Hippazon: Leaving Fast; Leaving Slow

1. The Haggadah

Why do we eat this Matza? – The dough of our ancestors **did not** have time to rise when God, the King of Kings – appeared, and redeemed them! As it states: "And they baked the dough that they took out of Egypt as cakes of Matza, but not Chametz, for they were expelled from Egypt and they could not delay. And they had also not prepared food for themselves." [Shemot 12:39].

הגדה של פסח

מַצָּה זו שאנו אוֹכְלִים, עַל שׁוּם מהי עַל שׁוּם שָׁלֹא הִסְפִּיק בְּצֵקָם שֶׁל אֲבוֹתֵינוּ לְהַחֲמִיץ עַד שֶׁנְּגְלָה עֲלֵיהֶם מֶלֶךְ מַלְכֵי הַמְּלָכִים, הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּדְּ הוּא, וּנְאָלָם, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: וַיֹּאפוּ אֶת הַבָּצֵק אֲשֶׁר הוֹצִיאוּ מִמְצְרֵים עֻגֹת מַצּוֹת, כִּי לֹא חָמֵץ, כִּי וֹרְשׁוּ מִמְּצְרֵים וְלֹא יָכְלוּ לְהָתְּמַהְמֵהַ, וְגַּם צֵדָה לֹא עָשׁוֹ לָהֶם.

2. Shemot 12

- (8) They shall eat the flesh that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire, **with unleavened bread** and with bitter herbs
- (11) They must eat the meat on this night broiled, with Matzot and bitter herbs together.... You shall eat it (the Paschal Lamb) in the following way: Your loins girded, with shoes on your feet, your staff in your hand eat it hurriedly it is a Pesach for God"

שמות פרק יב

ח וְאָכְלוּ אֶת-הַבָּשָׂר, בַּלַּיְלָה הַנֶּה: צְלִי-אֵשׁ וּ**מֵצוֹת**, עַל-מְרֹרִים יֹאכָלֶהוּ

יא וְכָכָה תּאֹכְלוּ אֹתוֹ מְתְנֵיכֶם חֲגֵּרִים נַעֲלֵיכֶם
בְּרַגְלֵיכֶם וּמַקֶּלְכֶם בְּיֶדְכֶם וַאֲכַלְתָּם אֹתוֹ בְּחִפְּזוֹן פֶּסַח
הוּא לַידוֹד:

3. Ibn Ezra 12:11

.... And as for the hurrying, it is in order that they not delay, to facilitate their eating before the moment in which the "Destroyer" would arrive in which God would leap over their homes. Hence God commanded that the lamb be fire-roasted so that it would cook speedily. And likewise our Rabbis said: It must be eaten by midnight."

אבן עזרא שמות (הפירוש הארוך)

(יא) ומקלכם בידכם לנהוג החמורים, כמו ויך את האתון במקל (במד' כב, כז). וטעם בחפזון, שלא יתעכבו וימהרו לאכלו לפני בוא רגע המשחית שיפטח השם על הפתח, על כן צוה השם להיותו צלי אש להתבשל מהרה. וכן אמרו אבות הקדושים, אינו נאכל אלא עד חצות ואינו נאכל אלא צלי:

4. Rashi Exodus 12:11

In haste: Heb. וְנֹסְפָּח, a term denoting panic and speed, like "and David was hastening (נֶחְפָּז)" (I Sam. 23:26); that the Arameans had cast off in their haste (בְּחָפְזִם) (II Kings 7:15). — [from Onkelos]

It is a Passover sacrifice to the Lord: Heb. nog. The sacrifice is called nog because of the skipping and the jumping over, which the Holy One, blessed be He, skipped over the Israelites' houses that were between the Egyptians houses. He jumped from one Egyptian to another Egyptian, and the Israelite in between was saved. ["To the Lord" thus implies] you shall perform all the components of its service in the name of Heaven. (Another explanation:) [You should perform the service] in the manner of skipping and jumping,

