



## DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY

RABBI AVI BERMAN  
Executive Director, OU Israel  
aberman@ouisrael.org

The *Haggadah* is one of the most popular texts to be produced throughout the Jewish world. There are thousands of unique editions, with new commentaries being written every year. One estimate I saw says that there have been about 3,000 editions of the *Haggadah* printed since the start of the printing press. What's interesting is that when you look into the historical context in which a particular *Haggadah* commentary was written, it can tell you all sorts of important historical information. Oftentimes, by examining the text with this in mind, you can come to understand the concerns and issues that were facing the Jewish people in that time and place.

I've written before about one of my high school teachers, Rabbi Meshulem Dvir, who had a big influence on me. I remember how he had a large collection of *Haggadot*. One time, he pointed out to me a *Haggadah* that had been written during the Holocaust, literally written inside the camps. He showed me how page after page, instead of focusing on the elements of the *seder* night, or questions about the *Haggadah*, the author emphasized

the issues surrounding *emunah*, faith, and particularly how to believe in *Hashem* even in dark times.

I was in ninth grade at the time and was moved by this revelation. I remember asking myself, "If we were to make a *Haggadah* today, what would it say? How would it show the influence of our times on us, and how does it express what is unique about what we are going through? Is there something today that needs to be emphasized in our families and to those around us?"

Ever since then, I have asked myself this every year when *Pesach* comes around: What kind of *Haggadah* are we creating this year?

If we look at *Haggadot* that have been published in the last few years, I would say that they are coming from a very healthy place. We can see the flourishing of *Am Yisrael* in *Eretz Yisrael* emerging from these pages, but I wonder how this year has changed things. Will the new *Haggadot* be saying anything differently from past years?

This is the night of *vehigadeta levincha* - of Jewish education of the highest importance. The night of the *Seder* is what many of our children will hold onto when they become adults. They will remember us, our attitudes, our moods, the thoughts we express, from that night. Our children will be looking at us this coming *Pesach* and trying to understand how to view their lives from within our *divrei Torah* and how we choose to talk about the lines of the *Haggadah*, and they will remember it forever. We need to keep this in mind



The OU Israel Family  
sends heartfelt condolences  
to the family and friends of  
our long-time friend and supporter

**Perel Joseph Azaria a"h**  
on her passing

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

when we sit down at our *seder* tables.

For example, who are the four sons to us? Will we express our *hakarat hatov* for those sons who have been fighting for us? Will we show our gratitude for those sons adding on more Torah study for the merits of *Klal Yisrael*? Are we going to say how thankful we are for those sons of *Hakadosh Baruch Hu* around the world who have donated and sent packages to support our soldiers and our families?

That is just one example of a part of the *Haggadah* that I see getting a new “spin” this year. But there is a particular line in the *Haggadah* I come back to again and again, and I wrote about it last week: “*Shebechol dor vador omdim aleinu lechaloteinu.*” “In every generation they tried to destroy us.” This year, these words mean much more. They will be talked about in a much more visceral way.

The children at the table this year will be looking to us, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, teachers, and role models, to see exactly what our attitudes will be when we sit down to read the *Haggadah* at the *seder*. We are missing a lot of people at our *seder* table this year. Jews who have been kidnapped and taken hostage. Friends and family who will be serving in the army over Pesach. Those recuperating from injuries in the hospital. We will be feeling that hurt and loss. Nevertheless, our children and youth are looking to us and wondering, will they have faith or despair? Will they look up to *Hakadosh Baruch Hu*, and declare loudly, with full faith, “*VeHakadosh Baruch Hu matzileinu meyadam*”, that Hashem saves us from our enemies?

That our enemies try to wipe us out in each and every generation is easy to believe. This week’s events could not have made this



clearer. But do we hold the belief and trust that today, in the near future, *Hashem* will save us from those who wish to harm us? The question the children will ask will not just be “How is this night different from all other nights?”, but also, “Can we trust that everything will work out? That *Hashem* will protect us?” And we must in turn respond and show that yes, we can. “*Hakadosh Baruch Hu matzileinu meyadam*,” every time in the past and every time in the future. We thank *Hashem* for the ability to develop the amazing technology to defend ourselves - Iron Dome, David’s Sling and the arrow as well as the IDF

This statement of faith, this attitude of confidence, is not to belittle the need for our

May the Torah learning  
from this issue of Torah Tidbits be  
לעילוי נשמת

**Leila Manasseh ז"ל**  
לאה מנוחה בת צבי וחיה רבקה ז"ל  
כ"ד ניסן יארצייט

Greatly missed by her children,  
grandchildren and great grandchildren

*Families Ross, Miller,  
Lipnick & Manasseh*

military and diplomatic efforts. It isn't to sit around and hope for miracles. But it is an expression that the G-d who guides history will help leaders understand their roles in helping the Jewish people and the Jewish State survive and thrive. That *Hakadosh Baruch Hu* will help us make the right decisions. That He will give our soldiers the strength and courage to fight. That He will convince our media to talk logically and positively about what is going on in Israel and not, *chas veshalom*, the opposite. This is the belief that "*Hakadosh Baruch Hu matzileinu meyadam.*"

With this belief, *be'ezrat Hashem*, we will be able to sit down at our *seder* for every year after and know precisely what is meant by *Hakadosh Baruch Hu matzileinu meyadam.*

Let us think about who needs to be invited this year. A family with the husband and father in the army. People who have been displaced from their homes. And many more people, unfortunately. Let us demonstrate and express our trust on the outcome to our children and families, not just in words at the *seder*, but in action as well.

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat and *Chag Kasher v'Sameach*,



Rabbi Avi Berman  
Executive Director, OU Israel  
aberman@ouisrael.org

SCAN to View:  
Making  
OU Matzah



SCAN to View:  
OU Pesach  
Guide



## Most Recent Listings in Jerusalem



### **New Exclusivity:** **Penthouse in Arnona**

150 sqm penthouse  
40 sqm terrace  
Breathtaking views!  
5 bedrooms, 2 full baths  
Central A/C & heat  
Shabbat elevator  
2 underground parking spots  
Large storage: 10 sqm

### **New Exclusivity on** **Rivka Street in Baka**

2 bedroom, 2 baths  
85 sqm  
4th floor  
Shabbat elevator  
Central A/C + heat  
Small balcony off the bedroom  
Full of light & air

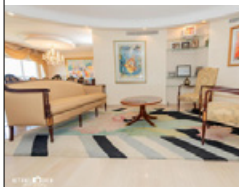


### **EXCLUSIVE:** **Great Opportunity in** **Katamonim**

2 bedroom, 1.5 bath  
66 sqm + 7 sqm balcony  
Architecturally renovated  
Central A/C + heat  
2nd floor walk up  
Option for Pinui/Binui

### **Large Triplex Family** **Apartment in the** **Heart of Ba'aka**

200 sqm on 3 levels  
4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms,  
Small Succah balcony  
A/C + private heating  
Full of light & air  
Quiet Street



### **FOR RENT: Luxurious** **Apartment in the** **Wolfson Towers**

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**Yitzchak Kowalsky**

☎ 054-766-0338

✉ Yitzchak@yykrealstate.com

🌐 www.yykrealstate.com

