The Haggadah: Ha Lachma, Ma Nishtana, Avadim Hayinu

Dedicated by Nathan Kirsh in appreciation of the time and effort put forth by the members of Beit Midrash Zichron

Dov in learning and teaching Torah

:Ha Lachma Aniya | הא לחמא עניא

מגלה את המצות, מגביה את הקערה ואומר בקול רם:

ָהָא לַחְמָא עַנְיָא דִּי אֲכָלוּ אַבְהָתָנָא בְאַרְעָא דְמִצְרָיִם. כָּל דִּכְפִין יֵיתֵי וְיֵיכֹּל, כָּל דִצְרִיךּ יֵיתֵי וְיִפְסַח. הָשַּׁתָּא הָכָא, לְשָׁנָה הַבָּאָה בְּנֵי חוֹרִין. בְּאַרְעָא דְיִשְׂרָאֵל. הָשַּׁתָּא עַבְדֵי, לְשָׁנָה הַבָּאָה בְּנֵי חוֹרִין.

The leader uncovers the matsot, raises the Seder plate, and says out loud:

This is the bread of poverty (*Lechem Oni*) that our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. Anyone who is famished should come and eat, anyone who is in need should come and partake of the Pesach sacrifice. Now we are here, next year we will be in the land of Israel; this year we are slaves, next year we will be free people.

:Ma Nishtana | מה נשתנה

מסיר את הקערה מעל השולחן. מוזגין כוס שני. הבן שואל:

מַה נִּשְׁתַּנָּה הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה מִבָּל הַלֵּילוֹת? שֶׁבְּכָל הַלֵּילוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין חָמֵץ וּמַצָּה, הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה – בֵּלוֹ מַצָּה. שֶׁבְּכָל הַלֵּילוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין חָמֵץ וּמַצָּה, הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה הָבֶּר הַלֵּילוֹת אָנוּ אוֹבְלִין שְׁאָר יְרָקוֹת – הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה שְׁבִּי פְּעָמִים. שֹׁבְּכָל הַלֵּילוֹת אָנוּ אוֹבְלִין בֵּין יוֹשִׁבִין וּבֵין מִסָבְּין – הַלַּיִלָּה הַזֵּה בַּלָּנוּ מִסְבִּין. שַׁבִּבָל הַלֵּילוֹת אָנוּ אוֹבְלִין בֵּין יוֹשִׁבִין וּבֵין מִסָבְּין – הַלַּיִלָּה הַזֵּה בַּלָּנוּ מִסְבִּין

He removes the plate from the table. We pour a second cup of wine. The son then asks:

What differentiates this night from all [other] nights? On all [other] nights we eat *chamets* and matsa; this night, only matsa? On all [other] nights we eat other vegetables; tonight (only) *marror*. On all [other] nights, we don't dip [our food], even one time; tonight [we dip it] twice. On [all] other nights, we eat either sitting or reclining; tonight we all recline.

:Avadim Hayinu | עבדים היינו

מחזיר את הקערה אל השולחן. המצות תָהיינה מגלות בְשעת אמירת ההגדה.

אֲבָדִים הָיִינוּ לְפַרְעֹה בְּמִצְרָיִם, וַיּוֹצִיאֵנוּ ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִשָּׁם בְּיָד חֲזָקָה וּבִּזְרֹעַ נְטוּיָה. וְאִלּוּ לֹא הוֹצִיא הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא אֶת אֲבוֹתֵינוּ מִמִּצְרָיִם, הֲרֵי אָנוּ וּבְנֵינוּ וּבְּנֵי בָנֵינוּ מְשֵׁעְבָּדִים הָיִינוּ לְפַרְעֹה בְּמִצְרָיִם. וַאֲפִילוּ בַּלָנוּ חֲכָמִים בֵּלְנוּ נְבוֹנִים בֵּלְנוּ זְחֲבָנִים הָיִינוּ לְפַבְּע בַּלֵנוּ יוֹדְעִים אֶת הַתּוֹרָה מָצָוַה עַלֵינוּ לְסַבֶּר בִּיצִיאַת מִצְרָיָם. וְכַל הַמַּרְבֵּה לְסַבֶּר בִּיצִיאַת מִצְרָיִם הֵרֵי זֶה מִשְׁבַּח.