רשיינ

(יא) מתניכם חגרים - מזומנים לדרך:

בחפזון - לשון בהלה ומהירות, כמו (שמואל א' כג כו) ויהי דוד נחפז ללכת, (מלכים ב' ז טו) אשר השליכו ארם בחפזם:

פסח הוא לה׳ - הקרבן קרוי פסח על שם הדלוג והפסיחה שהקב״ה היה מדלג בתי ישראל מבין בתי מצרים וקופץ ממצרי למצרי, וישראל אמצעי נמלט, ואתם עשו כל עבודותיו לשם שמים. דבר אחר דרך דילוג וקפיצה, זכר לשמו שקרוי פסח וגם פשק״א [פסח] לשון פסיעה:

5 Tzidkat Hatzaddik - Reb Tzaddok Hakohen of Lublin

"The beginning of a person's entry to Divine Service must be Be-Hippazon (rushed), just as we find in Egypt where the Lamb was eaten

5. צדקת הצדיק סימן א׳

ראשית כניסת האדם לעבודת ה' צריך להיות בחפזון כמו שמצינו בפסח מצרים שהיה נאכל in a rush as opposed to the celebration of Pesach in subsequent years (Pesach Dorot). This is because the beginning necessitates that one break one's ties of worldly desire which a person is entangled by. Hence one needs to preserve the moment in which one feels the impetus to serve God and to seize the moment – fast – and maybe one will see success. Later, one can move more moderately and steadily as in Pesach Dorot. " (Siman #1)

בחפזון ולא פסח דורות (פסחים צו.) מפני שההתחלה לנתק עצמו מכל תאות עולם הזה שהוא מקושר בהם צריך לשמור הרגע שמתעורר בו רצון ה' ולחפוז על אותו רגע למהר לצאת מהם אולי יוכל ואחר כך ילך במתינות ולאט כדין פסח דורות

6. Shemot/Exodus Chapter 12

²² Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and apply some of the blood that is in the basin to the lintel and to the two doorposts. **None of you shall go outside the door of his house until morning.** ²³ For when the Lord goes through to smite the Egyptians, He will see the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts, and the Lord will pass over the door and not let the Destroyer enter and smite your home.

²⁹ In the middle of the night the Lord struck down all the first-born in the land of Egypt, from the first-born of Pharaoh who sat on the throne to the first-born of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the first-born of the cattle. ³⁰ And Pharaoh arose in the night, with all his courtiers and all the Egyptians — because there was a loud cry in Egypt; for there was no house where there was not someone dead. ³¹ He summoned Moses and Aaron in the night and said, "Up, depart from among my people, you and the Israelites with you! Go, worship the Lord as you said!

³³ The Egyptians urged the people on, impatient to have them leave the country, for they said, "We shall all be dead." ³⁴ So the people took their dough <u>before it was leavened</u>, their kneading bowls wrapped in their cloaks upon their shoulders.

³⁷ The Israelites journeyed from Raamses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, aside from children.

... ³⁹And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had taken out of Egypt, for it was not leavened, since they had been driven out of Egypt and could not delay; nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

7. "Sefat Emmet" - Yehudah Aryeh Leib Alter of Gur (1847–1905)

"Speak to the Children of Israel that they return back" (14:1): After the Children of Israel left Egypt BeHippazon, i.e. in a non-gradual manner — an unstable state of being — they were instructed to retreat and return ... so that there would be some stability.

Sefat Emmet

"Egypt was a miracle – a huge leap without intermediate stages – and hence it was only temporary. God wished that the redemption remain in the essence of Israel ... so that it

6. שמות פרק יב.

