



## **BEAN OF AFFLICTION: Chocolate, Child Labor and Fair Trade HAGGADAH SUPPLEMENT 2017**

The Passover Seder celebrates our liberation as a people from the oppressive slavery we experienced in ancient Egypt. It recounts the story of the Jewish nation emerging from the chains of forced labor and beginning the journey towards freedom. As we celebrate this freedom during Passover, we are compelled to reflect on how freedom continues to be elusive for other people. Our history of slavery awakens us to the plight of the stranger, and to the alarming occurrence of modern day trafficking and slavery. For how can we celebrate our freedom, without recognizing that so many individuals still have not obtained theirs?

We hope that these Haggadah supplemental readings help raise the issue of the continued existence of slavery and exploited labor during our lifetime, and inspire people to know that we can all make a difference in helping others achieve their freedom.

Fair Trade Kosher L'Pesach Fair Trade chocolate (without the use of child labor) is now available through Equal Exchange. The Rabbinical Assembly of the Conservative movement has approved these specific soy (lecithin)-free chocolate bars in its [2017 Pesach Guide](#).

### Seder Plate

Place a bar of Kosher for Passover Fair Trade chocolate on the Seder plate. When the leader lifts the Seder plate and introduces all the foods, you can add: "This is Fair Trade chocolate. Unlike most chocolate today, it is made without the labor of child slaves in the Ivory Coast. It is on our Seder plate to remind us that slavery still exists today, and that we have the freedom and obligation to choose chocolate not made with child labor."

### Avadim Hayinu

The Haggadah reminds us that "we were slaves to Pharaoh in Mitzrayim, and then *Adonai* brought us out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm." We were freed from slavery, yet slavery is not an institution only of the past; it still exists among us.

The Torah says that each one of us, every individual, is created "*b'tzelem elokim*," in the image of God. *How can this quality within each of us inspire our actions? What is the responsibility and power inherent in this gift of divine capacity to address contemporary slavery?*

We each have the power and the obligation to free today's slaves with a "strong hand and outstretched arm." What does this mean to us? How can we do this? We must reach beyond ourselves, beyond the usual extent of our gaze. Our realm of influence, our chance to exert that divine capacity, is not an opportunity lurking in the distance—it is right here, within reach, just beyond us.

Slavery does not end through hope and passivity, but by powerful action. Our action to end slavery is not only important for our own time but also for its effects on future generations. This is our chance to shape the future.



# Fair Trade Judaica

Crafted with Jewish Values

## Reading for Chocolate Charoset

Using mortar and bricks, the Jewish slaves built the pyramids. The *charoset* reminds us of the mortar, a symbol of unrewarded toil. We remember how our ancestors' work enriched the Egyptians' lives, and challenge ourselves to think about the ways that we currently benefit from exploited labor. Tonight we eat chocolate *charoset* to remember all the trafficked and enslaved children in the Ivory Coast who toil in the cocoa fields, harvesting the cocoa pods from which our favorite chocolates are made. For Jews, the descendants of slave laborers who build the pyramids, such profit should never be sweet. We eat *charoset* that is made with Fair Trade chocolate, the only chocolate that is free of child labor. We take the sweetness of this *charoset* as a symbol of resistance and the possibility of liberation for all.

## Afikomen

This chocolate can be used as a gift for finding the Afikomen at the conclusion of the Seder. Before it is eaten, you might say, "Let us partake of the taste of Fair Trade chocolate. It is chocolate without slavery, and it tastes not of suffering, but only of sweetness and freedom."

## Kavannah for Eating Fair Trade Kosher for Passover Chocolate

*Every generation learns that things are more than they seem. This chocolate I hold is more than just chocolate. This is a symbol of potential freedom, a realization that foods that give me delight can be made without child labor. Joy need not be accompanied by pain or oppression. May I experience the sweet flavor of this gift as a hint of the freedom that birthed it. May the world know liberation, one person at a time, mindful act by mindful act, until all people are free.*

(With deep appreciation to Rabbi Menachem Creditor who offers this inspiring kavanah)