

pesach
free yourself

PESACH MEANS "PASSOVER". IT IS THE SEASON OF LIBERATION CELEBRATING OUR ANCESTORS' EXODUS FROM EGYPTIAN SLAVERY. IT IS A CELEBRATION OF OUR OWN EXODUS AS WELL, A TIME WHEN WE "PASS OVER" THE OBSTACLES OF OUR OWN SPIRITUAL EXILE TO INNER FREEDOM. ON PESACH WE TUNE IN TO THE VOICE OF OUR SOUL THAT CALLS US TO FREEDOM.

THE HEBREW WORD FOR EGYPT IS MITZRAYIM, WHICH MEANS LIMITATIONS, RESTRICTIONS, OBSTACLES. IT REPRESENTS A STATE IN WHICH OUR SOULS ARE TRAPPED IN OUR BODIES, ENSLAVED TO CARNAL DESIRES AND TIED DOWN TO PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS. IT IS A WORLD IN WHICH RIGHTEOUSNESS, JUSTICE AND HOLINESS ARE HELD CAPTIVE TO CORRUPTION, SELFISHNESS AND EGOTISM.

WE ARE ALL SLAVES TO OUR OWN EGYPT; INHIBITIONS, FEARS, HABITS, CYNICISM AND PREJUDICES. THESE SELF-APPOINTED PHARAOHS ARE LAYERS OF EGO THAT PREVENT US FROM EXPRESSING OUR TRUE INNER SELF AND FROM REACHING OUR TRUE SPIRITUAL POTENTIAL.

ON PESACH WE HAVE THE KEY TO FREEDOM. WE FREE OURSELVES BY EATING MATZAH FOR IT REPRESENTS THE SUSPENSION OF EGO. UNLIKE BREAD, WHICH HAS BODY AND TASTE, MATZAH IS FLAT AND TASTELESS – IT IS THE BREAD OF SURRENDER, THE BREAD OF HUMILITY.

USUALLY WE ARE SCARED TO SUSPEND OUR EGOS BECAUSE WE THINK THAT WE WILL LOSE OURSELVES. ON PESACH WE EAT THE MATZAH, WE SUSPEND OUR EGOS AND FIND OURSELVES – OUR TRUE SELVES.

THIS NIGHT IS DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER NIGHTS BECAUSE ON THIS NIGHT WE LET OURSELVES GO. WE LIBERATE OUR SOULS TO FOLLOW G^oD UNASHAMEDLY. WE SAY, "I MAY NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEANS BUT I HAVE A JEWISH SOUL AND SOMEHOW THAT IS THE DEEPEST LAYER OF MY IDENTITY."

ODEM INVITES YOU TO EXPERIENCE PESACH AND TASTE YOUR SOUL, THEN YOU ARE TRULY FREE.