כב וּלְקַחְתֶּם אֲגֻדַּת אֵזוֹב, וּטְבַלְתֶּם בַּדָּם אֲשֶׁר-בַּּסֵּף, וְהָגַּעְתֶּם אֶל-הַמֵּשְׁקוֹף וְאֶל-שְׁתֵּי הַמְּזוּזֹת, מִן-הַדָּם אֲשֶׁר בַּפָּף; **וְאַתֶּם, לֹא תֵצְאוּ אִישׁ מִפֶּתַח-בֵּיתוֹ--עַד-בִּקֶר** .כג וְעָבַר יְהוָה, לִנְגֹּף אֶת-מִצְרִים, וְרָאָה אֶת-הַדָּם עַל-הַמֵּשְׁקוֹף, וְעַל שְׁתֵּי הַמְּזוּזֹת; וּפְסַח יְהוָה, עַל-הַפֶּתַח, וְלֹא יִתֵּן הַמַּשְׁחִית, לָבֹא אֶל-בַּתִּיכֵם לָנֵגֹּף.

כט וַיְהִי בַּחֲצִי הַלַּיְלָה, וַיהוָה הִכָּה כָל-בְּכוֹר בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרִים, מִבְּכֹר פֵּרְעֹה הַיּשֵׁב עַל-כִּסְאוֹ, עַד בְּכוֹר הַשְׁבִי אֲשֶׁר בְּבֵית הַבּוֹר; וְכֹל, בְּכוֹר בְּהֵמָה .ל וַיָּקָם פַּרְעֹה לַיְלָה, הוּא וְכָל-עֲבָדִיו וְכָל-מִצְרַיִם, וַתְּהִי צְעָקָה גְדֹלָה, בְּמִצְרָים: כִּי-אֵין בַּיִת, אֲשֶׁר אֵין-שָׁם מֵת .לא וַיִּקְרָא לְמֹשֶׁה וּלְאַהֲרֹן לַיְלָה, וַיּאֹמֶר קוּמוּ צְאוּ מִתּוֹךְ עַמִּי--גַּם-אַתֶּם, גַּם-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל; וּלְכוּ עִבְדוּ אֵת-יָהוָה, כִּדַבֵּרִכֵּם

... לג וַתֶּחֲזַק מִצְרַיִם עַל-הָעָם, לְמַהֵּר לְשַׁלְּחָם מִן-הָאָרֶץ: בִּי אָמְרוּ, בֵּלָנוּ מֵתִים .לד וַיִּשָּׂא הָעָם אֶת-בְּצֵקוֹ, טֶרֶם יֶחְמָץ; מִשְׁאֲרֹתָם צְרֵרֹת בִּשִׂמִלֹתַם, עַל-שָׁכִמַם...

לז וַיִּסְעוּ בְּנֵי-יִשְּׂרָאֵל מֵרַעְמְסֵס, סֻכּּתָה, כְּשֵׁשׁ-מֵאוֹת אֵלֶף רַגִּלִי הַגָּבַרִים, לְבַד מִשַּף

לט וַיּאֹפּוּ אֶת-הַבָּצֵק אֲשֶׁר הוֹצִיאוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם, עֵגֹת מַצּוֹת--כִּי לֹא חָמֵץ: כִּי-גֹּרְשׁוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם, וְלֹא יָכְלוּ לְהִתְמַהְמֵהָ, וְגַם-צֵדָה, לֹא-עָשׂוּ לָהֶם.

7. שפת אמת

"דבר אל בני ישראל וישובו" (שמות, י"ד, ב). לאשר יצאו בני ישראל בחפזון ממצרים והיה שלא בהדרגה, ואין זה דבר של קיימא, הוצרכו לשוב.

