Haggadah Night 5783: What is the Meaning of Ha Lachma Aniya?

:Devarim 16, 3 | 'ז:ג' 1.

לארתאבל עָלָיו חָמֵץ, שִׁבְעַת יָמִים תּאבַל־עָלָיו מֵצוֹת- **לֶחֶם עֹנִי,** כִּי בְחִפְּזוֹן יָצָאתָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לְמַעַן תִּזְכֹּר אֶת־יוֹם צֵאתְּךּ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם כֹּל יִמֵי חַיֵּיִרְ:

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.

2. הא לחמא עניא, מההגדה | Ha Lachma Aniya, from the Haggadah:

ָהָא לַחִמָּא עַנָיָא דִּי אַכָּלוּ אַבְהָתָנָא בְאַרְעָא דְמִצְרַיִם...

This is the bread of poverty (Lechem Oni) that our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt...

3. 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 הַּרְבֵּה. דָּבָר אַחֵר: "לֶחֶם עוֹנִי" — "עֹנִי" בְּתִיב, מָה עָנִי שֶׁדַּרְכּוֹ בִּפְרוּסָה, אַף כָּאן בִּפְרוּסָה. דָּבָר אַחֵר: מָה דַּרְכּוֹ שֶׁל עָנִי הוּא מַסִּיק וְאִשְׁתּוֹ אוֹפָה. — 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... (B1) 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. (B2) 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.

4. תרגום רס"ג, תפסיר, שם | Rasag's Tafsir- Arabic Translaion.

A pastry of weakness פטירא טעאם אלצעף - فطيرة طعام الضعف

5. Ancient Egyptian Baking and Brewing Methods by, Delwen Samuel, Science, Vol. 273, (1996), 488:

The preparation of the bread was an important part of the daily routine in Ancient Egyptian life, in the home and in the religious complexes. The Egyptian economy was even based around it. The value of an object was based on how many grains or loaves of bread it was worth. It was also used for payment for labour.

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

וְלָחָם אֵין בְּכָל הָאָרֶץ כִּי כָבֵד הָרָעָב מְאֹד... וַיִּבֹאוּ כָל מִצְרַיִם אֶל יוֹסֵף לֵאמֹר הָבָה לָנוּ **לַחָם** וְלָמָּה נָמוּת נֶגְדֶּךּ כִּי אָפֵס כָּסֶף... וַיִּתֵּן לָהֶם יוֹסֵף **לַחָם** בַּפּוּסִים וּבְמִקְנֵה הַצֹּאו וּבְמִקְנֵה הַבָּקָר וּבַחֲמֹרִים וַיְנַהֲלֵם בַּלָּחָם בְּכָל מִקְנֵהם בַּשִּׁנָה הַהוֹא...

There was no <u>bread</u> in all of the land because the famine was very heavy... all of Egypt came to Yosef, saying, "Give us <u>bread</u>. Why should we die in front of you? ... Yosef gave them <u>bread</u> in exchange for the horses, flocks of sheep, herds of cattle, and donkeys. He sustained them with <u>bread</u> in exchange for their livestock that year...



A depiction of the royal bakery from an engraving in the tomb of Ramesses III.

7. Joshua J. Mark, World History Encyclopedia, https://www.worldhistory.org/Ra_(Egyptian_God)/:

Ra is the sun god of ancient Egypt. He is one of the oldest gods in the Egyptian pantheon... Ra is the Egyptian word for 'sun'. As a solar god, Ra embodied the power of the sun but was also thought to be the sun itself... According to scholar Richard H. Wilkinson, Ra is "arguably Egypt's most important god".

Haggadah night 5783- No Questions asked...

Rabbi Yehuda Mann- ymann@torontotorah.com

1) https://aish.com/68197797/ by Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks

Judaism is a religion of questions.

