

IDENTITY

Dipping Greens: If the Earth Could Speak

Contributed by [Religious Action Center](#)

Source: Earth Justice Seder

If the Earth Could Speak, It Would Speak with Passion

By Rabbi Warren Stone, Temple Emanuel, Kensington, MD

As you dip the beauty of greens into the water of tears, please hear my cry. Can't you see that I am slowly dying? My forests are being clear cut, diminished. My diverse and wondrous creatures -- birds of the sky and beasts of the fields -- small and large are threatened with extinction in your lifetimes. My splendid, colorful floral and fauna are diminishing in kind. My tropical places are disappearing before us, and my oceans are warming. Don't you see that my climate is changing, bringing floods and heat, more extreme cycles of cold and warm, all affecting you and all our Creation? It doesn't have to be! You, all of you, can make a difference in simple ways. You, all of you, can help reverse this sorrowful trend.

May these waters into which you dip the greens become healing waters to soothe and restore.

As you dip, quietly make this promise:

Yes, I can help protect our wondrous natural places. Yes, I can try to use fewer of our precious resources and to replant and sustain more. I can do my part to protect our forests, our oceans and waters. I can work to protect the survival of creatures of all kinds. Yes, I will seek new forms of sustainable energy in my home and in my work, turning toward the sun, the wind, the waters. I make this promise to strive to live gently upon this Earth of ours for the good of all coming generations.

Before eating the Karpas, we recite:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו, מלך העולם, בן רא פרי האדמה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, borei p'ri haadamah

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the universe, Creator of the fruit of the earth.

{ GREENING TIP }

Cut down on the water and energy you use in the shower, set a 5 minute timer for your shower, and see how your normal shower length compares.

For more information on the environmental justice, please visit rac.org/enviro.

For all Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism resources, please visit rac.org/Passover.