיַי טוב בְּיַי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדָנוּ: פּוֹתַח אֲתֶךָ יְיָ וְמִשְׁבִּיעַ לְכָל חַי רְצָוֹן: בְּרוֹךְ הָגָבָר אֲשֶׁר יִבְטַח בְּיַי וְהַיָּה יִי מְבָטָחוֹ: נְעַר הַיִּתְּתִּי גַּם זְקָנָתִי וְלֹא רְאִיתִי צְדִיק נְעַזְבָּ וְזְרָעָו מְבָקֵשׁ לְחַם: יִי עַד לְעַמּוֹ יִתְּפַן יִי יְבָרֵךְ אֲתֶךָ עַמוֹּ בְּשֶׁלּוּם:

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.*

סְבָרֵי מְרַגְּנוּ וְרַבְּנוּ וְרַבּוֹתִי:

Attention all:

**בָּרוּךְ אֱלֹהִינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בָּרוּא פְּרִי הַגַּפֵּן.**

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.*

**שְׁפָךְ חֲמֹתֶךָ אֶל הָגוּם אֲשֶׁר לَا יְדֻעַּךְ וְעַל מַמְלָכֹת אֲשֶׁר בְּשָׁמֶךָ לَا קָרָאוּ: בַּי אָכַל אֶת יַעֲקֹב וְאֶת נָוָה הַשְׁמָנוֹ: שְׁפָךְ עַלְיָהֶם וְעַמְךָ וְחָרוֹן אֲפָךְ יְשִׁיגֶם: תַּרְדַּךְ בָּאָף וְתַשְׁמִידֶם מִתְחַת שְׁמֵי יְיָ:**

Pour your wrath on the nations that do not acknowledge You<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup>The 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 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. Yet 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 that 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 hopes 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, even while we rejoice our freedom, that we are not yet done fighting for it. True peace can only come until 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 לְאֶלְעָנוּ, כִּי לְשָׁמָךְ תָּנוּ  
 כְּבוֹד, עַל חָסֶדֶךְ, עַל אַמְתָּךְ. לִפְמָה  
 יֹאמְרוּ הָגּוּם אֵיכָה נָא אֱלֹהִים,  
 וְאֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּשָׁמִים, כָּל אֲשֶׁר חָפֵץ  
 עָשָׂה. עַצְבֵּיהֶם בְּסֶף וְזָהָב מְעֵשָׂה  
 יְדֵי אָדָם. פָּה לְהָם וְלֹא יִדְבְּרוּ,  
 עִינִים לְהָם וְלֹא יִרְאוּ. אַזְנִים  
 לְהָם וְלֹא יִשְׁמְעוּ, אַף לְהָם וְלֹא  
 יִרְיחֻן. יְדֵיהֶם וְלֹא יִמְישֻׁן,  
 רְגֵלֵיהֶם וְלֹא יַהֲלֹכוּ, לֹא יִהְגֹּזֶן  
 בְּגָרוֹנִים. כְּמוֹהָם יְהִי עֲשֵׂיהֶם, כָּל  
 אֲשֶׁר בְּטַח בָּהֶם. יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּטַח  
 בְּיִי, עַזְרָם וּמְגַנֵּם הוּא. בֵּית אַהֲרֹן  
 בְּטַחוֹ בְּיִי, עַזְרָם וּמְגַנֵּם הוּא.  
 יִרְאֵי יְיָ בְּטַחוֹ בְּיִי, עַזְרָם וּמְגַנֵּם  
 הוּא:

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 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.

יְיָ זָכָרָנוּ יָבֹרֶךְ, יָבֹרֶךְ אֶת בֵּית  
יִשְׂרָאֵל, יָבֹרֶךְ אֶת בֵּית אַהֲרֹן.  
יָבֹרֶךְ יִרְאֵי יְיָ, הַקְּטָנִים עַם  
הַגָּדוֹלִים. יְסַפֵּר יְיָ עֲלֵיכֶם, עֲלֵיכֶם  
וְעַל בְּנֵיכֶם. בָּרוּכִים אַתָּם לִי,  
עֲשָׂה שָׁמִים וְאָרֶץ. הַשְׁמִים  
שָׁמִים לִי וְהָאָרֶץ נָתָן לְבָנֵי אָדָם.  
לَا הַמְּתִים יְהִלֵּלוּ יְהָה וְלֹא כָּל  
יְרִדי דּוֹמָה. וְאַנְחָנוּ נָבֹרֶךְ יְהָה  
מְעַתָּה וְעַד עוֹלָם. הַלְלֵיָה:

אַהֲבָתִי בַּי יִשְׁמַע יְיָ אֶת קָולִי  
תְּחִנּוֹנִי. בַּי הַטָּה אָזְנוֹ לִי וּבִימִי  
אָקְרָא. אַפְפּוֹנִי חַבְלִי מָות וּמְצָרִי  
שָׁאָול מְצָאָונִי, צָרָה וִיגּוֹן אֶמְצָא.  
וּבִשְׁטָם יְיָ אָקְרָא, אָנָא יְיָ מַלְטָה  
נְפָשִׁי. חָנוֹן יְיָ וְצָדִיק, וְאֱלֹהֵינוּ  
מְרַחָם. שָׁמֵר פְּתָאִים יְיָ, דָלּוֹתִי  
וְלִי יְהֹוָשִׁיעַ. שׁוּבִי נְפָשִׁי  
לִמְנוֹחָיבִי, בַּי יְיָ גָמֵל עַלְיבִי. בַּי  
חַלְצָף נְפָשִׁי מִמְּוֹת, אֶת עִינֵּי מִנוֹ  
דִּמְעָה, אֶת רָגְלֵי מִדְחָה. אֶת הַלְּךָ  
לִפְנֵי יְיָ בָּאָרֶצֶת הַחַיִים. הַאֲמָנָתִי  
בַּי אָדָבָר, אָנִי עֲנִיתִי מָאָד. אָנִי  
אָמָרָתִי בְּחֻפְזִי, כָּל הָאָדָם כַּלְבָן:

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 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.

מָה אֲשִׁיב לִי כֹּל תְּגִמּוֹלֹתָיו עַלְיָה  
 בָּסֶם יְשׁוּעָת אֲשָׁא וּבְשָׁם יִי  
 אֶקְרָא. נְדָרִי לִי אֲשֶׁלֶם נְגַדָּה נָא  
 לְכָל עַמּוֹ. יִקָּרֶב עִנִּי יִי הַמְּנוֹתָה  
 לְחַסְדֵּיו. אָנָא יִי כִּי אָנִי עַבְדָךְ,  
 אָנִי עַבְדָךְ בְּן אַמְתָךְ, פִּתְחָתָךְ  
 לְמוֹסְרִי. לְךָ אֶזְבָּח צְבָח תְּזִהָה  
 וּבְשָׁם יִי אֶקְרָא. נְדָרִי לִי אֲשֶׁלֶם  
 נְגַדָּה נָא לְכָל עַמּוֹ. בְּחַצְרוֹת בֵּית  
 יִי, בְּתוּכַבְיִי יְרוּשָׁלָם, הַלְלוִיה:  
**הַלְלוּ אֶת יְיָ כֹּל גּוֹים, שְׁבַחוּהוּ כֹּל  
 הָאָמִים. כִּי גָּבָר עָלֵינוּ חִסְדוֹ,**  
**וְאֶמְתָּה יִי לְעוֹלָם, הַלְלוִיה:**