Isidore Rabi, winner of a Nobel Prize for physics, was once asked why he became a scientist. He replied: "My mother made me a scientist without ever knowing it. Every other child would come back from school and be asked, 'What did you learn today?' But my mother used to say, 'Izzy, did you ask a good question today?' That made the difference. Asking good questions made me into a scientist."

Judaism is a religion of questions. The greatest prophets asked questions of God. The Book of Job, the most searching of all explorations of human suffering, is a book of questions asked by man, to which G-d replies with a string of questions of His own.

The earliest sermons usually began with a question asked of the rabbi by a member of the congregation. Most famously, the Passover Seder begins with four questions asked by the youngest child.

2) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isidor Isaac Rabi

As a boy, Rabi was interested in science. He read science books borrowed from the public library and built his own radio set. His first scientific paper, on the design of a <u>radio condenser</u>, was published in <u>Modern Electrics</u> when he was in elementary school. [2][3] After reading about <u>Copernican heliocentrism</u>, he became an atheist... As a compromise with his parents, for his <u>Bar Mitzvah</u>, which was held at home, he gave a speech in Yiddish about how an electric light works.

3) שמות פרשת בא פרק יב

(כו) וָהָיָה כִּי יֹאמָרוּ אֲלֵיכֶם בְּנֵיכֶם מָה הָעֲבֹדָה הַזֹּאת **לַכֶם**:

4) פרשת ואתחנן פרק ו

(כ) כִּי יִשָּאַלְרָ בַנָרְ מַחַר לֵאמר מַה הַעֵדת וְהַחַקִּים וְהַמִּשְׁפַּטִים אֲשֶׁר צְוַה יִקוֹק אֱלֹקינוּ אֶתְכֶם:

5) **פנים יפות דברים פרשת ואתחנן פרק ו**

(כ) כי ישאלך בנך מחר וגו'. כבר כתבנו בפרשת בא במ"ש גבי בן רשע לכם ולא לו שהוציא עצמו מן הכלל, דאין זה דומה לשאלות החכם אשר צוה ה' אלקינו אתכם, ענינו הוא למ"ש הש"י למשה כשאמרו ישראל נעשה ונשמע מי גילה רז זה לבני וכו' [שבת פח א] <u>שהעבד הנאמן לא ישאל לרבו במה שמצוהו לעשות מה טעם יש בו, אלא שעושהו מיד ואח"כ מבקש מרבו להודיע טעם הדבר אם ימצא חן בעיניו, משא"כ בעבד שאינו הגון כי לא יעשה דבר עד שידע טעמו אם ישר בעיניו יעשהו ואם לא ישר בעיניו לא יעשיהו, כן הוא בן החכם שלאחר קיום המצות שואל לאביו החוקים והמשפטים, אבל הרשע שואל הדבר בטרם עשות העבודה.</u>

6) כלי יקר שמות פרשת בא - בשלח פרק יג

כן פסוק כי ישאלך בנך מחר, הנאמר בפרשת ואתחנן הנדרש <u>על שאלת בן החכם נקט גם כן שם מחר למחרת יום</u>
<u>העבודה, כי החכם מתירא לשאול ביום עשיית המצוה פן יחשדוהו שומעיו לומר שהוא מלעיג על המצוות בשעת עשייתם כדי להשבית העם ממלאכת עבודת ה' יתברך,</u> כי בלאו הכי רבים מקשים מה בין דברי הרשע לדברי החכם ולא רבים יחכמו להביא מתוך דקדוקי הלשון לחלק ביניהם ואולי יחשדוהו כמלעיג, ולצאת מידי חשד זה הוא שואל גם כן ביום המחרת לעשיה<u>, אבל הרשע שכל עיקר כוונתו כדי להשבית העם ממלאכת עבודת ה' יתברך על כן הוא אומר דבריו בשעת עשיית המצוה</u> ומלעיג עליהם לאמר במה אתם עסוקים וזקנים כמותכם יתעסקו בדברים בטלים הללו, על כן לא הזכיר לשון מחר בדבריו.