He puts the plate back on the table. The matsot should be uncovered during the saying of the Haggadah. We were slaves to Pharaoh in the land of Egypt. And the Lord, our God, took us out from there with a strong hand and an outstretched forearm. And if the Holy One, blessed be He, had not taken our ancestors from Egypt, behold we and our children and our children's children would [all] be enslaved to Pharaoh in Egypt. And even if we were all sages, all discerning, all elders, all knowledgeable about the Torah, it would be a commandment upon us to tell the story of the exodus from Egypt. And anyone who adds [and spends extra time] in telling the story of the exodus from Egypt, behold he is praiseworthy.



1. משנה פסחים, פרק י' | Mishna Psachim, 10:

(ד) מָזְגוּ לוֹ כוֹס שֵׁנִי, וְבָאן הַבּּן שׁוֹאֵל אָבִיוּ, וְאָם אֵין דַּעַת בַּבּּן, אָבִיו מְלַמְּדוֹ, מַה בִּשְׁתַּנָה הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה מִכְּל הַלֵּילוֹת, שֶׁבְּכָל הַלֵּילוֹת אָנוּ אוֹבְלִין שְאָר יְרָקוֹת, הַלִּיְלָה הַזֶּה מָרוֹר. שֶׁבְּכָל הַלֵּילוֹת אָנוּ אוֹבְלִין שְאָר יְרָקוֹת, הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה מָרוֹר. שֶׁבְּכָל הַלֵּילוֹת אָנוּ אוֹבְלִין שְּאָר צָלִי, שָׁלוּק, וּמְבֵשָׁל, הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה הֻלּוֹ צָלִי. שֶׁבְּכָל הַלֵּילוֹת אָנוּ מִטְבִּילוֹת אָנוּ מַטְבִּילוֹת הָלַיְ בַּעָם אַחַת, הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה שְׁמְיִם. וּלְפִי דַעְתּוֹ שֶׁל בֵּן, אָבִיו מְלַמְּדוֹ. מַתְחִיל בִּגְנוּת וּמְסַיֵּם בְּשֶׁבַח, וְדוֹרֵשׁ מֵאֲרַמִי אוֹבֵד אָבִי, עַד שָׁיִּגְמֹר כֹּל הַפְּרָשָׁה בֻלָּה.

(ה) רַבָּן גַּמְלִיאֵל הָיָה אוֹמֵר, כָּל שָׁלֹא אָמַר שְׁלֹשָׁה דְבָרִים אֵלּוּ בְּפֶּסַח, לֹא יָצָא יְדֵי חוֹבָתוֹ, וְאֵלּוּ הֵן, פֶּסַח, מַצָּה, וּמָרוּר. פֶּסַח, עַל שׁוּם שֶׁפֶּסַח הַפְּסַח הַפְּקוֹם עַל בָּתֵּי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ בְמִצְרַיִם. מְלָהוּ בְּמָצְרַיִם. מְצָה, עַל שׁוּם שֶׁנְּגְאֵלוּ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ בְמִצְרַיִם. בְּכָל שׁוּם שֶׁמֶּרְרוּ הַמִּצְרִים. הָּנֶל שׁוּם שֶׁמֶּרְרוּ הַבְּאוֹ בְאָלוּ הוּא יְצָא מִמִּצְרַיִם, שְׁכֶּל דּוֹר חֲדוֹר חַיָּב אָדָם לְרְאוֹת אֶת עַצְמוֹ רְאִלּוּ הוּא יְצָא מִמִּצְרַיִם, שְׁבֶּלְ דּוֹר חֲדוֹר חַיָּב אָדָם לְרְאוֹת אֶת עַצְמוֹ רְאָלִה חִיּבִין לְהוֹדוֹת, לְהַלֵּל, לְשַׁבֵּח, לְפָאֵר, לְרוֹמֵם, לְהַדָּר, לְעַבוּר זֶה עָשָׂה ה' לִי בְּצֵאתִי מִמִּצְרְיִם (שמות י"ג:ח'). לְפִיכֶךְ אֲנַחְנוּ חַיָּבְדוּת לְחֵרוּת, מְיָגוֹן לְשִׁמְחָה, וּמֵאֵבֶל לְיוֹם לְבָרֵה, לְעַלֵּה, וּלְקַלֵּס, לְמִי שֶׁעָשָּׁה לַאֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְלְנוּ אֶת כָּל הַנִּסִים הָאֵלּוּ, הוֹצִיאָנוּ מֵעַבְדוּת לְחֵרוּת, מִיָּגוֹן לְשִׁמְחָה, וּמֵאבֶל לְיוֹם טוֹב, וּמַאֲפֵלָה לְאוֹר גָּדוֹל, וּמִשְׁעבּוּד לְגָאלָה. וְנֹאֹמַר לְפַנָיו, הַלְלוּיָה.

