

We were all, each one of us, slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt.

And the Lord our God, brought us out of Egypt in a mighty hand with an outstretched arm.

And if the Holy One, had chosen not to lift us to freedom, then what life would we have?

If Shifra and Puah, Miriam and Pharaoh's daughter, Moses and Aaron had not risked all,

We, each one of us, of every generation, would today be enslaved as were our ancestors in Egypt.

And even if we are all studied and knowledgeable, mature in years and judgment and scholars of Torah, it would yet be our duty and honor to tell this story of our exodus from Egypt. And the more we recount the tale of our redemption from Egypt, embracing its wonders and other miracles of freedom as our own, the more we honor God and ourselves.



"Avadim Hayinu"

"My digital print Avadim Hayinu is based on the eponymous text that I scanned from a Haggadah. To move from slavery into freedom is reverberant in Jewish life and thought. Jews have often been at the forefront of struggles for social justice, yet that struggle is tied to a life examined: what does it mean if I am free and safe when others are not? I think with horror of people living in repressive, dangerous, and cruel situations: women in societies where rape and sexual assault against them are common; North Korean concentration camp inmates held in life-long and life-threatening detention, completely isolated from the outside world; Palestinians who feel such unfairness; Canadian First Nations peoples damaged and still suffering from past government and church dehumanizing treatment; European Jews living with fear and anxiety because of increasing anti-Semitism. Freedom? All of us remain enslaved in one way or another to some pharaoh."

Susan Turner
Winnipeg, Canada

עֲבָדִים הֵיינוּ לְפָרֶעָה בְּמִצְרַיִם.



"We were slaves unto Pharaoh in Egypt" Moran Hynal (Munich, Germany)



"We Were Slaves"

"I immigrated to Israel from USSR more than 25 years ago. For many years beforehand my family, friends and I were fighting for a right of USSR Jews to live in Israel. Unfortunately some of my friends have paid a heavy price of being prosecuted and sent to a jail for their activity against USSR government. In Soviet jail there were no proper glassware and often inmates were using plain tin cans instead of glasses. These tin cans until today are symbolizing for me the glasses of freedom by reminding me what price was paid for my own freedom and freedom of million Jews who made aliya to Israel from former Soviet Union during the last 20 years."

Boris Shpeizman

Tel Aviv, Israel

Blessed is the One whose presence is everywhere... مصر, Babylon, España, Polska, Россия, Deutschland, ישראל...

Blessed is the One who gave the Torah to the people of Israel. Blessed is the One.

The Four Sons

The Torah speaks of four children:

One Wise,

One Wicked,

One Simple,

and One Who Doesn't Even Know to Ask.

All listen to the same story and each hears it differently.

בְּרוּךְ הַמָּקוֹם. בְּרוּךְ הוּא. בְּרוּךְ שְׁנַתֵּן תּוֹרָה לְעַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל. בְּרוּךְ הוּא. בְּנֵגֶד
אַרְבָּעָה בָּנִים דִּבְרָה תּוֹרָה. אֶחָד חָכָם. וְאֶחָד רָשָׁע. וְאֶחָד תָּם. וְאֶחָד
שְׂאִינֹ יוֹדֵעַ לִשְׁאוֹל.