*The following four verses should be recited responsively.*

**הַזָּדוֹ לִי כִּי טֹב כִּי לְעוֹלָם חִסְדוֹ:**  
**יֹאמֶר נָא יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי לְעוֹלָם**  
**חִסְדוֹ:**  
**יֹאמְרוּ נָא בֵּית אַהֲרֹן כִּי לְעוֹלָם**  
**חִסְדוֹ:**  
**יֹאמְרוּ נָא יְרָאֵי יִי כִּי לְעוֹלָם**  
**חִסְדוֹ:**

מִן הַמִּצְרָיִם קָרָאתִי יְהָה, עֲנָנִי  
 בַּמְּרֹחֶב יְהָה. יִי לִי לֹא אִירָא, מָה  
 יַעֲשֶׂה לִי אָדָם. יִי לִי בַּעֲזָרִי וְאָנִי  
 אֶרְאָה בְּשָׂנָאִי. טֹב לְחַסּוֹת בֵּין  
 מִבְטָח בְּאָדָם. טֹב לְחַסּוֹת בֵּין  
 מִבְטָח בְּנִידִיבִים. כֹּל גּוֹים סְבֻבוֹנִי,

How can I repay The Eternal for all that the kindness 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 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!

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

Proclaim, Israel: His kindness is neverending!

Proclaim, House of Aaron: His kindness is neverending!

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

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 flesh and blood 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 than the promises of man. It is better to seek protection in The Eternal than the wealthy and prestigious. All other nations surround

בְּשָׁם יִי בַּי אֲמִילָם. סְבֻבִּי גָם  
 סְבֻבִּי, בְּשָׁם יִי בַּי אֲמִילָם. סְבֻבִּי  
 בְּדָבָרִים, דְּעַכְוּ בְּאֶשׁ קֹצִים, בְּשָׁם  
 יִי בַּי אֲמִילָם. דָחָה דְחִיתָנִי לְגַפֵּל,  
 וַיִּי עֹזְרָנִי. עַזְיָ וּמְרָת יְהָ וַיְהָ לִי  
 לִישְׁוֹעָה. קֹול רְנָה וִישְׁוֹעָה בְּאַהֲלִי  
 צְדִיקִים, יְמִין יִי עַשְׂהָ חִיל. יְמִין יִי  
 רְומָמָה, יְמִין יִי עַשְׂהָ חִיל. לֹא  
 אָמוֹת בַּי אָחִיה, וְאַסְפָּר מְעַשִּׁי  
 יְהָ. יִסְרָר יִסְרָרִי יְהָ, וְלִמְוֹת לֹא  
 נִתְגַּנִּי. פָּתָחוּ לִי שַׁעֲרֵי צְדָקָה, אֲבָא  
 בָּם, אָזְדָה יְהָ. זֶה הַשְׁעָר לִי,  
 צְדִיקִים יִבָּאוּ בָוּ. אָזְדָה בַּי עֲנִיטָנִי  
 וְתַהְיָ לִי לִישְׁוֹעָה. אָזְדָה בַּי עֲנִיטָנִי  
 וְתַהְיָ לִי לִישְׁוֹעָה. אָבוֹ מַאֲסָה  
 הַבּוֹנִים הִתָּה לְרֹאשׁ פֶּנה. אָבוֹ  
 מַאֲסָה הַבּוֹנִים הִתָּה לְרֹאשׁ פֶּנה.  
 מַאת יִי הִתָּה זֹאת הִיא נְפָלָאת  
 בְּעִינֵינוּ. מַאת יִי הִתָּה זֹאת הִיא  
 נְפָלָאת בְּעִינֵינוּ. זֶה הַיּוֹם עַשְׂהָ יִי  
 נְגִילָה וּנְשִׁמְחָה בָוּ. זֶה הַיּוֹם  
 עַשְׂהָ יִי נְגִילָה וּנְשִׁמְחָה בָוּ:

*The following four verses should be recited responsively.*

אָנוּ יִי, הַוְשִׁיעָה נָא:

אָנוּ יִי, הַוְשִׁיעָה נָא:

אָנוּ יִי, הַצְלִיכָה נָא:

אָנוּ יִי, הַצְלִיכָה נָא:

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 cornerstone.

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

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!

Please, Eternal, save us!

Please, Eternal, save us!

Please, Eternal, help us succeed!

Please, Eternal, help us succeed!

בָּרוּךְ הַבָּא בְּשָׁם יְיָ, בִּרְכָנֹכֶם  
 מִבֵּית יְיָ. בָּרוּךְ הַבָּא בְּשָׁם יְיָ,  
 בִּרְכָנֹכֶם מִבֵּית יְיָ. אֶל יְיָ וַיֵּאֶר  
 לָנוּ. אָסְרוּ חַג בְּעֹבֶתִים עַד קְרֻנוֹת  
 הַמִּזְבֵּחַ. אֶל יְיָ וַיֵּאֶר לָנוּ. אָסְרוּ  
 חַג בְּעֹבֶתִים עַד קְרֻנוֹת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ.  
 אֱלֹהִי אַתָּה וְאוֹדֵךְ, אֱלֹהִי  
 אֲרוֹמָמֶךְ. אֱלֹהִי אַתָּה וְאוֹדֵךְ,  
 אֱלֹהִי אֲרוֹמָמֶךְ. הַזָּדוֹ לֵי בַּי טוֹב,  
 בַּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסְדוֹ. הַזָּדוֹ לֵי בַּי טוֹב,  
 בַּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסְדוֹ:

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.

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

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

יְהִלְלוּךְ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ כָּל מַעֲשֵׂיךְ,  
 וְחַסִּידֵךְ צְדִיקִים עוֹשֵׂי רְצׂוֹנֶךְ,  
 וְכָל עַמְּךָ בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּרָנָה יוֹדוֹ  
 וַיְבָרְכוּ, וַיְשַׁבְּחוּ וַיְפָאַרוּ, וַיְרַומְמוּ  
 וַיְעַרְצּוּ, וַיְקִדְשּׁוּ וַיְמַלְיכוּ אֶת  
 שָׁמֶךָ, מַלְכֵנוּ. בַּי לְזֹבֵב לְהַזְדּוֹת  
 וַלְשָׁמֶךָ נָאָה לְזֹמֶר, בַּי מַעֲולָם  
 וְעַד עַוְלָם אַתָּה אֵל:

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.*

הַזָּדוֹ לֵי בַּי طוֹב      Thank The Eternal, for He is Good:

His kindness is neverending!

הַזָּדוֹ לְאֱלֹהִי הָאֱלֹהִים      Thank God of All Powers:

His kindness is neverending!

הַזָּדוֹ לְאָדָני הָאָדָנים      Thank The Master of Masters:

His kindness is neverending!

בַּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסְדוֹ.

הַזָּדוֹ לְאֱלֹהִי הָאֱלֹהִים

בַּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסְדוֹ.

הַזָּדוֹ לְאָדָני הָאָדָנים

בַּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסְדוֹ.

לעָשָׂה נִפְלָאוֹת גָּדוֹלֹת לְבָהּ  
כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֽוֹ.

לעָשָׂה הַשְׁמִים בַּתְּבוֹנָה  
כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֽוֹ.

לְרוֹקֵעַ הָאָרֶץ עַל הַמְּפִימָה  
כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֽוֹ.

לעָשָׂה אֲוֹרִים גָּדוֹלִים  
כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֽוֹ.

אֶת הַשְׁמֵשׁ לְמִמְשָׁלָת בַּיּוֹם  
כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֽוֹ.

אֶת הַיּוֹרֶה וּכְכָבִים לְמִמְשָׁלָות  
בְּלִילָה כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֽוֹ.

לִמְפָה מִצְרִים בְּבָכְרֵיהֶם  
כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֽוֹ.

וַיּוֹצֵא יִשְׂרָאֵל מִתּוּכֶם  
כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֽוֹ.

בְּיַד מִזְקָה וּבְזִרוּעַ נָטוּיָה  
כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֽוֹ.

לְגִזְרֵי יָם סֻף לְגִזְרִים  
כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֽוֹ.

וְהַעֲבִיר יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּתוּכָוּ  
כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֽוֹ.

וּנְגַעַר פְּרָעָה וְחַיּוֹן בַּיָּם סֻוף  
כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֽוֹ.

לְמוֹלִיךְ עָמוֹ בְּמִדְבָּר  
כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדֽוֹ.

לִמְפָה מֶלֶכִים גָּדוֹלִים

To The One Who makes great wonders all by Himself:  
His kindness is neverending!

To The One Who makes the heavens with insight:  
His kindness is neverending!

To The One Who encases earth on water in an atmosphere:  
His kindness is neverending!

To The One Who makes the great lights in the sky:  
His kindness is neverending!

Who established the sun that rules by day:  
His kindness is neverending!

Who established the moon and stars that rule by night:  
His kindness is neverending!

To The One Who smote the Egyptians via their firstborn:  
His kindness is neverending!

And Who brought out Israel from amongst them:  
His kindness is neverending!

With a strong hand and an outstretched arm:  
His kindness is neverending!

To The One Who sliced the Sea of Reeds into channels:  
His kindness is neverending!

And Who led Israel into the sea:  
His kindness is neverending!

And Who shook off Pharaoh and his army into the Sea of Reeds:  
His kindness is neverending!

To The One Who led His nation through the wilderness:  
His kindness is neverending!

To The One Who smote great kings:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד־

His kindness is neverending!

וַיַּהֲרֹג מֶלֶכִים אֶדְירִים

And The One Who killed mighty kings:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד־

His kindness is neverending!

לְסִיחוֹן מֶלֶךְ הָאָמְרִי

Such as Sichon, King of the Emorites:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד־

His kindness is neverending!

וּלְעֹוג מֶלֶךְ הַבָּשָׂן

And such as Og, King of the Bashan:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד־

His kindness is neverending!

וַנֵּתֶן אֶרֶצֶם לְנַחֲלָה

And Who gave their lands as inheritance:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד־

His kindness is neverending!

נַחֲלָה לִיְשָׁרַאֵל עָבָדוּ

Inheritance to Israel, His servant:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד־

His kindness is neverending!

שְׁבַעֲשֵׂפְלָנוּ זָכַר לְנוּ

That in our humiliation, He remembered us:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד־

His kindness is neverending!

וַיִּפְרַקֵּנוּ מִצְּרָיִם

And that He unburdened us from our troubles:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד־

His kindness is neverending!

נָתַן לְחַם לְכָל בָּשָׂר

Who gives bread to all flesh:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד־

His kindness is neverending!

הַזָּדוֹ לְאֱלֹהִים הַשְׁמִימִים

Thank the Almighty of the Heavens:

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד־

His kindness is neverending!

נְשָׁמַת כָּל חַי תָּבֹרֶךְ אֶת שְׁמָךְ יְהָוָה  
אֱלֹהֵינוּ, וְרוּחַ כָּל בָּשָׂר תִּפְאֶר  
וְתַרְוּמָם זָכַר מֶלֶכֶנוּ תִּמְאִיד. מִן  
הָעוֹלָם וְעַד הָעוֹלָם אַתָּה אֱלֹהִים  
וּמִבְּלַעֲדֶיךָ אֵין לְנוּ מֶלֶךְ גּוֹאֵל  
וּמוֹשִׁיעַ, פּוֹדֵה וּמַצִּיל וּמַפְרִינָס  
וּמַרְחִם בָּכֶל עַת צָרָה וַצּוֹקָה. אֵין  
לְנוּ מֶלֶךְ אֶלָּא אַתָּה. אֱלֹהֵינוּ

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 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

הָרָאשׁוֹנִים וְהַאַחֲרוֹנִים, אֶלְהָ כָּל  
 בְּרִiyות, אָדוֹן כָּל תּוֹלְדוֹת, הַמְּהֻלָּל  
 בָּרָב הַתְּשִׁבְחוֹת, הַמְּנַהָּג עַזְלָמוֹ  
 בַּחֲסֵד וּבְרִיוֹתָיו בְּרַחֲמִים. וַיְיִ לְאַ  
 יָנוּם וְלֹא יִשְׁן, הַמְּעוֹרֵד יִשְׁנֵנִים  
 וְהַמְּשִׁיחָ גְּרָדִים, וְהַמְּקִיעָ אַלְמִים  
 וְהַמְּפִיר אַסּוּרִים, וְהַטּוֹמֵךְ נַפְלִים וְהַזּוֹקֵף כְּפּוֹפִים,  
 לְכָךְ לְבָדְךָ אָנָחָנוּ מַזְדִּים. אֶלְוָ פִּינָּ  
 מְלָא שִׁירָה בְּפִים, וְלַשׁוֹנָנוּ רָנָה  
 בְּהַמּוֹן גָּלִיו, וְשִׁפְתּוֹתֵינוּ שְׁבָח  
 בְּמִרְחָבִי רְקִיעָ, וְעִינֵינוּ מִאִירֹת  
 בְּשִׁמְשׁ וּבִירָת, וְיִדֵינוּ פְּרוֹשֹׁת  
 בְּגַשְׁרִי שָׁמִים, וְרַגְלֵינוּ קְלוֹת  
 בְּאַיּוֹת, אֵין אָנָחָנוּ מִסְפִּיקִים  
 לְהַזּוֹדֹת לְכָךְ, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵינוּ  
 אָבוֹתֵינוּ, וְלִבְרָךְ אֶת שְׁמֵךְ, עַל  
 אַחֲת מִאַלְפִים אַלְפִים אַלְפִים וּרְבִי  
 רַבְבוֹת פְּעָמִים הַטוֹבֹת שְׁעַשְׂיָת  
 עַם אָבוֹתֵינוּ וְעַמְנוּ. מִמְצָרִים  
 גַּאֲלָפֵנוּ, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, וּמִבֵּית עֲבָדִים  
 פְּדִיתֵנוּ, בְּרַעַב זָנַתֵּנוּ וּבְשְׁבָע  
 בְּלִבְלָתֵנוּ, מִחְרָב הַצְּלָתֵנוּ וּמִדְבָּר  
 מַלְעָתֵנוּ, וּמִחְלָלִים רְעִים וּרְבִים  
 וּנְאָמָנים דְּלִיתֵנוּ. עַד הַנֶּה עַזְרֵינוּ  
 רַחֲמִיךְ וְלֹא עַזְבּוּנוּ חָסְדִיךְ, וְאֶל  
 תִּטְשֵׁנוּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ לְנִצְחָה. עַל כֵּן  
 אֲבָרִים שְׁפָלָגָת בָּנוּ וּרְוִיתָ וּבְשִׁמָה

