

The Story of the Rules and the Rules of the Story

וְאִפִּילוּ כָּלָנוּ חֲכָמִים, כָּלָנוּ נְבוֹנִים, כָּלָנוּ זִקְנִים, כָּלָנוּ יוֹדְעִים אֶת הַתּוֹרָה מִצֹּהַ עֲלֵינוּ לְסַפֵּר בִּיצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם הַרִי זֶה מִשְׁבַּח.

מַעֲשֵׂה בְרָבִי אֶלְיעֶזֶר וְרַבִּי יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְרַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן עֲזַרְיָה וְרַבִּי עֲקִיבָא וְרַבִּי טַרְפוֹן שֶׁהָיוּ מְסֻבִּין בְּבֵי בֶרֶק וְהָיוּ מְסַפְּרִים בִּיצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם כָּל אוֹתוֹ הַלַּיְלָה עַד שֶׁבָּאוּ תַלְמִידֵיהֶם וְאָמְרוּ לָהֶם: רַבּוֹתֵינוּ הִגִּיעַ זְמַן קְרִיאַת שְׁמַע שֶׁל שַׁחֲרִית.

And even if we were all wise, all discerning, all elders, all deeply knowing the Torah it would still be our obligation to tell of the exodus from Egypt—to do so is worthy of praise.

A tale of Rabbi Eliezer and Rabbi Joshua and Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah and Rabbi Akiba and Rabbi Tarfon who were reclining in B'nei B'rak where they were telling of the exodus from Egypt all night long until their students came and said to them: Masters! Time has come for the morning Shema! (Pesah Haggadah)

מַעֲשֵׂה בְרָבִן גַּמְלִיאֵל וְזִקְנִים שֶׁהָיוּ מְסֻבִּין בְּבֵיתוֹ שֶׁל בֵּיתוֹס בֶּן זֹנִין בְּלוֹד. וְהָיוּ עוֹסְקִין בְּהִלְכוֹת הַפֶּסַח כָּל אוֹתוֹ הַלַּיְלָה עַד קְרוֹת הַגָּבֶר. הִגְבִּיהוּ מִלְּפָנֵיהֶם וְנוֹעְרוּ וְהִלְכוּ לָהֶם לְבֵית הַמְּדָרֶשׁ.

A tale of Rabban Gamliel and the elders who were reclining in the home of Baytus ben Zonin in Lod where they concerned themselves with the laws of Passover all night until the rooster crowed. Then their host removed the tables from before them, roused them and they went to the study house. (Tosefta Pesahim 10:12)

From the Pesah Haggadah: Two Children From the Family Album

What does the wise son say? *What is the meaning of the decrees, the statutes and ordinances which the Lord your God has commanded you?* (Deuteronomy 6:20) You should tell him some of the laws of Pesah including that one should not go to any “afikoman/dessert” gatherings after the Pesah ritual is concluded.

What does the simple son say? *What does this mean?* You shall say to him: *It was with a mighty hand that the Lord brought us out from Egypt...* (Exodus 13:14)

From the Jerusalem Talmud: Two (of Rabbi Hiyya's) Children

Rabbi Hiyya taught: The Torah speaks about four sons—a wise son a wicked son a simple son and one who does not know how to ask.

The wise son, what does he say? *What is the meaning of the decrees, the statutes and ordinances which the Lord your God has commanded you?* (Deuteronomy 6:20) You shall say to him: *It was with a mighty hand that the Lord brought us out from Egypt...* (Exodus 13:14).

The simple one, what does he say? *What does this mean?* (Exodus 13:14) You should tell him the laws of Pesah including that one should not go to any “afikoman/dessert” gatherings after the Pesah ritual is concluded. (Jerusalem Talmud Pesahim 10:4)