Haggadah Night I 5783: And Hashem took us out of Egypt

R' Mordechai Torczyner – torczyner@torontotorah.com



Question

1. Our Haggadah

ַנָּצְעַק אֶל־ד' אֱלֹקֵי אֲבֹתֵינוּ, וַיִּשְׁמֵע ד' אֶת־לְלֵנוּ, וַיַּרְא אֶת־עָנְיֵנוּ וְאֶת עֲמָלֵנוּ וְאֶת לַחָצֵנוּ. "וַנִּצְעַק אֶל־ד' אֱלֹקֵי אֲבֹתֵינוּ" כְּמָה שֶׁנֶּאֱמֵר... וַיֹּוֹצָאֵנוּ ה' מִמְצָרַיִם בִּיַד חַזָקָה, וּבִזרֹעַ נָטוּיָה, וּבִמֹרֵא גַּדֹל, וּבָאֹתוֹת וּבִמֹפָתִים.

And we cried out to Hashem, Gd of our ancestors, and Hashem heard our voice, and He saw our suffering and our struggle and our oppression. "And we cried out to Hashem, Gd of our ancestors" as it is written... And Gd took us out of Egypt with a mighty Hand and an outstretched arm and with great awe and with signs and wonders.

2. Shemot 6:6-9

Therefore, tell the Children of Israel, "I am Gd, and I will take you out from under the strain of Egypt, and I will rescue you from their labour, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and great judgments. And I will take you to Me as a nation, and I will be your Gd, and you will know that I am Hashem your Gd, who has taken you out from under the strain of Egypt. And I will bring you to the land, for which I have raised My hand to give it to Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov, and I will give it to you as an inheritance; I am Gd." And Moshe spoke thus to the Children of Israel, and they did not listen to Moshe, because of short spirits and hard labour.

Question: Why does the Haggadah omit the frustrated communications between Hashem and the Jews?

Why the communications failed

3. Ramban to Shemot 6:9

שלא הטו אוזן לדבריו מקוצר רוח, כאדם שתקצר נפשו בעמלו...

They did not incline an ear to his words due to their short spirit, like one whose spirit is short due to his struggle...

4. Shemot 4:30

And Aharon said all of the things Hashem had told Moshe, and he performed the signs before the eyes of the nation.

5. Midrash, Mechilta d'Rabbi Yishmael, Bo, Pischa 5

הרי הוא אומר "ולא שמעו אל משה מקוצר רוח וגו'." וכי יש לך אדם שהוא מתבשר בשורה טובה ואינו שמח? נולד לך בן זכר, רבך מוציאך לחירות, ואינו שמח? אם כן למה נאמר "ולא שמעו אל משה"? אלא שהיה קשה בעיניהם לפרוש מעבודה זרה שנ'...
It says, "And they did not listen to Moshe, because of short spirits, etc." – Is there anyone who is told good news, and

is not happy? You have a son, your master is freeing you, and he is not happy? Then why does it say, "And they did not listen to Moshe"? But in their eyes it was tough to separate from idolatry, as in Yechezkel 20:7-9...

6. Machzor Vitry 262

כדרך המנחמים לנחם מעט מעט. שהאומ' לנחרב נחמה יותר מדאי דומה כמי שאומר למחזיר על הפתחים למחר אתה מלך שאינו מאמין. כמו שנאמר ולא שמעו אל משה מקוצר רוח ומעבודה וגו'.

This is the like the way of comforters, who console little by little. One who would declare too much consolation to the ruined would be like someone who says to someone who begs door-to-door, "Tomorrow you will be king." He would not believe it. It is as it is said, "And they didn't listen to Moshe, because of short spirits and labour, etc."