(ו) **עַד הַיָּכָן הוּא אוֹמֵר,** בֵּית שַׁמַּאי אוֹמְרִים, עַד אֵם הַבָּנִים שְׁמֵחָה. וּבֵית הָלֵּל אוֹמְרִים, עַד חַלָּמִישׁ לְמַעְיְנוֹ מָיִם. **וְחוֹתֵם** בְּ**גְּיִם שְׁמֵחָה.** וַבִּי טַרְפּוֹן אוֹמֵר, אֲשֶׁר גְּאָלָנוּ וְגָאַל אֶת אֲבוֹתֵינוּ מִמְּצְרָיִם, וְלֹא הָיָה חוֹתֵם. רַבִּי עַקִיבָּא אוֹמֵר, בֵּן ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי אֲבּוֹתֵינוּ מִמְּצְרָיִם, וְלֹא הָיָה חוֹתֵם. רַבִּי עַקִיבָּא אוֹמֵר, בְּוֹלְיהָלָנוּ וְגָאַל אֶת אֲבוֹתֵינוּ לְשְׁלוֹם, שְׂמֵחִים בְּּבְּבְיֵן עִירֶךְּ וְשְׂשִׁים בַּעֲבוֹדְתֶּהְ, וְנֹאֹכַל שְׁם מִן הַזְּבֶּחִים וֹהְיָּרְאָת בִּרּוּךְ אַתָּה ה' גָּאַל יִשְׂרָאֵל.

- (4) The attendants poured the second cup for the leader of the seder, and here the son asks his father the questions about the differences between Passover night and a regular night. And if the son does not have the intelligence to ask questions on his own, his father teaches him the questions. The mishna lists the questions: Why is this night different from all other nights? As on all other nights we eat leavened bread and matza as preferred; on this night all our bread is matza. As on all other nights we eat other vegetables; on this night we eat bitter herbs. The mishna continues its list of the questions. When the Temple was standing one would ask: As on all other nights we eat either roasted, stewed, or cooked meat, but on this night all the meat is the roasted meat of the Paschal lamb. The final question was asked even after the destruction of the Temple: As on all other nights we dip the vegetables in a liquid during the meal only once; however, on this night we dip twice. And according to the intelligence and the ability of the son, his father teaches him all or part of these questions. When teaching his son about the Exodus, he begins with the Jewish people's disgrace and concludes with their glory. And he expounds from the passage: "An Aramean tried to destroy my father" (Deuteronomy 26:5), the declaration one recites when presenting his first fruits at the Temple, until he concludes explaining the entire section.
- (5) Rabban Gamliel would say: Anyone who did not say these three matters on Passover has not fulfilled his obligation: The Paschal lamb, matza, and bitter herbs. When one mentions these matters, he must elaborate and explain them: The Paschal lamb is brought because the Omnipresent passed over [pasah] the houses of our forefathers in Egypt, as it is stated: "That you shall say: It is the sacrifice of the Lord's Paschal offering for He passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses" (Exodus 12:27). Rabban Gamliel continues to explain: The reason for matza is because our forefathers were redeemed from Egypt, as it is stated: "And they baked the dough that they took out of Egypt as cakes of matzot, for it was not leavened, as they were thrust out of Egypt and could not tarry, neither had they prepared for themselves any victual" (Exodus 12:39). The reason for bitter herbs is because the Egyptians embittered our forefathers' lives in Egypt, as it is stated: "And they embittered their lives with hard service, in mortar and in brick; in all manner of service in the field, all the service that they made them serve was with rigor" (Exodus 1:14). The tanna of the mishna further states: In each and every generation a person must view himself as though he personally left Egypt, as it is stated: "And you shall tell your son on that day, saying: It is because of this which the Lord did for me when I came forth out of Egypt" (Exodus 13:8). In every generation, each person must say: "This which the Lord did for me," and not: This which the Lord did for my forefathers. The mishna continues with the text of the Haggadah. Therefore we are obligated to thank, praise, glorify, extol, exalt, honor, bless, revere, and laud [lekales] the One who performed for our forefathers and for us all these miracles: He took us out from slavery to freedom, from sorrow to joy, from mourning to a Festival, from

darkness to a great light, and from enslavement to redemption. And we will say before Him: Halleluya. At this point one recites the hallel that is said on all joyous days.

