

Maror

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Source: Jewish Council on Urban Affairs Justice and Freedom Seder 2008/5768

We take a piece of the bitter herb from the Seder plate and prepare to eat it.

This is a reminder of the bitterness of slavery. As we eat the maror, let us remember the bitterness that many immigrants still encounter.

We say together:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל אֲכִילַת מָרוֹר.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha'Olam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav'tzivanu al achilat maror.

Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe, who has sanctified us with your commandments and commanded us to eat maror.

To Consider- Rabbenu Asher, Pesachim 2:19 (from the Talmud)

Rabbi Shmuel bar Nachmani said in the name of Rabbi Yochanan, "Why is Egypt compared to Maror?" Like Egypt at first it is soft, but in the end it is hard. Similarly, the Egyptians first acted softly, but in the end were hard. In the beginning, they dealt gently with the Israelites, but in the end, they imposed hard labor on them.