

The Ten Plagues

As we recall the ten plagues that befell the Egyptians, we remove a drop of wine from our cups for each plague. We do this to demonstrate that we cannot drink a "full cup" of joy when other people suffered in the course of our own liberation.

There were ten plagues that God brought upon the Egyptians, and they were:

אֱלוֹ עֶשֶׂר מַכּוֹת, שֶׁהֵבִיא הַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא עַל הַמִּצְרִיִּים בְּמִצְרַיִם; וְאֵלוֹ הֵן:

Blood

דָּם

Frogs

צְפַרְדֵּי

Lice

כִּנִּים

Wild Beasts

עָרוֹב

Cattle Disease

דָּבָר

Boils

שַׁחִין

Hail

בָּרָד

Locusts

אַרְבֵּה

Darkness

חֹשֶׁךְ

Death of the Firstborn

מַכַּת בְּכוֹרוֹת.



Rabbi Yehuda devised three abbreviations for the plagues: "d'tach", "adash", "ba'achav".

רַבִּי יְהוּדָה הֵקִיחַ נוֹתֵנוּ בְּהֵם סִימָן.

דַּצ"ד עַד"ש בְּאַח"ב.

This year, as we enjoy the luxury of freedom, and the pleasures of the Seder meal, let us keep in mind that others continue to suffer for our present-day luxuries. Child and slave labor are the dirty secret behind many of the goods that

we consume. Just as we have listed the ten plagues, let us now list ten commodities that are often obtained today through the suffering of slaves and children. For each commodity, we remove a drop of wine from our cup:



Carpets
Clothing
Coffee
Cotton
Diamonds
Electronics
Fireworks
Gold
Rice
Sugarcane



May all people be freed in our time, and may we be agents for the eradication of slavery, for we were slaves in Egypt.

Next year: freedom!

For information about goods produced with child labor and/or forced labor, and how to avoid consuming them, visit <http://www.rhr-na.org> <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/programs/ocft/>
Fair Trade Certification <http://transfairusa.org/>
Child Labor Free Rugs <http://www.goodweave.org/home.php>
<http://humantrafficking.change.org/>
Interfaith Council on Corporate Responsibility <http://www.iccr.org/>
More resources on slavery:
Not For Sale: End Human Trafficking and Slavery <http://www.notforsalecampaign.org/>
ECPAT/USA (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking) <http://www.ecpatusa.org/>
Atzum Task Force on Human Trafficking <http://tfht.org/>

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