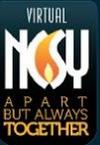


BRINGING SEDER to CHAOS



Freedom in Quarantine

DAY 7 - HA LACHMA AN'YA



Natan Farber
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CORONAVIRUS SHAYLA:

Will we be able to say כל דכפין ייתי ויכל at the Seder this year?

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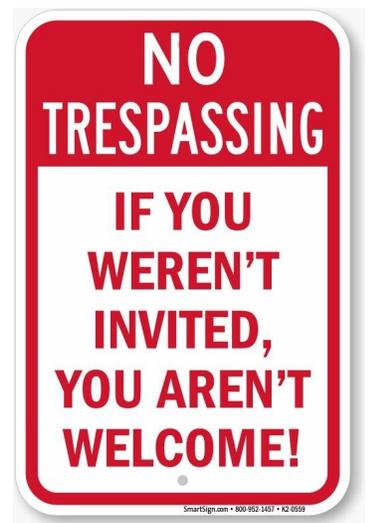
✓ The declaration we state at the beginning of the seder - כל דכפין ייתי ויכל - inviting all people to come and eat with us, on an average year feels disingenuous given that the Seder has already begun. It seems odd to offer an invitation to others when in reality it's too late. This year though, it feels like a flat out lie! We are (in all likelihood) going to remain in social-distancing throughout Pesach and we actually cannot invite people to our seder. What is the purpose and meaning of this paragraph?

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks offers an incredible perspective on the act of offering an invitation that sheds light onto this odd practice. He writes:

Sharing food is the first act through which slaves become free human beings. One who fears tomorrow does not offer his bread to others. But one who is willing to divide his food with a stranger has already shown himself to be capable of fellowship and faith, the two things from which hope is born. That is why we begin the seder by inviting others to join us. Bread shared is no longer the bread of oppression. Reaching out to others, giving help to the needy and companionship to those who are alone, we bring freedom into the world, and with freedom, God.

Even if the invitation is too late, and sharing the bread is out of the question, an act of freedom is performed. A slave cannot offer his food to someone else, let alone declare that he is willing to accept guests, because he has no food of his own to share.

The simple act of offering to share food makes the host free, and can be paralleled this year as well. Many of us cannot welcome guests to our seder due to coronavirus and perhaps feel less free due to the restrictions around us. We can be free though. We can declare that we wish we could have guests. We can call friends and family in advance of the holiday to tell them their lack of presence at the seder will be felt this year. **Offering an invitation, even if no one can come, reflects a level of freedom that can liberate even the most isolated.**



Join the Conversation

Due to the inability to invite guests this year to the seder, who is one fictional character you would invite to your seder?

[Submit Your Answers](#)

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