



**PhiloTorah D'var Torah**

## **Takeaways from Pesach**

My new focus this Pesach was on a concept that I was introduced to by Rabbi Yitzchak Breitowitz, in a shiur of his for Yibaneh, which I heard on YouTube.

The concept was CHEIRUT - Freedom - which can be understood in two ways: Freedom FROM -and- Freedom TO (or towards).

AVADIM HAYINU... We were slaves to Par'o in Egypt and HaShem our G-d took us out from there with a strong hand and an outstretched arm.

That first answer to MA NISHTANA is a brief description of our being freed FROM slavery and oppression.

This is the fulfillment of the first part of the prophecy by G-d to Moshe at the beginning of Parshat Va'eira - V'HOTZEITI, V'HITZALTI, V'LAKACHTI - I will take you out of Egypt and its servitude, on three levels.

These are the first three of the L'SHONOT GEULA, the Terms of Redemption.

And one might think that should be it - we were slaves and now we are free.

But, at this point, we are only free

FROM. And that isn't enough. That, for us, is not real freedom. Our freedom needs to have a goal. We need to be free in order to become better people - as individuals and as a Nation.

Enter, the fourth Term of Redemption - V'LAKACHTI... And I will take you to Me as a Nation, and I will be your G-d, and you will know that it was I who took you out...

AVADIM HAYINU summarizes our physical and emotional freedom FROM. But a little further into the Seder, we express our freedom differently. MI-T'CHILA... Originally, our ancestors were idol worshipers, but now HaShem has drawn us close in His service.

There is the fourth Term being described. There we see our freedom TOWARDS something. Something good, something meaningful.

DAYEINU begins with our being taken out of Egypt. Certainly enough reason to be thankful to HaShem. But DAYEINU does not mean simply, It would be enough. It means, enough reason to be thankful, but there is more. And that 'more' is the Shabbat, Revelation at Sinai, the receiving of the Torah and Mitzvot, the coming to Eretz Yisrael, and the building of the Beit HaMikdash.

All of that is our freedom TO. Our freedom to be servants of HaShem. That might sound contradictory on

the face of it - freedom from slavery  
to become AVDEI HASHEM.

But freedom FROM needs to have a  
follow up. And that follow up is our  
becoming G-d's special nation.  
Becoming people who are committed  
to G-d, His Torah and Mitzvot.

This is not just the Pesach story.  
everything we are to learn on Pesach  
is meant for the whole year round -  
year after year, generation after  
generation... forever.

Takeaways from Pesach? All of it!

**PTDT**