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. 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

שְׁנַפְחָת בְּאַפִּינוֹ וְלַשׁוֹן אֲשֶׁר  
 שְׁמַת בְּפִינוֹ, הֵן הֵם יְהוָה וַיְבָרְכוּ  
 וַיְשִׁבְחוּ וַיְפָאַרוּ וַיְרֻמְמוּ וַיְעִירִצּוּ  
 וַיְקִדְשּׁוּ וַיְמַלְיכוּ אֶת שָׁמָן  
 מִלְפָנָנוּ. כִּי כָל פֶּה לְךָ יְהוָה, וְכָל  
 לְשׁוֹן לְךָ תְּשַׁבָּע, וְכָל בָּרָךְ לְךָ  
 תְּכַרְעַ, וְכָל קָוָמָה לְפָנֵיךְ  
 תְּשַׁתְּחִווָּה, וְכָל לְבָבוֹת יִרְאֹוֹךְ,  
 וְכָל קָרְבָּן וְכָלִוָּת יִזְמְרוּ לְשָׁמָן,  
 בְּדָבָר שְׁפָטָוּב, כָּל עַצְמָתִי  
 תְּאַמְּרָנָה: יְיָ, מֵי בָּמוֹן; מַצִּיל עֲנֵי  
 מַחְזִיק מִמְּנָנוּ וְעֲנֵי וְאַבְיוֹן מִגְּזָלוּ.  
 מֵי יְדָמָה לְךָ וּמֵי יְשָׁוָה לְךָ וּמֵי  
 יְעָרֵךְ לְךָ, הָאֵל הַגָּדוֹל, הַגָּבוֹר  
 וַהֲנוֹרָא, אֵל עַלְיוֹן, קְנִיה שְׁמִים  
 וַאֲרֹץ. נַהֲלֵךְ וַנְשַׁבְחֵךְ וַנְפַאֲרֵךְ  
 וַנְבָרֵךְ אֶת שְׁם קָדְשָׁךְ, כַּאֲמֹר:  
 לְךָ, בָּרְכֵי נְפָשֵׁי אֶת יְיָ וְכָל  
 קָרְבֵּי אֶת שְׁם קָדְשָׁו.

הָאֵל בְּתַעֲצָמוֹת עַזְךָ, הַגָּדוֹל  
 בְּכָבוֹד שָׁמָן, הַגָּבוֹר לְנִצְחָה  
 וַהֲנוֹרָא בְּנֹרְאוֹתֶיךָ, הַמֶּלֶךְ  
 הַיֹּשֵׁב עַל בֵּסָא רַם וְגַשְׂאָא.  
 שָׁוֹקֵן עַד מָרוֹם וְקָדוֹשׁ שָׁמוֹ.  
 וּכְתוּב: רְגָנָנוּ צָדִיקִים בַּיְהוָה,  
 לִישְׁרִים נָאֹהָה תְּהִלָּה.  
 בְּפִי יְשָׁרִים תִּתְהַלֵּל,

valued like You; The Great 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,

וּבְדָבָרִי צָדִיקִים תִּתְפֹּרֶךְ,  
וּבְלֹשׁוֹן חֲסִידִים תִּתְרוֹמֶם,  
וּבְקָרְבֵּן קָדוֹשִׁים תִּתְקַדֵּשׁ.

וּבְמִקְהָלוֹת רַבּוֹת עַמְּךָ בֵּית  
יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּרָנָה יְתִפְאֵר שָׁמָךְ,  
מַלְכֵנוּ, בְּכָל דָּור וְדוֹר, שְׁפִּיכָּנוּ חֻבְּתָ  
כָּל הַיְצֹוְרִים לְפָנֶיךָ, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ  
וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, לְהַזּוֹת לְהַלֵּל  
לְשִׁבָּח, לְפִיאָר לְרוֹמָם לְהַדְרֵ  
לְבָרֶךְ, לְעַלְלה וּלְקָלֵס עַל כָּל דָּבְרֵי  
שִׁירֹת וּתְשִׁיבָּחוֹת זָהָד בָּנוּ יִשְׁיָּ  
עַבְדָּךְ, מֶשִּׁיחָךְ.

יְשִׁתְּפָבָח שָׁמָךְ לְעֵד - מַלְכֵנוּ, הָאֵל  
הַמֶּלֶךְ הַגָּדוֹל וְהַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּשִׁמְים  
וּבָאָרֶץ, כִּי לְךָ נָאָה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ  
וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, שִׁיר וּשְׁבָחָה,  
הַלֵּל וּזְמָרָה, עֹז וּמִמְשָׁלה, נֶצֶח,  
גָּדוֹלָה וּגְבוּרָה, תִּהְלָה וּתְפִאָרָת,  
קָדְשָׁה וּמֶלֶכְתָּה, בָּרְכוֹת וּהַזְּדָאות  
מְעַטָּה וְעַד עַולְםָם. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ,  
אֶל מֶלֶךְ גָּדוֹל בְּתְשִׁיבָּחוֹת, אֶל  
הַהַזְּדָאות, אֶלָּדוֹן הַגְּפַלְאֹות,  
הַבּוֹחר בְּשִׁירֵי זְמָרָה, מֶלֶךְ אֶל חַיִּ  
הַעוֹלָמִים.

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

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

*Raise your cup of wine and recite the following blessing:*

מֶלֶךְ בָּרוּךְ אֱלֹהִים יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בָּרוּא פְּרִי הַגַּתְן.

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 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 סְדֹור פַּסְחָה בְּהַלְכָתָו,  
בְּכָל מְשֻׁפְטוֹ וִיחַקְתוֹ.  
כַּאֲשֶׁר זָכַינוּ לְסִדְרָ אֶתְוֹ,  
כֹּן נְזַכֵּה לְעַשְׂוֹתָו.

לְךָ שׁוֹכֵן מַעֲוֹנָה,  
קוֹמֵם קְהֻל עֲדָת מֵמָנָה.  
בָּקָרוֹב נְהַל גַּטְעֵי כְּנָה,  
פָּדוּים לְצִיוֹן בָּרֶכֶה.

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.

