

Maggid - Ha Lachma

Contributed by [Hillel at UCLA](#)

Source:

The central imperative of the Seder is to tell the story. The Bible instructs: " You shall tell your child on that day, saying: 'This is because of what Adonai did for me when I came out of Egypt.' " (Exodus 13:8) We relate the story of our ancestors to regain the memories as our own. Elie Weisel writes: God created man because He loves stories. We each have a story to tell – a story of enslavement, struggle, liberation. Be sure to tell your story at the Seder table, for the Passover is offered not as a one-time event, but as a model for human experience in all generations.

Ha lachma anya d'achaloo avhatana b'ara d'meezrayeem. Kol dichfeen yay-tay vi'yachool, kol deetzreech yay-tay viyeesfsach. Hashata hach. Li'shana ha-ba-aa bi'arah di'yeesrael. Hashata av'day, li'shana ha-ba a bi'nay choreen.

This is the bread of affliction, which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. Let all who are hungry come and eat. Let all who are in need, come and celebrate Passover. Today, we are here. Next year, in the land of Israel. Today, we are slaves. Next year, we will be free.

Written in Aramaic, this statement begins the narration of the Seder by inviting the hungry to our table. Aramaic, Jewish legend has it, is the one language which the angels do not understand. Why then is Ha Lachma spoken in Aramaic? To teach us that where there is hunger, no one should rely upon the angels, no one should pray to the heavens for help. We know the language of the poor, for we were poor in the land of Egypt. We know that we are called to feed the poor and to call them to join our celebration of freedom.