שפת אמת - פרשת בשלח - שנת [תרל"א] דבר אל בנ"י וישובו כו'. י"ל טעם הענין שיציאת מצרים היה נס שלא בהדרגה. <u>והיא לשעה.</u> ורצה הש"י שישאר גאולה זו בעצמות ישראל. וכן רצון הש"י תמיד מכל איש remain in his heart even in times of God's withdrawal. Hence He commanded that (Israel) they go back and raise themselves up. Hence "They [Israel] cried [at the Red Sea]." One may ask: after they saw God's infinite miracles [in Egypt] why did they despair (at the Red Sea)? — But they knew that now they must overcome on their own basis." (5631 - 1861)

ישראל. לעת מצוא השעה. שאין לך אדם שאין לו שעה. ואז צריך לקבוע בלבו על אח"כ שידע להתנהג גם בעת ההסתר. ולכך צוה שיחזרו ויעלו מעצמותם. ולכך ויצעקו. ולכאורה מאחר שראו נפלאותיו שאין להם שיעור למה יראו. אך כי ידעו שעתה צריכין לגבור מעצמם. וז"ש שהיו נתונים בדין שע"פ דין יגאלו עתה.

8. Rav Yoel Bin Nun. Hametz and Matza on Pesach, Shavuot, and in the Bread Offerings http://www.ybn.co.il/mamrim/PDF/Hametz%20and%20matza.pdf

Leaven, hametz ... represent the final goal to which the farmer aspires, from the start of his work. ... Bread which is hametz ... express[es] the end of the successful process, the longed-for end-result... the realization of that which he had visualized at the start, and which he pursued until he achieved it.

Matza, in contrast, represents a station in mid-process, before the end-result is achieved. It represents a deficiency that is waiting for completion.

... Apparently, redemption is a prolonged, difficult process requiring patience and a great capacity for discomfort... The essence of the festival of matzot, then, is a severe warning against the illusion of a complete redemption that happens in a single moment

9. A Nation Born in an Instant. Rav Abraham Isaac Kook (1865–1935)

The concept of matzah is characterized by the themes of bread of poverty and hasty departure.

At the core, the hasty exodus was at the initiative of God. It was meant to raise the level of Israel—not in accordance with gradual development, which every other nation experiences as (in a natural progression) its physical and spiritual levels proceed slowly—but rather that the great forces that were asleep in the spirit of the Jewish nation the entire time it was in Egypt, oppressed by poverty and degradation both physical and moral, burst suddenly forth from potential to actual, until the people of Israel were transformed from lowly slaves into a cultured nation with a divine culture, rich and lofty, a holy nation fit for the most elevated guidance, the greatest light: that of the true Torah.

Then behold, a nation was born in an instant... the essence of its structure is that its national being may not be adulterated by any cultural form, that all the spiritual acquisitions of a national nature that the Jews witnessed in Egypt did not touch them at all... If not for the fact that Israel is a nation that can develop exclusively in accordance with the divine planting to which no other form can be grafted, there would have been no need whatsoever for that haste (hippazon). Instead, the Jews would have developed bit by bit, higher and higher, from the midst of the Egyptian culture to a superior culture, until they would have been prepared to receive the Torah.

However, since every other culture impedes the ability of the holiness of the Torah and the divine form unique to Israel from resting upon it, the nation of Israel was never qualified for gradual growth. And therefore, the haste was imperative.

Thus, the symbol of the Jewish people is matzah, which lacks the form of any taste; yet which, when it reaches its fullness and goodness, is filled with the taste of many meanings.

9. הרב קוק. הגדה/עולת ראי"ה

יציאת החיפזון ביסודה הייתה עצת ה', להרים מעלתם של ישראל שלא על פי דרך ההתפתחות הסידורית, שכל בסדריה מתפתחת אומה למעלתה... ותבא הטבעיים לאטה, כ"א שהכחות הגדולים, הנרדמים בנפש האומה כל זמן כבושים במצרים, היותם בעוני ...יצאו בפתע פתאום מן הכח אל הפועל, עד שנהפכו מעבדים שפלים לעם תרבותי בתרבות אלוקית... לעם קדוש... והנה לולא היו עם ישראל עם בזה, שיוכל להתפתח רק ע"פ הנטיעה האלוקית... לא היה צריך לאותו החפזון, והיו מתפתחים מעט מעט... אבל מתוך ששום תרבות אחרת היא מעכבת את קדושת התורה... היה משום כך החפזון מוכרח.