(6) Since one does not complete hallel at this point in the seder, the mishna asks: Until where does one recite hallel? Beit Shammai say: Until "Who makes the barren woman dwell in her house as a joyful mother of children, halleluya" (Psalms 113:9). And Beit Hillel say: Until "Who turned the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a fountain of waters" (Psalms 114:8). And one concludes this section of hallel with a blessing that refers to redemption. Rabbi Tarfon says that although one should recite: Who redeemed us and redeemed our forefathers from Egypt, one who did so would not conclude with the formula: Blessed are You, Lord. Rabbi Akiva says that one recites a different version of this blessing: So too, the Lord our God and the God of our forefathers will bring us to future holidays and Festivals in peace, happy over the building of Your city and joyous in Your service. And there we will eat from the Paschal lamb and other offerings, etc., until: Blessed are You, Lord, Who redeemed Israel.

2. משנה תורה, הלכות חמץ ומצה, ז' א | Mishneh Torah Chametz uMatzah 7:1:

מָצְוַת עֲשֵׂה שָׁל תּוֹרָה לְסַפֵּר בְּנִסִּים וְנִפְּלָאוֹת שָׁנַּעֲשׂוּ לַאֲבוֹתֵינוּ בְּמִצְרַיִם בְּלֵיל חֲמִשָּׁה עָשֶׂר בְּנִסְן שֶׁבְּּאֲמַר (שמות יג ג) "זָבוֹר אֶת הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר יְצָאתֶם מִמִּצְרַיִם" בְּמוֹ שֶׁנָּאֲמַר (שמות כ ח) "זָבוֹר אֶת יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת". וּמִנַּיִן שֶׁבְּלִיל חֲמִשָּׁה עָשֶׂר תַּלְמוּד לוֹמַר (שמות יג ח) "וְהִגַּדְתָּ לְבִנְךְּ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לֵאמֹר בַּעֲבוּר זֶה" בְּשָׁעָה שֶׁיֵשׁ מַצְּה וּמָרוֹר מֻנָּחִים לְפָבֶּרְ בִּיּוֹם הַהוּא לֵאמֹר בַּעֲבוּר זֶה" בְּשָׁעָה שֶׁיֵשׁ מַצְּה וּמְרוֹר מֻנָּחִים לְפָבֶּרְ בִּיּוֹם הַבּיִּאַת מִצְרִים וְכַל הַמַּאֲרִיךּ בְּדְבַרִים שֵׁאֵרְעוּ וְשְׁהַיִּוּ הֵרֵי זֶה מִשְׁבַּח: אֵפְלּוּ חַבָּמִים גִּדּוֹלִים חַיָּבִים לְסַפֶּר בִּיצִיאַת מִצְּרִים וְכַל הַמַּאֲרִיךּ בְּדְבַרִים שֵׁאֵרְעוּ וְשְׁהָיוּ הֵרֵי זָה מִשְׁבַּח:

It is a positive commandment of the Torah to relate the miracles and wonders wrought for our ancestors in Egypt on the night of the fifteenth of Nisan, as [Exodus 13:3] states: "Remember this day, on which you left Egypt," just as [Exodus 20:8] states: "Remember the Sabbath day."

From where [is it derived that this mitzvah is to be fulfilled on] the night of the fifteenth? The Torah teaches [Exodus 13:8]: "And you shall tell your son on that day, saying: 'It is because of this...' [implying that the mitzvah is to be fulfilled] when matzah and maror are placed before you.

[The mitzvah applies] even though one does not have a son. Even great Sages are obligated to tell about the Exodus from Egypt. Whoever elaborates concerning the events which occurred and took place is worthy of praise.

:Dvarim 16, 3 | 'ז:ג'.