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.

**בִּירוּשָׁלָם הַבָּאָה לְשָׁנָה הַבְּנוּיה!**

Outside of Israel, the Seder is performed on both the first and second nights of Passover. On the second night, 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.*

ברוך אתה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְשָׁנוּ בְמַצּוּתְּךָ  
וַצְוָנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֵמֶר.  
**הַיּוֹם יּוֹם אֶחָד בְּעֵמֶר.**

Blessed are You, The Eternal our God, King of the Universe; Who commanded us to count the Omer.

**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.*

וּבָכוּ וַיְהִי בְּחָצֵי הַלִּילָה  
אֲלֹהֵינוּ וְרָב נְסִים הָפְלַאֲתָה בְּלִילָה,  
בְּרָאֵשׁ אֲשֶׁר מָרוֹת זֶה הַלִּילָה,  
גַּר צָדִיק נְצֻחָתוֹ בְּנִיחַלְקָק לוֹ לִילָה,  
וַיְהִי בְּחָצֵי הַלִּילָה.

And so too, it occurred in the middle of the night.  
So many miracles occurred at night,  
At the beginning of the darkest hours which is night,  
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.

דָּנוֹת מֶלֶךְ אֲגַר בַּחֲלוֹם הַלִּילָה,  
 הַפְּחַדְתָּ אֲרָמִי בַּאֲמֵשׁ לִילָה,  
 וַיִּשְׂרֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמִלְאָךְ וַיַּבְלֵל לוֹ  
 לִילָה,  
 וַיְהִי בַּחֲצֵי הַלִּילָה.

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.*

זָרָע בְּכֹרֵי פָּתָרֹס מַחְצֵת בַּחֲצֵי  
 הַלִּילָה,  
 חִילָם לֹא מִצָּאוֹ בְּקוּמָם בַּלִּילָה,  
 טִיסְתָ גִּיד חַרְשָׁת סְלִית בְּכֹכְבֵי  
 לִילָה,  
 וַיְהִי בַּחֲצֵי הַלִּילָה.

You smote the firstborn offspring of Patros [i.e. Pharoah] 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.*

יְעַזְן מַחְרָף לְנוֹפָף אֹוֵי, הַוּבְשָׁת  
 פְּגַרְיוֹ בַּלִּילָה,  
 כְּרֻעַ בֵּל וּמִצְבּוֹ בָּאִישׁוֹן לִילָה,  
 לְאִישׁ חִמּוֹדֹת נְגַלָּה רַץ חִזּוֹת  
 לִילָה,  
 וַיְהִי בַּחֲצֵי הַלִּילָה.

The blasphemous counselor [Sennacharib] who waved his hands in mockery [at Jerusalem] found his armies became dried corpses at night,  
 The Idol of Bale and its foundation were toppled at night,  
 And the darling man [Daniel] was revealed the secrets of visions at night;  
*And it occurred in the middle of the night.*

מַשְׁתְּבֵר בְּבֵלִי קְדַשׁ נְהַרְגָ בָּזָה  
 בַּלִּילָה,  
 נֹשֵׁעַ מְבוֹר אֲרִוּת פּוֹתֵר בְּעַתּוֹתִי  
 לִילָה,

He who intoxicated himself from The Temple's Holy Vessels [Belshazar] was killed in the night,  
 The one saved from the pit of lions [Daniel] interpreted phobias of night,

שְׁנַאֲהָ נֶטֶר אֲגָגִי וּכְתָב סִפְרִים  
בְּלִילָה,  
וַיְהִי בְּחָצֵי הַלְּילָה.

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

*And it occurred in the middle of the night.*

עֹורְךָ נִצְחָךְ עַלְיוֹ בְּגַד שְׁנִית  
לִילָה,  
פּוֹרָה תְּדַרְוךְ לְשׁוֹמֵר מֵהַמִּלְלָה,  
צָרָח בְּשׁוֹמֵר וַיֹּשֶׁח "אָתָא בְּקָר  
וְגַם לִילָה",  
וַיְהִי בְּחָצֵי הַלְּילָה.

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

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

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

*And it occurred in the middle of the night.*

קָרְבָּה יוֹם אֲשֶׁר הוּא לֹא יוֹם וְלֹא  
לִילָה,

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

רַם הַזְׁדֻעַ כִּי לְךָ הַיּוֹם אָף לְךָ  
הַלְּילָה,

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

שׁוֹמְרִים הַפְּקָד לְעִירָךְ בָּל הַיּוֹם  
וּבָל הַלְּילָה,

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

תְּאִיר בָּאֹור יוֹם חַשְׁבָת לִילָה,  
וַיְהִי בְּחָצֵי הַלְּילָה.

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.*

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

אֲמֵץ גָּבוֹרוֹתִיךְ הַפְּלָאת בְּפֶסֶח,  
The might of Your strength you demonstrated on Passover,  
בָּרָאשׁ כָּל מַעֲדוֹת נִשְׂאָת פֶּסֶח,  
The first of all holidays, You uplifted Passover,  
גָּלִית לְאַזְרָחִי מַצּוֹת לִיל פֶּסֶח,  
You revealed Yourself to Your citizen [Abraham] on the night of Passover,  
וְאַמְרָתֶם זְבַח פֶּסֶח.  
And you shall refer to the Passover sacrifice.

דָּלְתֵיו דְּפָקָף בְּחֻמָּם הַיּוֹם בְּפֶסֶח,  
On his [Abraham's] door You knocked in the heat of the day on Passover,  
הַסְעִיד נוֹצָאים עֲגֹת מַצּוֹת  
He lavished Sparkling Ones [angels] a feast of matzot on Passover,  
וְאֶל הַבָּקָר רַץ זָכָר לְשׂוֹר עֶרֶךְ  
And he ran to [slaughter] the cattle, which recalls the ox [in the Torah reading for the morning of the second day] of Passover,  
וְאַמְרָתֶם זְבַח פֶּסֶח.  
And you shall refer to the Passover sacrifice.

זָעָם סְדוּמִים וּלוֹהָטו בָּאַשׁ  
Your fury blazingly scorched the people of Sodom on Passover,  
בְּפֶסֶח,  
חַלֵּץ לוֹט מֵהֶם וּמַצּוֹת אַפָּה בְּקַעַז  
Lot extricated himself from them and baked matzot at the end of Passover,

טָאַטֵּאתָ אֶדְמָתָ מִנְיָן בְּעַבְרָךְ  
בְּפֶסֶחּ,

וְאִמְרְאָתָם זָבֵחַ פֶסֶחּ.

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

*And you shall refer to the Passover sacrifice.*

יְהָ רָאָשׁ כָּל אֹנוֹ מְחַצֵּת בְּלִיל  
שְׁמֹור פֶסֶחּ,

פְּבִיר, עַל בָּן בְּכָור פֶסֶחּ בְּדִם  
פֶסֶחּ,

לְבָלָתִי תַת מְשֻחָית לְבָא בְּפֶתְחָי  
בְּפֶסֶחּ,

וְאִמְרְאָתָם זָבֵחַ פֶסֶחּ.

