

A Midrashic Dialogue

Contributed by [Jill Maller-Kesselman](#)

Source:



יכול מראש חדש, תלמוד לומר ביום ההוא, אי ביום ההוא יכול מבעוד יום, תלמוד לומר בעבור זה - בעבור זה לא אמרתי אלא בשעה שיש מצה ומרור מנחים לפניך.

Yachol meirosh chodesh, talmud lomar bayom hahu. Iy bayom hahu, yachol mib'od yom. Talmud lomar ba-avur zeh. Ba-avur zeh lo amarti, ela b'sha-ah sheyeish matzah u-maror munachim l'fanecha.

Participant:

"And you shall tell the story to your child on that day: Because of this that G-d did for me..." (exodus 13:8).

One might think that the Haggadah should be recited on the first day of the month of Nisan as a preparation for Pesach, but the Torah says: *"on that day because of what the Lord did for me"* which means that the story of the Exodus should be recited when Pesach begins. We might think that *"day"* means that we should tell the story during the daytime but the text also says, *"because of this;"* which means that we must have something that we can point to and we therefore cannot start the seder until the matzo and marror are set out before us, on Passover night when we are obliged to eat them.

מתחלה עובדי עבודה זרה היו אבותינו, ועכשיו קרבנו המקום לעבדתו, שנאמר: ויאמר יהושע אל כל העם, כה אמר יי אלהי ישראל: בעבר הנהר ישבו אבותיכם מעולם, תרח אבי אברהם ואבי נחור, ויעבדו אלהים אחרים. וצחק את אביכם את אברהם מעבר הנהר ואולך אותו בכל ארץ כנען, וארבה את זרעו ואתן לו את יצחק, ואתן ליצחק את יעקב ואת עשיו. ואתן לעשו את הר שעיר לרשת אתו, ויעקב ובניו ירדו מצרים

Mit'chilah ov'dei avodah zarah hayu avoteinu. V'achshav keir'vanu hamakom la-avodato. Shene-emar: Vayomer Y'hoshua el kol ha-am. Koh amar Adonai Elohei yisra-eil, b'eiver hanahar yash'vu avoteichem meiolam, Terach avi avraham va-avi nachor. Vaya-avdu Elohim acheirim. Va-ekach et avichem et avraham meiever ha-nahar, va-oleich oto b'chol eretz k'na-an. Va-arbeh et zaro, va-eten lo et Yitzchak. Va-etein l'yitzchak et Ya-akov v'et Eisav. Va-etein l'eisav et har sei-ir, lareshet oto. V'ya-akov uva-nav yar'du mitzrayim.

Participant:

At first our forefathers worshiped idols, but then the Omnipresent brought us near to divine service, as it is written: "Joshua said to all the people: so says the Lord God of Israel—your fathers have always lived beyond the Euphrates River, Terach the father of Abraham and Nahor; they worshipped other gods. I took your father Abraham from the other side of the river and led him through all the land of Canaan. I multiplied his family and gave him Isaac. To Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau; to Esau I gave Mount Seir to inherit, however Jacob and his children went down to Egypt."

ברוך שומר הבטחתו לישראל. ברוך הוא. שהקדוש ברוך הוא חשב את הקץ לעשות כמו שאמר לאברהם אבינו בברית בין הבתרים. שנאמר: ויאמר לאברהם, ידע תדע כי גר יהיה זרעך בארץ לא להם ויעבדום וענו אתם ארבע מאות שנה: וגם את

הגו' אֲשֶׁר יַעֲבֹדוּן אֲנֹכִי וְאַתְּרִי כֵן יֵצְאוּ בְּרִכְּשׁ גָּדוֹל

Baruch shomeir havtachato l'yisra-eil. Baruch hu. Shehakadosh Baruch hu chishav et hakeitz, la-asot k'mah she-amar l'avraham avinu bivrit bein hab'tarim. Shene-emar: vayomer l'avram yadoa teida, ki geir yihyeh zaracha, b'erezt lo lahem, va-avadum v'inu otam arba meiot shanah. V'gam et hagoy asher ya-avodu dan anochi. V'acharei chein yeitz'u, birchush gadol.

Participant: Blessed be He who keeps His promise to Israel; praised be He. The holy one, blessed be he, predetermined the time for our final deliverance in order to fulfill what He had pledged to our father Abraham in a covenant, as it is written: "He said to Abram, your descendants will surely sojourn in a land that is not their own, and they will be enslaved and afflicted for four hundred years; however, I will punish the nation that enslaved them, and afterwards they shall come out with great substance."

Leader: We now lift up our cups of wine and cover the matzah, as we join in song and recall God's promise to Abraham, emphasizing eternal divine watchfulness.

וְהִיא שְׁעֵמֶדָה לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ וְלָנוּ, שְׁלֹא אֶחָד בְּלֵבָד עָמַד עָלֵינוּ לְכַלּוֹתֵנוּ, אֲלֵא שְׁבָכָל דּוֹר וָדוֹר עוֹמְדִים עָלֵינוּ לְכַלּוֹתֵנוּ, וְהַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא מְצִילֵנוּ מִיָּדָם

V'he sheh am'dah, la-ah-vo-tei-nu, v'la-nu. Sheh-lo echad beel-vad, a-mad ah-leinu l'cha-lo-tei-nu. Eh-la she-b'chol dor va-dor, om'deem ah-lei-nu l'cha-lo-tei-nu, v'ha-ka-dosh Bah-ruch hoo matz-ee-lei-nu mi-yah-dam.

This covenant that remained constant for our ancestors and for us has saved us from those who arose to destroy us in every generation, and throughout history when any stood against us to annihilate us, the *Kadosh Baruch Hu* kept saving us from them.

Leader:

We now lower our wine cups and will continue with the recitation of the traditional Rabbinic discussion of the Passover Exodus story as recorded in the torah, beginning first with the threat of Israel from Lavan and then the threat from Pharoah. The English translation is found on page 38.