ָ(ג) לא־תאבֵל עָלָיוֹ חָמֵּץ שִׁבְעַת יָמֵים תְּאבַל־עָלֶיו מַצְוֹת **לֶחֶם עִנִי** כִּי בְחִפְּזֹוֹן יָצָאתָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לְמַעַן תִּזְכּּרֹ אֶת־יְוֹם צֵאתְךּ מָאָרַץ מַצְבַּיִם כִּל יָמֵי חַיִּיף:

You shall not eat anything leavened with it; for seven days thereafter you shall eat unleavened bread, **bread of** *Oni*—for you departed from the land of Egypt hurriedly—so that you may remember the day of your departure from the land of Egypt as long as you live.

4. גמרא פסחים קטו ע"ב | Talmud Psachim 115b.

אָמַר שְׁמוּאֵל: ״לֶחֶם עוֹנִי״ בְּתִיב — לֶחֶם שֶׁעוֹנִין עָלָיו דְּבָרִים. תַּנְיָא נָמֵי הָכִי: ״לֶחֶם עוֹנִי״ — לֶחֶם שֶׁעוֹנִין עָלָיו דְּבָרִים. תַּנְיָא נָמֵי הָכִי: ״לֶחֶם עוֹנִי״ — ״עֹנִי״ בְּתִיב, מָה עָנִי שֶׁדַּרְכּוֹ בִּפְרוּסָה, אַף כָּאן בִּפְרוּסָה. דָּבָר אַחֵר: מָה דַּרְכּוֹ שֶׁל עָנִי הוּא מַסִּיק וְאִשְׁתּוֹ אוֹפָה, אַף כָּאן נָמֵי — הוּא מַסִּיק וְאִשְׁתּוֹ אוֹפָה.

- (A) Shmuel said that the phrase: "The bread of affliction [leḥem oni]" (Deuteronomy 16:3) means bread over which one answers [onim] matters...
- (B) Alternatively, "leḥem oni" means a bread of a poor person. Just as it is the manner of a poor person to eat a piece of bread, for lack of a whole loaf, so too, here he should use a piece of matza.
- (C) Alternatively: Just as the manner of a poor person is that he heats the oven and his wife bakes quickly, before the small amount of wood they have is used up, so too here; when baking *matza*, he heats the oven and his wife bakes quickly so the dough doesn't rise.

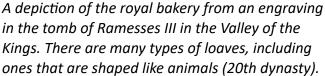
5. תרגום רס"ג, שם | Rasag Arabic Translaion:

פטירא טעאם אלצעף - فطيرة طعام الضعف A pastry of weackness

6. בראשית מז יג-יז | Bereshit 47, 13-17.

- ַנען מִפְּנֵי הַרַעַב. (יג) **וַלֵּחֶם** אֵין בְּכַל הַאַרֵץ כִּי כָבֶד הַרַעַב מָאֹד וַתֵּלַהּ אֵרֵץ מִצְרַיִם וְאֵרֵץ כִּנַעַן מִפְּנֵי הַרַעַב.
- ּ (יד) וַיִּלְקָּט יוֹסֶף אֶת כַּל הַכָּסֶף הַנִּמְצַא בָאֶרֵץ מִצְרַיִם וּבָאֶרֵץ כִּנַעַן בַּשְׁבֵר אֲשֶׁר הֶם שֹׁבְרִים וַיַּבֵא יוֹסֶף אֶת הַכָּסֶף בָּיתָה פַרְעֹה.
 - ָ (טו) וַיִּתֹּם הַכֶּסֶף מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם וּמֵאֶרֶץ בְּנַעַן וַיָּבֹאוּ כָל מִצְרַיִם אֶל יוֹסֵף לֵאמֹר הָבָה לְּנוּ **לֶחֶם** וְלָמָה נָמוּת נֶגְדֶּךּ כִּי אָפֵס כָּסֶף.
 - (טז) וַיּאֹמֵר יוֹסֵף הַבוּ מִקְנֵיכֶם וְאֻתִּנָה לַכֶם בִּמִקְנֵיכֶם אָם אַפֶּס כַּסֵף.
 - (יז) וַיְבִיאוּ אֶת מִקְנֵיהֶם אֶל יוֹסֵף וַיִּתֵּן לָהֶם יוֹסֵף **לֶחֶם** בַּסּוּסִים וּבְמִקְנֵה הַצּאון וּבְמִקְנֵה הַבָּקָר וּבַחֲמֹרִים וַיְנַהְלֵם **בַּלֶּחֶם** בְּסּוּסִים וּבְמִקְנֵה הַצּאון וּבְמִקְנֵה הַבְּאָר וּבַחֲמֹרִים וַיְנַהְלֵם **בַּלֶּחֶם** בְּכֶּל מִקְנֵהֶם בַּשָׁנַה הַהִוא...
- (13) There was no **bread** in all of the land because the famine was very heavy, and the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine.
- (14) Yosef gathered all the money that was to be found in the land of Egypt and the land Canaan in exchange for the grain which they were buying, and Yosef brought the money to Paroh's house.
- (15) When the money from the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan was spent, all of Egypt came to Yosef, saying, "Give us **bread**. Why should we die in front of you? For there is no more money!"
- (16) Yosef said, "Give me your livestock, and I will provide for you in exchange for your livestock if there is no more money."
- (17) They brought their livestock to Yosef, and Yosef gave them **bread** in exchange for the horses, flocks of sheep, herds of cattle, and donkeys. He sustained them with **bread** in exchange for their livestock that year.







