

IN EVERY GENERATION *and* IN OUR GENERATION...

By Rabbi Judith Schindler and Rabbi Josh Weinberg



Passover celebrates our interconnectedness with the past — with the thousands of years of Jews who have retold our foundational liberation narrative and celebrated our freedom.

Passover celebrates our interconnectedness with the present — with our family of 15.7 million Jews who live around the world, 7.2 million of them in Israel. On this day, millions of Jews worldwide participate in a ritual celebrating our freedom.

Passover celebrates our interconnectedness with the future — as we reflect on the world we commit to creating for the generations who will sit around seder tables next year and in the decades to come.



בְּכָל דּוֹר וָדוֹר חַיֵּב אָדָם לִרְאוֹת אֶת עַצְמוֹ כְּאִלוֹ הוּא יֵצֵא
מִמִּצְרַיִם, שְׁנַאֲמַר: "וְהִגַּדְתָּ לְבִנְךָ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לֵאמֹר: בְּעַבְדוֹ
זֶה עָשָׂה ה' לִי בְּצֵאתִי מִמִּצְרַיִם" (שמות יג ח)

"In each and every generation, one is obligated to see themselves as if they left Egypt, as it is stated;

"For the sake of this, did Adonai do this for me in my going out of Egypt."

(Exodus 13:8)

This is the commandment that we, now as free people, could easily forget — what it was like to be captives and oppressed, subject to the whim of their masters. As free people, we must look over our shoulders and remember that while we are free, too many are not. It is a call for empathy, to feel the suffering and redemption of our ancient ancestors as our own, and it is a call to action.

Our struggles for liberation belong not just to the past. The metaphorical ancient "Mitzrayim" ("Egypt" or "narrow places") we long to leave are many. The October 7th massacre left shockwaves rippling through our worlds but also highlighted our oneness. What happens to Jews in one place affects us all.

It is for this reason that today, Diaspora Jews continue to be invested in creating a Jewish home in Israel, built on egalitarian, pluralistic, democratic, and peace-promoting values and actions.

In 1897, Theodor Herzl convened the First World Zionist Congress. Jews globally were invested in creating a Jewish homeland - as a refuge, a haven, a place of Jewish safety and self-sovereignty built on the values of freedom, justice, and equality, for which they yearned desperately.

As we pass this message down from generation to generation, we treasure many things, and we also share a sense of concern and trepidation for the future.

May we celebrate our freedom today, and may we do our part to have our voices heard by voting in the World Zionist Congress elections - so our vision for the strongest and safest Israel can move closer towards actualization.



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