



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

2025 PASSOVER

Passover begins at sundown on April 12 and concludes at nightfall on April 20.

One of the most important festivals in Judaism, Passover commemorates the Jewish people's liberation from slavery in Egypt and, led by the prophet Moses, their exodus to freedom.

It is a solemn yet joyous celebration of liberation, justice, endurance, and solidarity with the persecuted and the oppressed. As Morris Joseph phrased it in his 1903 volume *Judaism as Creed and Life*, "Passover affirms the great truth that liberty is the inalienable right of every human being."

The Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai's "Half the People in the World" captures the bittersweet nature of the quest for a place in the world. I'd like to share Stephen Mitchell's translation of that poem with you:

Half the people in the world
love the other half,
half the people
hate the other half.
Must I because of this half and that half
go wandering and changing ceaselessly
like rain in its cycle,
must I sleep among rocks,
and grow rugged like the trunks of olive trees,
and hear the moon barking at me,
and camouflage my love with worries,
and sprout like frightened grass between the railroad tracks,

and live underground like a mole,
and remain with roots and not with branches,
and not feel my cheek against the cheek of angels,
and love in the first cave,
and marry my wife beneath a canopy
of beams that support the earth,
and act out my death, always
till the last breath and the last
words and without ever understanding,
and put flagpoles on top of my house
and a bomb shelter underneath. And go out on roads
made only for returning and go through
all the appalling stations –
cat, stick, fire, water, butcher,
between the kid and the angel of death?
Half the people love,
half the people hate.
And where is my place between such well-matched halves,
and through what crack will I see
the white housing projects of my dreams
and the barefoot runners on the sands
or, at least, the waving
of a girl's kerchief, beside the mound?

I wish all who celebrate a blessed and peaceful Passover. *Chag Pesach sameach!*

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President

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