Ancient Egyptian gathered grains stalk © Kenneth Garrett

?. פרימו לוי, הזהו אדם | Primo Levi, HaZehu Adam?

When the broken window was repaired and the stove began to spread its heat, something seemed to relax in everyone, and at that moment Towarovsky (a Franco-Pole of twenty-three) proposed to the others that each of them offer a slice of bread to us three who had been working. And so it was agreed. Only a day before this would have been inconceivable. The law of the camp said: "Eat your own bread, and if you can, that of your neighbour." To do otherwise would have been suicidal. The offer of sharing bread "was the first human gesture that occurred among us. I believe that that moment can be dated as the beginning of the change by which we, who had not died slowly changed from prisoners to men again."

8. משנה תורה, הלכות חמץ ומצה ז, ב-ג | Mishne Torah, Chametz UMatza 7, 2-3:

מִצְּוָה לְהוֹדִיעַ לַבָּנִים וַאֲפָלּוּ לֹא שָׁאֲלוּ שֶׁנֶּאֱמֵר (שמות יג ח) "וְהַגַּדְתָּ לְבְנְךְּ"... וְצָרִיךְּ לַעֲשׂוֹת שִׁנּוּי בַּלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה בְּדֵי שֶׁיִּרְאוּ הַבָּנִים וְשִׁאֲלוּ וְיִאׁמֲר לָהֶם בְּרִּיךְ לַעֲשׂוֹת שִׁבּיּ בְּבִּי שְׁיִּאִר מְשׁבֵּה בָּלַיְלָה הַזֶּה מִכָּל הַלֵּילוֹת עֵד שֶׁיָשִׁיב לָהֶם וְיֹאֹמֵר לָהֶם כָּךְּ וְכַךְּ אֲרַע וְכָךְּ וְכָךְ וְכָךְ הָבָּד מְשׁבָּה מְּלָילוּ עֵד שֶׁיִּאֹרְלוּ וְחוֹטְפִין מֵצְּה זֶה מְיַד זֶה וְכִיּוֹצֵא בִּדְבָרִים הָאֵלוּ. אֵין לוֹ בֵּן מְחַלְּתוֹ וְאֶשֶׁלוּ הַשְּׁלְחוֹ מָהְבָּיה הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה. וַאֲפִלּוּ הָיוּ בָּלָן חֲכָמִים. הָיָה לְבַדּוֹ שׁוֹאֵל לְעַצְמוֹ מַה אָשְׁתּוֹ שׁוֹאֵל לְעַצְמוֹ מַה נִּשְׁתַּנָּה הַלַּיְלָה הַזָּה. הַלַּיְלָה הַזָּה הַלָּיִלָּה הַזָּה.

It is a mitzvah to inform one's sons even though they do not ask, as [Exodus 13:8] states: "You shall tell your son"... He should make changes on this night so that the children will see and will [be motivated to] ask: "Why is this night different from all other nights?" until he replies to them: "This and this occurred; this and this took place." What changes should be made? He should give them roasted seeds and nuts; the table should be taken away before they eat; matzot should be snatched from each other and the like. When a person does not have a son, his wife should ask him. If he does not have a wife, [he and a colleague] should ask each other: "Why is this night different?" This applies even if they are all wise. A person who is alone should ask himself: "Why is this night different?"

9. דברים ו' כ-כא | Dvarim 6, 20-21.