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

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,

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

*And you shall refer to the Passover sacrifice.*

מִסְגָּרָת סְגָרָה בְּעַתּוֹתִי פֶסֶחּ,

נְשִׁמְדָה מִדְין בְּצָלֵל שְׁעוֹרִי עַמָּר  
פֶסֶחּ,

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

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,

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,

שׂוֹרְפוּ מְשֻׁמְנִי פּוֹל וּלוֹד בִּיקָד  
יְקָודָ פֶסֶחּ;

וְאִמְרְאָתָם זָבֵחַ פֶסֶחּ.

*And you shall refer to the Passover sacrifice.*

עַד הַיּוֹם בָּנֶב לְעַמּוֹד עַד גַּעַת  
עֲוֹנָת פֶּסֶחָ,

"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 יָד כְּתָבָה לְקַעַקֵּע צוֹל בְּפֶסֶחָ,

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

צָפָה הַצְפִּית עֲרוֹך הַשְׁלָחוֹן  
בְּפֶסֶחָ,

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,

וְאִמְרָאָתָם זָבֵח פֶסֶח.

*And you shall refer to the Passover sacrifice.*

קָהָל בְּנֵסָה הַדָּסָה לְשִׁלְשָׁ צוֹם  
בְּפֶסֶחָ,

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

רָאשׁ מִבֵּית רְשֵׁעַ מִחְצָת בָּעֵץ  
חֲמִשִּׁים בְּפֶסֶחָ,

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

שְׂעִיר אֱלֹהָ רְגֻע תְּבִיא לְעוֹזִית  
בְּפֶסֶחָ,

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,

פָעֵז יָד וּתְרִים יְמִינָך כְּלִיל  
הַתְּקִידָש חָג פֶסֶחָ,

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

וְאִמְרָאָתָם זָבֵח פֶסֶח.

*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.*

בַּי לֹּוּ נָאָה, בַּי לֹּוּ יָאָה [כֶּפֶת  
מַלְוָכָה].

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

אֲדִיר בַּמַּלְוָכָה, בְּחוֹר בַּמַּלְוָכָה,  
גְּדוּקֵיו יֹאמְרוּ לוּ: לְךָ וּלְךָ, לְךָ בַּי  
לְךָ, לְךָ אָרֶף לְךָ, לְךָ יְיָ הַמֶּמְלָכָה,  
בַּי לֹּוּ נָאָה, בַּי לֹּוּ יָאָה [כֶּפֶת  
מַלְוָכָה].

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]!

דָּגֹול בַּמַּלְוָכָה, הַדּוֹר בַּמַּלְוָכָה,  
וּתְיִקְוּ יֹאמְרוּ לוּ: לְךָ וּלְךָ, לְךָ בַּי  
לְךָ, לְךָ אָרֶף לְךָ, לְךָ יְיָ הַמֶּמְלָכָה,  
בַּי לֹּוּ נָאָה, בַּי לֹּוּ יָאָה [כֶּפֶת  
מַלְוָכָה].

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]!

זָפָאי בַּמַּלְוָכָה, חָסִין בַּמַּלְוָכָה  
טְפֵסְרֵיו יֹאמְרוּ לוּ: לְךָ וּלְךָ, לְךָ בַּי  
לְךָ, לְךָ אָרֶף לְךָ, לְךָ יְיָ הַמֶּמְלָכָה,  
בַּי לֹּוּ נָאָה, בַּי לֹּוּ יָאָה [כֶּפֶת  
מַלְוָכָה].

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]!

יְחִיד בַּמַּלְוָכָה, כְּבֵיר בַּמַּלְוָכָה  
לְמוֹדֵקֵיו יֹאמְרוּ לוּ: לְךָ וּלְךָ, לְךָ בַּי  
לְךָ, לְךָ אָרֶף לְךָ, לְךָ יְיָ הַמֶּמְלָכָה,  
בַּי לֹּוּ נָאָה, בַּי לֹּוּ יָאָה [כֶּפֶת  
מַלְוָכָה].

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]!

**מַלּוֹכֶה].**

**מוֹשֵׁל בְּמַלּוֹכֶה,** נֹרָא בְּהַלְכָה  
סְבִיבָיו יֹאמְרוּ לוֹ: לְךָ וְלְךָ, לְךָ כִּי  
לְךָ, לְךָ אֲךָ לְךָ, לְךָ יְיָ הַמֶּמְלָכָה,  
כִּי לוֹ נָאָה, כִּי לוֹ יָאָה [כְּפָתָר  
מַלּוֹכֶה].

**עַנְיוֹן בְּמַלּוֹכֶה,** פּוֹדֵה בְּהַלְכָה,  
צַדִּיקָיו יֹאמְרוּ לוֹ: לְךָ וְלְךָ, לְךָ כִּי  
לְךָ, לְךָ אֲךָ לְךָ, לְךָ יְיָ הַמֶּמְלָכָה,  
כִּי לוֹ נָאָה, כִּי לוֹ יָאָה [כְּפָתָר  
מַלּוֹכֶה].

**קָדוֹשׁ בְּמַלּוֹכֶה,** רְחוּם בְּהַלְכָה  
שְׁגָנָנוֹן יֹאמְרוּ לוֹ: לְךָ וְלְךָ, לְךָ כִּי  
לְךָ, לְךָ אֲךָ לְךָ, לְךָ יְיָ הַמֶּמְלָכָה,  
כִּי לוֹ נָאָה, כִּי לוֹ יָאָה [כְּפָתָר  
מַלּוֹכֶה].

**פְּקִיעַ בְּמַלּוֹכֶה,** תּוֹמֵךְ בְּהַלְכָה  
תְּמִימָיו יֹאמְרוּ לוֹ: לְךָ וְלְךָ, לְךָ כִּי  
לְךָ, לְךָ אֲךָ לְךָ, לְךָ יְיָ הַמֶּמְלָכָה,  
כִּי לוֹ נָאָה, כִּי לוֹ יָאָה [כְּפָתָר  
מַלּוֹכֶה].

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]!

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]!

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 הוּא יָבֹנֶה בַּיְתּוֹ בְּקָרוֹב  
בְּמִתְרָה,

He is noble!

אֵל בְּנָה, אֵל בְּנָה, בְּנָה בַּיְתּוֹ  
בְּקָרוֹב.

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

בְּחֹור הוּא, גָּדוֹל הוּא, דָּגָל הוּא  
יָבֹנֶה בַּיְתּוֹ בְּקָרוֹב.

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

בְּמִתְרָה, בְּמִתְרָה, בְּמִתְרָה, בְּמִתְרָה,  
אֵל בְּנָה, אֵל בְּנָה, בְּנָה בַּיְתּוֹ  
בְּקָרוֹב.

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

הַדּוֹר הוּא, וְתִיק הוּא, זָפָאי הוּא,  
חָסִיד הוּא יָבֹנֶה בַּיְתּוֹ בְּקָרוֹב.

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

בְּמִתְרָה, בְּמִתְרָה, בְּמִתְרָה, בְּמִתְרָה,  
אֵל בְּנָה, אֵל בְּנָה, בְּנָה בַּיְתּוֹ  
בְּקָרוֹב.

