

## Ha Lachma Anya

Contributed by [Alon Ferency](#)

**Source:**

**Abraham Joshua Heschel**, *The Prophets* (New York: Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2001), p. 19

Above all, the prophets reminded us of the moral state of a people: Few are guilty, but all are responsible.

( *Ha Lachma Anya* ) **הָא לַחְמַא עֲנִיא**

הָא לַחְמַא עֲנִיא דִּי אֶכְלוּ אַבְרָהָמָא בְּאַרְעָא דְּמִצְרַיִם. כָּל דְּכָפִין יִיתִי וְיִיכַל, כָּל דְּצָרִיךְ יִיתִי וְיִפְסַח. הַשְּׁתָּא הֲכֵא, לְשָׁנָה הַבָּאָה בְּאַרְעָא דְּיִשְׂרָאֵל. הַשְּׁתָּא עַבְדִּי, לְשָׁנָה הַבָּאָה בְּנֵי חוּרִין

This bread of affliction which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt: Let all who are hungry, come eat; all who are needy, come share Passover. Now, we are here, next year in the Land of Israel; now, we are slaves, next year, free people!

**Babylonian Talmud**, *Pesachim 115b*

Shmuel said: it is written “the bread of affliction” (Deut. 16:3)—bread which elicits conversation.

**Babylonian Talmud**, *Yoma 74b*

You cannot compare one who has bread in his basket with one who has none.

**Rashi**, (France, 11th cent.), commentary thereon

This refers to one who has food today but worries about [food for] tomorrow.

**Josef Karo**, *Shulchan Aruch*, (Late Medieval law code) “Yoreh De’ah” 250:1

כמה נותנין לעני, די מחסורו אשר יחסר לו. כיצד, אם היה רעב, יאכילוהו. היה צריך לכסות, יכסוהו. אין לו כלי בית, קונה לו כלי בית...וכן לכל אחד ואחד לפי מה שצריך.

How much is it appropriate to give to the poor? “Sufficient for his needs in that which he lacks.” If he is hungry, one must feed him. If he needs clothing, one must clothe him. If he lacks housing utensils, one must provide him with housing utensils... To each person according to what he needs.