

Passover, 5780, April 8th, 2020

My Laptop was Abducted by Aliens

This looks different. Why is this episode of Nageela Shabbos different from all other episodes?

Coffee happened. People always told me that coffee was not the safest beverage and I did not believe them. Now I know, and I pledge to never knowingly feed coffee to my laptop again. Yes. I spilled a rather large amount of joe upon my Macbook and now I'm publishing on a computer that is older than most of my children and doesn't seem to be compatible with most graphics and publication programs. Or my fingers. So, Google Docs it is, and vice recognition to the best of my ability.

And this is the perfect time for it. For the past few weeks, all of our daily patterns have been disrupted. Hey, this voice command thing is working better than I thought it would. period. Too many periods. . . . how do I stop making periods?. Anyway, if you used to go to school, you're probably learning online, if at all. If you had a job you might be unemployed now, or at least your job has changed drastically. Do you follow Sports?

When is the last time you watched or listened to a game? We would have been a few weeks into the Yankees next championship season. Oh well. What other hobbies do you have? Perhaps you play a sport? Do you like to go out with friends? Do you like to crawl around the park and eat bugs? That should not have been a real question, I was just testing the voice typing. no matter what you've been doing up until now, your patterns have probably been disrupted. your life might not be worse, but it is different. For almost everyone, it is different.

And now we get to Passover. Did you know that the 10 plagues lasted nearly a whole year? But each individual plague was only about a week long! Why was it necessary for 3 weeks of nothing in between the one week play time? HEY! I said plague time, not playtime. Really got to listen better. Silly voice typing. It was not playtime for the Egyptians, though it kind of was for the Jews. you see, after 210 years of the Jews living in Egypt parents, grandparents and great-grandparents all born in this oppressive country. Even though 86 of the previous years had been

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bitter slavery, the Jews we're not ready to go. They considered Egypt their home. Terrible as it was, many Jews did not want to leave. The plagues disrupted all that. For an entire year, the Jews did not work. As the Egyptians ran around, trying to fix their country and get recipes for all the frogs, the Jews were preparing for Life After Egypt.

Do you know what happens to people when they have the same routine every day, every year, every decade? I'll tell you what. They stop thinking. They just act upon impulse and instinct. How many days until Corona came to call, how many days did you stop in the morning and think about why you were going to school? you just went. How many times, did any of us put thought into what our hobbies are, what friends were spending time with, and how little time we spend making meaningful conversations with our families? I know, this conversation is a little intense for a child-friendly publication, but this is what our current situation is forcing us to do.

It is making us think.

It is making us re-evaluate the decisions we make every day, and think more deeply about what we want to do with our time. At least I hope that's what it's doing for you, I know it's doing it for me.



The Egyptians worshipped figures with animal heads. What do you think they would call a god with the head of a fish?

Mannish Tuna!

Ouch! Groan!

Have a better joke? Send it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

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Two Types of Slavery

Go ahead, and read through the Hagaddah. If you skip over (just for a moment, don't get too excited) the eating and drinking parts, you're left mostly with the story of our ancestors' slavery and spectacular rescue! Woohoo! Go Moses Go! Like most stories, it starts with trouble, and once it reaches the nadir (BTW, nadir is an actual English word that means 'lowest point' even though it sounds more like part of a Passover song: 'Nadir hu, Yivneh Beiso...'), I lost my train of thought. My train of thought has now crashed. My train of thought is searching through the debris to try to find its steering wheel. Trains don't have steering wheels. Now I don't even remotely remember what I was writing about...

OKAY. Once the story reaches its very low nadir, there's a turnaround, and things get better. Mses comes and, acting as God's emissary, saves the day! That story makes sense. In fact, the Talmud tells us that one of the requirements for telling the story of Passover is, "Starting with the negative, and ending with the praise." What doesn't seem to make quite as much sense is that there are two opinions mentioned in the Talmud about what part of the Hagaddah is the negative we start with. One opinion (the more obvious one) is the part about us being slaves. That

surely is the negative part of the story of our freedom. The other opinion, though, is that the negative part is where the Haggadah tells us that our ancestors, wayyyy back, even before Egypt, before Abraham even, were idol worshippers. Terach, Abraham's loving, wonderful dad (did you hear the sarcasm in my voice?) worshipped many Gods, but now, we have been brought close to the ONE AND ONLY.

That is truly a great story. A family started out without a proper understanding of God and His universe, brought close! WOnderful, we should make a movie about it. But HOW IS IT THE PASSOVER STORY? Passover is about slavery and freedom, isn't it?

ISN'T IT?

There are two kinds of slavery, and there are two kinds of freedom.

Our ancestors in Egypt were subjected to physical slavery. They had to do work. Lots of uncomfortable, difficult, menial, demanding and demeaning jobs. They could not stop working for fear of whipping and other tortures. Physical abuse and domination. Moses stopped the abuse and led them away from their subjugation. Yet there's a completely different kind of slavery; the bondage of ideas. You see, there's no greater prison, then when one is trapped by misinformation and mistaken beliefs.

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Our ancient, polytheistic ancestors were trapped by misinformation, assumptions and misguided ideas. Abraham, thinking for himself, questioned the notions he had been taught. His descendants (that's us, folks) have learned with clarity about the truth of God and His Torah. The incredible miracles that took place in Egypt (and just outside of Egypt, as well) helped shape our lives of

true freedom. Spiritual freedom, understanding the world.

VISIT NAGEELALV.ORG/VIRTUAL-PROGRAMS for great kids activities to do during isolation.

OUR PRAYERS ARE VERY POWERFUL!

Please remember to pray for the health and wellbeing of all those affected by COVID19.

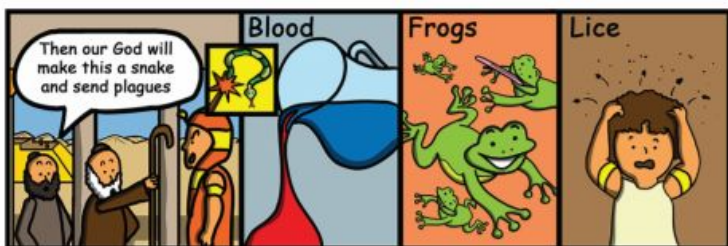
WHO IS THE STAR OF THE SEDER?

Make sure parents are putting the main focus on the children. They are stars of the seder

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THE PESACH STORY

By Andrew Galitzer



On Pesach, we eat matza, drink 4 cups of wine, ask questions, eat maror and have a seder to remember leaving Egypt.

