



The Rubin Feldman Memorial Monthly Mussar Message

“Talking It Up At The Seder”

Practical Steps for Improving Our Lives and Our Relationships

A Special Pesach Message Brought to you by

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The cleaning is (hopefully) all done and Pesach is finally here. Every ounce of effort was used in order to make this holiday completely free from any iota or speck of chametz. Now is the time to relax and lean back like a royal king and celebrate this momentous occasion in Jewish history. Pesach is the time that everyone is obligated to relive the miracles that Hashem performed for the Jewish nation in Egypt.

In Parshas Shemos (2:14) the verse states “achein nodah hadavar, indeed, the matter is known”. This is referring to the story in which two Jewish men were fighting and Moshe said to the wicked one “Why would you strike your fellow?” The man replied “Who appointed you over us? Do you propose to murder me like you murdered the Egyptian?” The Midrash teaches, that these words of Moshe, “Indeed, the matter is known”, mean, it now became known to Moshe why the Jews deserved to suffer: They bickered and carried tales about one another. Moshe was pointing out that the reason the Jewish people were subjected to backbreaking labor was because of the sin of lashon hara. These slanderous and harmful words made the nation deserving of punishment.

One of the main aspects of the Passover holiday is the Seder and the retelling of the story of the Jewish people’s exodus from Egypt. Reciting the Haggadah is a biblical commandment for each and every man and woman, that is, to discuss and remember the enslavement and ultimate redemption through the hands of G-d. This commandment is all about talking, and the more articulation and expression, the merrier. It is essential for everyone to deliberate and discuss how G-d’s miracles even continue throughout our daily lives.

The word Pesach is a combination of two words “Pe” and “Sach”, which means the mouth talks. This is the holiday of the mouth, to tell over to the next generation the wondrous and awesome ways of Hashem. There is no limit given on the amount of words one may utter from the mouth per day. It is incumbent on everyone to use those words properly in order to praise Hashem for there is truly no cap or restriction on praising G-d and his miraculous ways. The Rabbis in the Haggadah teach that Kol hamarbe lesaper bytzias mitzrayim heri zeh meshubach- the more one talks about the exodus from Egypt, the more praiseworthy.

While sitting around the seder and the festive meals, let each and every Jew remember not to use this time to make fun and ridicule other fellow Jews, but rather to speak about the wondrous ways of Hashem and to bring Jews together. Let us all use this holiday as an opportunity to speak in the proper way and not G-d forbid in a negative or slanderous way. Chag Kosher v’sameach!