

THE YOUNGEST:

And the Lord brought us forth out of Egypt.

LEADER:

The Eternal One Himself appeared in His glory at that time to deliver His people; the God of Truth began His glorious warfare against the darkness of heathenism and the degrading worship of false gods.

THE YOUNGEST:

With a strong hand.

LEADER:

When innocence is about to succumb; when wickedness triumphs, then God appears and takes part in the struggle, and His is the victory. Thus He broke the chains of Egypt with a strong hand, and delivered His children from the power of their oppressors.

THE YOUNGEST:

With great might.

LEADER:

As the thunder cloud stands in the sky, hiding blessings for the one and destruction for the other — thus did God reveal Himself in sublimity and grandeur to His people, a joy unto His own, a terror to His enemies. And the deceiving magicians of Egypt recognized the finger of the divine Omnipotence, and the proud tyrant acknowledged: "The Lord is righteous, and I and my people are wicked." Measure for measure did God requite the Egyptians

for their own deeds. They oppressed an innocent people, and they themselves succumbed to the burden of their guilt, and destruction overtook them and their land.

The Lord will e'er be known
By judgment that He sends;
The wicked man his own
Work by his action ends.

THE YOUNGEST:

And with signs and with wonders.

LEADER:

Punishment upon punishment, and plague upon plague did God visit upon Egypt, to bring the people to a knowledge of their guilt,—in vain! Nine plagues had in succession filled the land with terror,—in vain! Pharaoh and his people ever returned to their old tyranny as soon as the misfortune was over. Then God stretched forth His punishing hand over their families. Death touched their first-born sons, from the son of the king down to the son of the slave. Then they saw that a higher power ruled above the mighty of the earth, a stronger hand was stretched out to protect the oppressed innocence.—Then at last they repented; the people whom yesterday they would not let go, they now pressed to leave the land in haste. And when the morning after that ever memorable night dawned, the hosts of God went forth out of the house of bondage into the broad daylight of freedom, after a sojourn of four hundred and thirty years in a foreign land.

HYMN.

AS the morning follows night
 In ceaseless emulation,
 As the spring breaks winter's might
 With youthful exultation,
 Thus in time
 Joy sublime
 Follows tribulation!
 Fear not! bide your time!

Yea, though the oppression last ever so long, trust in God! The day of deliverance will come. Did not the Lord deliver us from many oppressors? and did He not reduce the numbers of our persecutors? He did bring us into this Canaan—America, this land of freedom! O let us thank Him, who has done such wonderful deeds for us, crowning them all by the most marvelous of all wonders—the preservation of Israel through so many storms and persecutions unto this very day.

THE YOUNGEST:

And He brought us into this place.

LEADER:

Thus spoke our forefathers, and thus we also say with a joyful heart before God. Praised be He who brought us into this place. He led us to a safe position, from which we are to look back upon our past, upon the sufferings and wanderings of our fathers as upon a time of probation, fitting us for our universal mission. And we also look up to Him with grateful hearts that He has given us and our children a lot infinitely better than ever fell to the share of our fathers in Palestine.

THE YOUNGEST:

And He gave us this land.

LEADER:

With deep-felt recognition of the divine kindness do we to-day give expression to our thanks, that God has given us this land; that He has made us co-workers in and partakers of the liberty and the free government of this glorious Republic. Here is the haven of our peace, the opportunity of our mission, to teach by our own example the faith in one God, and the love of virtue as the common bonds of humanity.

THE YOUNGEST:

Even a land that floweth with milk and honey.

LEADER:

The Lord fulfilled in those days of old the promise which He made unto Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He gave unto their children that excellent land which repaid the toil of its inhabitants abundantly. On this sublime evening our forefathers gathered in family reunion, to partake of the Pesach-lamb according to precept, and with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, celebrated the memory of that miraculous deliverance from Egypt, and the great mercies which the Lord had since that time showered upon them.

THE YOUNGEST:

What is the meaning of the Pesach-sacrifice?

LEADER:

Pesach means to pass over, to spare. The sacrifice was therefore intended to remind the people of the grace and loving kindness, wherewith God spared the Israelites in that holy night when He punished the Egyptians. As it is said: "A Passover be it before the Lord, because He passed by the houses of the Israelites in mercy, when He smote the Egyptians and saved our own houses. And the people bowed down before the Lord."

We, too, bow down before Almighty God in this sacred night of deliverance, and praise His holy ways. Did He not pass by us also in His grace, and preserve us in the course of the ages? So many great and mighty nations have disappeared, and the few children of Jacob have been preserved! Sacrifices we no longer offer, but our whole life let us give unto God instead. His holy service, for which He has preserved us to this day, shall be our joy and delight for ever and ever.

THE YOUNGEST:

What is the meaning of the unleavened bread?

LEADER:

This custom is intended to remind us of the memorable fact, that our fathers in Egypt were driven from the country with such haste by their former tormentors, that they not even had time to leaven the bread for their journey. But at the same time this plain bread, kept down and with great watchfulness prevented from rising, reminds us also of the affliction and the oppression which in Egypt and other countries weighed upon the shoulders of

our forefathers, forcibly keeping down every rise and upward movement of their spirit. Let us think of this in these better days of ours. For man should not forget misfortunes in the days of happiness, nor the sorrowful hours that are passed, in the days of his joys.

THE YOUNGEST:

What is the meaning of the bitter herbs?

LEADER:

They shall remind us of the bitter lot of our fathers in the lands of their adversaries, when their enemies did all in their power to rob them of every joy of life, to cripple their faculties, and to poison their ambition. As is said of the Egyptians: "And they embittered their lives by hard labor in bricks and clay, and by all manner of work upon the field; and the tasks laid upon them were exceedingly hard."

Thanks be to Thee, O merciful God, that Thou hast taken the heavy yoke from Thy people!

(Here the speaker may pause, and in a free manner call to rehearse the blessings of the past year and the history of his own house.)

ON this holy evening we remember with sincere interest the early and later history of Israel, and whatever good or ill has in the course of time happened to our fathers or ourselves, is refreshed in our memories in this memorable night, in which more than three thousand years ago Israel entered the glorious service of God from the degrading service of man. Yea, we partake of that wonderful