

Maggid: Rabban Gamliel

Contributed by [Truah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights](#)

Source: T'ruah's Refugee Seder

Rabban Gamliel says that anyone who has not discussed three central symbols has not fulfilled the obligation of the seder. These are the Passover lamb, Pesach in Hebrew, representing freedom; matzah, representing poverty; and bitter herbs, maror in Hebrew, representing suffering.

Pesach—Freedom

I have been out of jail [in Israel] for a few weeks now. I can't tell you how much I appreciate my freedom after what I have been through. I take nothing for granted...My only wish is to remain free. Please, just leave me my freedom and let me live my life in peace. —Testimony of an anonymous refugee from Eritrea

Matzah—Poverty

When we reached Sinai, our traffickers raised the bounty, demanding that our families pay \$30,000 each... I now work in a big house and do whatever is asked of me...I work 10 hours a day, six days a week, earning \$71 per day...What is most important to me now is paying off my debt. My family borrowed money from so many people to secure my freedom from the torture camp in Sinai, money that needs to be repaid. —Testimony of an anonymous refugee from Eritrea.

The Israeli government has imposed restrictions making it difficult for asylum seekers to work, so paying back these debts while paying for food and shelter is an extraordinary challenge.

Maror—Suffering

Many among us were tortured...in Sinai. When we reached this democratic State of Israel, we didn't expect such harsh punishment in prison...We lost all hope and became frustrated by this situation, so that we ask you to either provide us with a solution or send us to our country, no matter what will happen to us, even if we have to endure [the] death penalty by the Eritrean regime. —Testimony of an anonymous refugee from Eritrea