7. Rabbi Levi Yitzchok Horowitz, When and how to mourn: Judaism's many contradictions

The same Jew who spends his midnight hours reciting *Tikkun Chatzos* in tearful memory of the Destruction, nevertheless marches proudly and happily around the *bimah* in *shul* with his *esrog* and *lulav* on Sukkos – *in commemoration of Temple times*. So he not only cries, in remembrance of the Temple; he dances, too. The same family that sits on the floor on *erev Tish'a B'Av* eating eggs and ashes, several months later sets a luxuriant table for its Pesach meal – and, leaning in a kingly manner, eats *matzah* and *marror* (bitter herbs) wrapped together *to remember how Hillel ate it in the time of the Temple. Matzah and Marror are not the only things wrapped together at the seder*; our joy and our remembrance are intertwined too, not only in *korech* (Matzah Sandwich), but in the roasted egg and shankbone on the *seder*-plate and in the *afikoman* as well, all commemorations of what we had in the *Beis Hamikdosh* that is no longer standing.

Haggadah Night 5783

The Sweet Taste of the Marror

1. משנה, פסחים י׳ (מובא בהגדה) | (Mishnah Psachim 10 (in the Haggada:

ַרַבָּן גַּמְלִיאֵל הָיָה אוֹמֵר, כָּל שֶׁלֹּא אָמַר שְׁלֹשָה דְבָרִים אֵלּוּ בְּפֶסַח, לֹא יָצָא יְדֵי חוֹבָתוֹ, וְאֵלּוּ הֵן: **פֶּסַח, מַצָּה,** וּמרוֹר.

Rabban Gamliel would say: Anyone who did not say these three matters on Passover has not fulfilled his obligation: **The Pesach offering, Matza, and Marror.**

2. מתוך ההגדה של פסח | From the Haggada!

מָרוֹר זֶה שָׁאָנוּ אוֹכְלִים, עַל שׁוּם מַה? עַל שׁוּם שֶׁמֵּרְרוּ הַמִּצְרִים אֶת־חַיֵּי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ בְּמִצְרַיִם, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: וַיְמָרְרוּ אֶת חַיֵּיהם בַּעֲבֹדָה קָשָה, בְּחֹמֵר וּבִלְבֵנִים וּבְכָל־עֲבֹדָה בַּשָּׁדֵה אֶת כָּל עֲבֹדָתִם אֲשֶׁר עָבְדוּ בָהֶם בְּפֶּרֵךְ.

This marror that we are eating, for the sake of what is it? For the sake that the Egyptians embittered the lives of our ancestors in Egypt, as it is stated (Exodus 1:14); "And they made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field; in all their service, wherein they made them serve with rigor."

: Yigal Allon (1918-1980) | 1978 אלון, 1978 3

עם שאינו מכבד את עברו, ההווה שלו דל ועתידו לוט בערפל.

A nation that doesn't respect its past will have a dull present and an uncertain future.

4. מתוך ההגדה של פסח | From the Haggada:

ּבְּכֶל־דּוֹר וָדוֹר חַיָּב אָדָם לְרְאוֹת אֶת־עַצְמוֹ כְּאִלּוּ הוּא יָצָא מִמְּצְרַיִם, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: וְהִגַּדְתָּ לְבִנְךְ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לֵאמֹר, בַּעֲבוּר זֶה עָשָׂה ה' לִי בְּצֵאתִי מִמִּצְרַיִם. לֹא אֶת־אֲבוֹתֵינוּ בִּלְבָד גָּאַל הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא, אֶלָּא אַף אוֹתָנוּ גָּאַל עִמֶּהֶם, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: וְאוֹתָנוּ הוֹצִיא מִשָּׁם, לְמַעַן הָבִיא אוֹתָנוּ, לָתֶת לָנוּ אֶת־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לַאֲבֹתֵינוּ.

In each and every generation, a person is obligated to see himself as if he left Egypt, as it is stated (Exodus 13:8); "And you shall explain to your son on that day: For the sake of this, did the Lord do [this] for me in my going out of Egypt." Not only our ancestors did the Holy One, blessed be He, redeem, but rather also us [together] with them did He redeem, as it is stated (Deuteronomy 6:23); "And He took us out from there, in order to bring us in, to give us the land which He swore unto our fathers."