KBI Being and Becoming /Pesach Teachings Rabbi Adina Lewittes

PESACH/MATZA/MAROR

ַרַבָּן נַּמְלִיאֵל הָיָה אוֹמֵר: כָּל שֶׁלֹא אָמַר שְׁלֹשָׁה דְּבָרִים אֵלּוּ בַּפּּסֶח, לֹא יָצָא יְדֵי חוֹבָתוֹ, וְאֵלּוּ הֵן: פּסֶח, מַצָּה, וּמרור.

Rabban Gamliel was accustomed to say, Anyone who has not said these three things on Pesach has not fulfilled his obligation, and these are them: the Pesach sacrifice, matsa and *marror*.

ּפֶּסֶח שֶׁהָיוּ אֲבּוֹתֵינוּ אוֹכְלִים בִּזְמַן שֶׁבֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ הָיָה קַיָּם, עַל שׁוּם מָה? עַל שׁוּם שֶׁפּּסֵח הַקּדְּוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא עַל בָּתִּי אֲבּוֹתֵינוּ בְּמִצְרַיִם, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: וַאֲמַרְתֶּם זֶבַח פּסֵח הוּא לַיי, אֲשֶׁר פָּסֵח עַל בָּתִּי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמִצְרַיִם בְּנַנְפוּ אֶת־מִצְרַיִם, וְאֶת־בָּתִינוּ הִצִּיל וַיִּקֹד הָעָם וַיִּשְׁתַחווּ.

The Pesach [passover] sacrifice that our ancestors were accustomed to eating when the Temple existed, for the sake of what [was it]? For the sake [to commemorate] that the Holy One, blessed be He, passed over the homes of our ancestors in Egypt, as it is stated (Exodus 12:27); "And you shall say: 'It is the passover sacrifice to the Lord, for that He passed over the homes of the Children of Israel in Egypt, when He smote the Egyptians, and our homes he saved.' And the people bowed the head and bowed."

ַמַצָּה זוֹ שֶׁאָנוֹ אוֹכְלִים, עַל שׁוּם מַה? עַל שׁוּם שֶׁלֹּא הִסְפִּיק בְּצֵקָם שֶׁל אֲבוֹתֵינוּ לְהַחֲמִיץ עַד שֶׁנְּגְלָה עֲלֵיהֶם מֶלֶךְ מַלְכֵי הַמְּלָכִים, הַקְּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא, וּגְאָלָם שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: וַיֹּאפּוּ אֶת־הַבָּצֵק אֲשֶׁר הוֹצִיאוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם עָגת מַצוֹּת, כִּי לֹא חָמֵץ, כִּי גִרִשׁוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם וּלֹא יָכָלוּ לִהִתְמַהִּמֵּה, וְנֵם צֵדָה לֹא עַשׂוּ לָהֶם.

This matza that we are eating, for the sake of what [is it]? For the sake [to commemorate] that our ancestors' dough was not yet able to rise, before the King of the kings of kings, the Holy One, revealed Godself to them and redeemed them as it is stated (Exodus 12:39); "And they baked the dough which they brought out of Egypt into matza cakes, since it did not rise; because they were expelled from Egypt, and could not tarry, neither had they made for themselves provisions."

ּמָרוֹר זֶה שֶׁאָנוּ אוֹכְלִים, עַל שׁוּם מַה? עַל שׁוּם שֶׁמֵּרְרוּ הַמַּצְרִים אֶת־חַיֵּי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ בְּמִצְרַיִם, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: וַיְּמָרְרוּ הַמַּצְרִים אֶת־חַיֵּי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ בְּמִצְרַיִם, שֶׁנֶּאֶמַר: וַיְמָרְרוּ הַמַּצְרִים אֶשֶׁר עָבְדוּ בָּשֶׁבְ עָבְדָה קָשָה, בְּחְמֶר וּבְלְבֵנִים וּבְּכָל־עֲבָדָה בָּשֶּׁדֶה אֶת כָּל עֲבַדָּת אֶשֶׁר עָבְדוּ בָּהֶם בְּפָרֶךְ. This marror [bitter greens] that we are eating, for the sake of what [is it]? For the sake [to commemorate] that the Egyptians embittered the lives of our ancestors in Egypt, as it is stated (Exodus 1:14); "And they made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field; in all their service, wherein they made them serve with rigor."