

Aviva's Passage about Charoset

Contributed by [Amy Randel](#)

Source: Aviva Frank, Teaching by Rabbi Arthur Waskow

---A Teaching by Rabbi Arthur Waskow---

1. סִמְכוּנֵי בֶּאֱשִׁישׁוֹת רִפְדוּנֵי בְּתַפּוּחִים...

Feed me with apples and with raisin-cakes

2. טוֹבִים דְּדִיב מִיַּיִן:

Your kisses are sweeter than wine;

3. וְרִיחַ אֶפְרָח כְּתַפּוּחִים:

The scent of your breath is like apricots;

4. לְחֵי כְּעַרוֹגַת הַבָּשָׂם...

Your cheeks are a bed of spices;

5. הַתְּאֵנָה חֲנֻטָּה פְּגִיָּה...

The fig tree has ripened;

6. אֶל גִּבַּת אֶגּוֹז יֵרְדֹתִי...

Then I went down to the walnut grove.

There are several kinds of freedom that we celebrate on Pesach:

The freedom of people who rise up against Pharaoh, the tyrant.

The freedom of Earth, the flowers that rise up against winter.

The freedom of birth, of the lambs who trip and stagger in their skipping-over. passing-over dance called "pesach."

The freedom of sex, that rises up against the prunish and the prudish.

The text of the Song subtly, almost secretly, bears the recipe for ḥaroset, and we might well see the absence of any specific written explanation of ḥaroset as itself a subtle, secret pointer toward the "other" liberation of Pesach -- the erotic, Earth-loving freedom celebrated in the Song of Songs, which we are taught to read on Passover.