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

טָהֹר הוּא, יְחִיד הוּא, פָּבִיר הוּא,  
לְמוֹד הוּא, מֶלֶךְ הוּא יָבֹנֶה בַּיְתּוֹ  
בְּקָרוֹב.

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

בְּמִתְרָה, בְּמִתְרָה, בְּמִתְרָה, בְּמִתְרָה,  
אֵל בְּנָה, אֵל בְּנָה, בְּנָה בַּיְתּוֹ  
בְּקָרוֹב.

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

נוֹרָא הוּא, סָגִיב הוּא, עָזֹז הוּא,  
פּוֹדֵה הוּא, צָדִיק הוּא יָבֹנֶה בַּיְתּוֹ  
בְּקָרוֹב.

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

בְּמִתְרָה, בְּמִתְרָה, בְּמִתְרָה, בְּמִתְרָה,  
אֵל בְּנָה, אֵל בְּנָה, בְּנָה בַּיְתּוֹ  
בְּקָרוֹב.

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

בְּיִתְךָ בְּקָרוֹב.

קָדוֹשׁ הוּא, רָחוּם הוּא, שָׁדֵי  
הוּא, תַּקְיִיףׁ הוּא יִבְנֶה בֵּיתוֹ  
בְּקָרוֹב. בְּמִתְרָה, בְּמִתְרָה, בְּיִמְינֵנוּ  
בְּקָרוֹב. אֶל בְּנָה, אֶל בְּנָה, בְּנָה  
בְּיִתְּךָ 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!

### WHO KNOWS ONE?

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.

אֶחָד מִי יוֹדֵעַ, אֶחָד אֲנִי יוֹדֵעַ.  
אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ שְׁבָטִים וּבָאָרֶץ:  
שְׁנָים מִי יוֹדֵעַ, שְׁנָים אֲנִי יוֹדֵעַ.  
שְׁנָיִלְחֹות הַבְּרִית. אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ  
שְׁבָטִים וּבָאָרֶץ:  
שְׁלִישָׁה מִי יוֹדֵעַ, שְׁלִישָׁה אֲנִי  
יוֹדֵעַ.  
שְׁלִישָׁה אֲבוֹת, שְׁנִי לְחֹות הַבְּרִית,  
אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ שְׁבָטִים וּבָאָרֶץ:  
אֶרְבָּעָה מִי יוֹדֵעַ, אֶרְבָּעָה אֲנִי יוֹדֵעַ.  
אֶרְבָּעָה אֶמְהוֹת, שְׁלִישָׁה אֲבוֹת,  
שְׁנִי לְחֹות הַבְּרִית, אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ  
שְׁבָטִים וּבָאָרֶץ:  
חֲמִשָּׁה מִי יוֹדֵעַ, חֲמִשָּׁה אֲנִי  
יוֹדֵעַ.

Who knows one? I know one!

One is our God in heaven and in earth.

Who knows two? I know two!

Two are the Tablets of the Ten Commandments; One is our God in heaven and in earth.

Who knows three? I know three!

Three are the patriarchs; Two are the Tablets of the Ten Commandments; One is our God in heaven and in earth.

Who knows four? I know four!

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

Who knows five? I know five!

חֲמֻשָּׁה חַוּמְתַּי תֹּרֶה, אַרְבַּע  
אִמְהוֹת, שְׁלֵשָׁה אָבוֹת, שְׁנֵי  
לְחוֹת הַבְּרִית, אַחֲד אֱלֹהִינוּ  
שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ:

שְׁשָׁה מֵי יֹדֵע, שְׁשָׁה אָנֵי יֹדֵע.

שְׁשָׁה סְדֵרִי מְשֻנָּה, חֲמֻשָּׁה  
חַוּמְתַּי תֹּרֶה, אַרְבַּע אִמְהוֹת,  
שְׁלֵשָׁה אָבוֹת, שְׁנֵי לְחוֹת הַבְּרִית,  
אַחֲד אֱלֹהִינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ:

שְׁבַעָה מֵי יֹדֵע, שְׁבַעָה אָנֵי יֹדֵע.

שְׁבַעָה יָמִי שְׁבַתָּא, שְׁשָׁה סְדֵרִי  
מְשֻנָּה, חֲמֻשָּׁה חַוּמְתַּי תֹּרֶה,  
אַרְבַּע אִמְהוֹת, שְׁלֵשָׁה אָבוֹת,  
שְׁנֵי לְחוֹת הַבְּרִית, אַחֲד אֱלֹהִינוּ  
שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ:

שְׁמֻנוֹה יָמִי מִילָה, שְׁבַעָה יָמִי  
שְׁבַתָּא, שְׁשָׁה סְדֵרִי מְשֻנָּה,  
חֲמֻשָּׁה חַוּמְתַּי תֹּרֶה, אַרְבַּע  
אִמְהוֹת, שְׁלֵשָׁה אָבוֹת, שְׁנֵי  
לְחוֹת הַבְּרִית, אַחֲד אֱלֹהִינוּ  
שְׁבַשְׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ:

תְּשִׁבְעָה מֵי יֹדֵע, תְּשִׁבְעָה אָנֵי יֹדֵע.

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 in 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 in 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 in earth.

Who knows eight? I know eight!

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 in earth.

Who knows nine? I know nine!

## נִרְצָה

תְּשֵׁעָה יַרְחִי לְדֹה, שֶׁמֹּנוֹה יַמִּי  
מִילָה, שְׁבָעָה יַמִּי שְׁבָטָא, שְׁשָׁה  
סְדִירִי מְשֻׁנָה, חֲמָשָׁה חַוְמָשִׁי  
תוֹרָה, אַרְבָּע אַמְּהוֹת, שְׁלֹשָׁה  
אָבוֹת, שְׁנַי לְחֹות הַבְּרִית, אַחַד

אֱלֹהִינוּ שְׁבָשָׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ:

עַשְׂרָה מֵי יוֹדֵע, עַשְׂרָה אֲנִי יוֹדֵע.

עַשְׂרָה דְּבָרִיא, תְּשֵׁעָה יַרְחִי לְדֹה,

שֶׁמֹּנוֹה יַמִּי מִילָה, שְׁבָעָה יַמִּי

שְׁבָטָא, שְׁשָׁה סְדִירִי מְשֻׁנָה,

חֲמָשָׁה חַוְמָשִׁי תֹּרָה, אַרְבָּע

אַמְּהוֹת, שְׁלֹשָׁה אָבוֹת, שְׁנַי

לְחֹות הַבְּרִית, אַחַד אֱלֹהִינוּ

שְׁבָשָׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ:

אַחַד עָשָׂר מֵי יוֹדֵע, אַחַד עָשָׂר

אֲנִי יוֹדֵע.