(ב) כִּי יִשְׁאָלְךּ בִנְךּ מָחָר לֵאמֹר מָה הָעֵדֹת וְהַחֻקִּים וְהַמִּשְׁפָּטִים אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה ה' אֱ-לוֹהֵינוּ אֶתְכֶם. (כא) וְאָמַרְתָּ לְבִנְךּ עֲבָדִים הָיִינוּ לְפַרְעֹה בִּמִצְרָיִם וַיֹּצִיאֵנוּ ה' מִמְצַרַיִם בָּיַד חַזָּקָה.

(20) When your son asks you in time to come, saying, "What do the testimonies, the statutes, and the ordinances, which Hashem our God has commanded you mean", (21) then you shall tell your son, "We were Pharaoh's bondservants in Egypt, and Hashem brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

10. תלמוד פסחים קטז ע"א | Talmud Psachim וולמוד פסחים קטז ע"א:

מַתְחִיל בִּגְנוּת וּמְסַיֵּיִם בְּשֶׁבַח. מֵאי בִּגְנוּת? רַב אָמַר: ״מְתְּחִלָּה עוֹבְדֵי עֲבוֹדָה זָרָה הָיוּ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ״. [וּשְׁמוּאֵל] אָמַר: ״עֲבָדִים הָיִינוּ״. אֲמַר לֵיהּ רַב נַחְמָן לְדָרוּ עַבְדֵּיהּ: עַבְדָּא דְּמַפֵּיק לֵיהּ מָרֵיהּ לְחֵירוּת, וְיָרֵיב לֵיהּ כַּסְפָּא וְדַהֲבָא, מֵאי בָּעֵי לְמִימַר לֵיהּ? אֲמַר לֵיהּ: בָּעֵי לְאוֹדוֹיֵי וּלְשַבּוֹחֵי, אֲמַר לֵיהּ: פְּטַרְתַּן מִלּוֹמַר ״מָה נִשְׁתַּנָּה״. פֶּתַח וְאָמַר ״עַבְדִים הָיִינוּ״.

It was taught in the mishna that the father begins his answer with disgrace and concludes with glory. The Gemara asks: What is the meaning of the term: With disgrace? Rav said that one should begin by saying: At first our forefathers were idol worshippers, before concluding with words of glory. And Shmuel said: The disgrace with which one should begin his answer is: We were slaves. Rav Naḥman said to his servant, Daru: With regard to a slave who is freed by his master, who gives him gold and silver, what should the slave say to him? Daru said to him: He must thank and praise his master. He said to him: If so, you have exempted us from reciting the questions of: Why is this night different, as you have stated the essence of the seder night. Rav Naḥman immediately began to recite: We were slaves.

The Wicked (Shmot

... Go, pick out lambs for your families, and Commandment: slaughter the

passover offering.

"What do you mean by The Son's Question: children ask you, And when your this rite?"

The Father's **Answer:**

over the houses of the you shall say, 'It is the Hashem, who passed passover sacrifice to Egyptians, but saved Israelites in Egypt when smiting the our houses.'..

The Innocent (Shmot

Hashem every first that your cattle drop issue of the womb: every male firstling You shall set apart for shall be Hashem's. Commandment:

come, a child of yours asks you, saying, What does this And when, in time to The Son's Question: mean?

Father's **Answer:** T h e

...When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, Hashem slew every male firstborn in the land of every first male issue Therefore I sacrifice to Hashem Egypt...

The One Who Doesn't Know How to Ask

Commandment:

and on the seventh day there shall be a Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, festival of Hashem.

The Son's Question:

Father's Answer: T h e

...And you shall explain to your child on that day, 'It is because of what Hashem did for me when I went free from

The Wise (Dvarim 6)

Commandment:

The Son's Question:

When, in time to come, your children ask

rules that our G-d Hashem has enjoined you, "What mean the decrees, laws, and upon you?"

The Father's Answer:

and promised on oath to our fathers. Then faithfully this whole Instruction, as G-d has these laws, to revere our G-d Hashem, for our lasting good and for our survival, as is portents in Egypt, against Pharaoh and all there, in order to take us and give us the merit before our G-d Hashem to observe you shall say to your children, "We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt and Hashem freed us from Egypt with a mighty hand. now the case. It will be therefore to our Hashem commanded us to observe all his household; and us G-d freed from marvelous and destructive signs and Hashem wrought before our eyes