אַחַד עָשָׂר בּוֹכְבִּיא, עַשְׂרָה

דְּבָרִיא, תְּשֵׁעָה יַרְחִי לְדֹה,

שֶׁמֹּנוֹה יַמִּי מִילָה, שְׁבָעָה יַמִּי

שְׁבָטָא, שְׁשָׁה סְדִירִי מְשֻׁנָה,

חֲמָשָׁה חַוְמָשִׁי תֹּרָה, אַרְבָּע

אַמְּהוֹת, שְׁלֹשָׁה אָבוֹת, שְׁנַי

לְחֹות הַבְּרִית, אַחַד אֱלֹהִינוּ

שְׁבָשָׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ:

שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר מֵי יוֹדֵע, שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר

אֲנִי יוֹדֵע.

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 in 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 in earth.

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 in earth.

Who knows twelve? I know twelve!

שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר שְׁבָטִיא, אֶחָד עָשָׂר  
 בּוֹכְבִּיא, עָשָׂרָה דָּבְרִיא, תְּשֵׁעה  
 יְרָחִי לְדָה, שְׁמוֹנָה יְמִי מִילָה,  
 שְׁבָעָה יְמִי שְׁבָטָא, שְׁשָׁה סְדִירִ  
 מְשֻׁנָה, חֲמִשָה חִוּמִישִׁי תּוֹרָה,  
 אֶרְבָע אֶמְהוֹת, שְׁלִשָה אָבוֹת,  
 שְׁנִי לְחוֹת הַבְּרִית, אֶחָד אֱלֹהִינוּ  
 שְׁבָשְׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ:

שְׁלִשָה עָשָׂר מִי יוֹדֵע, שְׁלִשָה  
 עָשָׂר אֲנִי יוֹדֵע.

שְׁלִשָה עָשָׂר מְדִיא. שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר  
 שְׁבָטִיא, אֶחָד עָשָׂר בּוֹכְבִּיא,  
 עָשָׂרָה דָּבְרִיא, תְּשֵׁעה יְרָחִי לְדָה,  
 שְׁמוֹנָה יְמִי מִילָה, שְׁבָעָה יְמִי  
 שְׁבָטָא, שְׁשָׁה סְדִירִ מְשֻׁנָה,  
 חֲמִשָה חִוּמִישִׁי תּוֹרָה, אֶרְבָע  
 אֶמְהוֹת, שְׁלִשָה אָבוֹת, שְׁנִי  
 לְחוֹת הַבְּרִית, אֶחָד אֱלֹהִינוּ  
 שְׁבָשְׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ:

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 in earth.

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 in earth.

## CHAD GADYA

Chad Gadya, while at first glance seems unconnected to the themes expressed in the Seder, 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.

**חַד גָּדִיא, חַד גָּדִיא**

One goat - just one goat.

**הַזְבִּין אָבָא בְּתִירִי הוֹזֵי, חַד גָּדִיא,**  
**חַד גָּדִיא.**

One goat, just one goat; that Father bought for two coins.

**וְאַתָּא שׁוֹנְרָא וְאַכְלָה לְגָדִיא,**  
**הַזְבִּין אָבָא בְּתִירִי הוֹזֵי, חַד גָּדִיא,**  
**חַד גָּדִיא.**

And along came a cat that ate the goat - One goat, just one goat; that Father bought for two coins.

**וְאַתָּא כְּלָבָא דָנַשְׂךְ לְשׁוֹנְרָא,**  
**דְּאַכְלָה לְגָדִיא, הַזְבִּין אָבָא בְּתִירִי**  
**וֹזֵי, חַד גָּדִיא, חַד גָּדִיא.**

And along came a dog that bit the cat that ate the goat - One goat, just one goat; that Father bought for two coins.

**וְאַתָּא חִטְרָא וְהַפָּה לְכָלָבָא,**  
**דָנַשְׂךְ לְשׁוֹנְרָא, דְּאַכְלָה לְגָדִיא,**  
**הַזְבִּין אָבָא בְּתִירִי הוֹזֵי, חַד גָּדִיא,**  
**חַד גָּדִיא.**

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.

**וְאַתָּא נֹרָא וְשֶׁרֶף לְחוֹטְרָא,**  
**דְּהַפָּה לְכָלָבָא, דָנַשְׂךְ לְשׁוֹנְרָא,**  
**דְּאַכְלָה לְגָדִיא, הַזְבִּין אָבָא בְּתִירִי**  
**וֹזֵי, חַד גָּדִיא, חַד גָּדִיא.**

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.

**וְאַתָּא מַיָּא וְכָבָה לְנוֹרָא, דְּשֶׁרֶף**  
**לְחוֹטְרָא, דְּהַפָּה לְכָלָבָא, דָנַשְׂךְ**  
**לְשׁוֹנְרָא, דְּאַכְלָה לְגָדִיא, הַזְבִּין**  
**אָבָא בְּתִירִי הוֹזֵי, חַד גָּדִיא,**  
**חַד גָּדִיא.**

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.

וְאַתָּא תֹרֶא וְשַׁתָּה לִמְיָא, דְכַבָּה  
לְנוֹרָא, דְשַׁרְף לְחוֹטְרָא, דְהַבָּה  
לְכַלְבָּא, דְנַשְׂעֵד לְשׁוֹגְרָא, דְאַכְלָה  
לְגִדְיאָ, דְזַבְּין אָבָא בְּתִרְיִ זְוִי, חַד  
גִּדְיאָ, חַד גִּדְיאָ.

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.

וְאַתָּא הַשׁוֹחֵט וְשַׁחַט לְתֹרֶא,  
דְשַׁתָּה לִמְיָא, דְכַבָּה לְנוֹרָא,  
דְשַׁרְף לְחוֹטְרָא, דְהַבָּה לְכַלְבָּא,  
דְנַשְׂעֵד לְשׁוֹגְרָא, דְאַכְלָה לְגִדְיאָ,  
דְזַבְּין אָבָא בְּתִרְיִ זְוִי, חַד גִּדְיאָ,  
חַד גִּדְיאָ.

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.

וְאַתָּא מְלָאֵךְ הַמְּמוֹת וְשַׁחַט  
לְשׁוֹחֵט, דְשַׁחַט לְתֹרֶא, דְשַׁתָּה  
לִמְיָא, דְכַבָּה לְנוֹרָא, דְשַׁרְף  
לְחוֹטְרָא, דְהַבָּה לְכַלְבָּא, דְנַשְׂעֵד  
לְשׁוֹגְרָא, דְאַכְלָה לְגִדְיאָ, דְזַבְּין  
אָבָא בְּתִרְיִ זְוִי, חַד גִּדְיאָ, חַד  
גִּדְיאָ.

And along came the Angel of Death that slay 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.

וְאַתָּא הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא וְשַׁחַט  
לְמְלָאֵךְ הַמְּמוֹת, דְשַׁחַט לְשׁוֹחֵט,  
דְשַׁחַט לְתֹרֶא, דְשַׁתָּה לִמְיָא,  
דְכַבָּה לְנוֹרָא, דְשַׁרְף לְחוֹטְרָא,  
דְהַבָּה לְכַלְבָּא, דְנַשְׂעֵד לְשׁוֹגְרָא,  
דְאַכְלָה לְגִדְיאָ, דְזַבְּין אָבָא בְּתִרְיִ  
זְוִי, חַד גִּדְיאָ, חַד גִּדְיאָ.

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.*