

10 QUESTIONS FOR THE PESACH SEDER – 2018

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In Judaism the world was created with Ten Sayings, in Egypt we had the Ten Plagues, and at Mount Sinai we have the Ten Commandments. Now you can add my Ten Questions – Enjoy! rabbifishman@bethtikvah.ca

1. At the very beginning of the Seder we begin with the song referred to as the “*Simanim*/the order of the Seder”. Could you create a list of steps you would like to follow in life? What would they look like?
2. Way back then we were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt. Now we are slaves to our smartphones. Do you think a smartphone should be treated like bread and everyone at the Seder should hide it for one night? Wouldn’t that be nice?
3. Cambridge Analytica just sold the private information of 50 Million Americans that had shared their private details on Facebook. In the last week over \$100 Million dollars have been lost from Facebook share prices. Will you be deleting your account this Passover? Do you really believe what you put on social media stays with those who claim confidentiality?
4. We remember that we were slaves in Egypt. Rabbi Solovietchik writes that the purpose of our slavery was: “to transform the Jew into a rachaman, one possessing a heightened form of ethical sensitivity and responsiveness.” Do you care for the plight of others? Are today’s asylum seekers people we should care about?
5. According to our Sages the Jewish People were praised for their monogamy and fidelity in Egypt. Recently Stephanie Clifford, whose stage name is Stormy Daniels appeared on 60 minutes alleging a relationship with the American President. Over 21 Million people watched the 60 minutes television show. What does this say about Trump and what does this say about society that it garners such interest?
6. “L-Shanah Haba B’Yerushalayim”. This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the State of Israel. Have you ever visited Israel? Could this year be the one that you decide to finally book a trip?
7. Our sages tell us one of the reasons why the Jews merited being redeemed from Egypt was because they did not intermarry with the Egyptians. In North America the intermarriage rate in the non-Orthodox community is 71% with most intermarried Jews not raising their children Jewish. What does this say for the future of this community? Should we be doing more to encourage the non-Jewish spouse to convert?
8. Children’s songs are saved until the end of the Hagaddah, as if to make sure the children are still awake and the focus of the evening. Are your children the focus in your life? Could you spend more quality time with your kids (and your grandchildren)?
9. Over Passover we read the love-book ‘Song of Songs’. Do you make time in your relationship for special moments of connection? Do you have a Date Night? Does Love live in your marriage?
10. Really, why *is* this night different from all other nights of the year? Wouldn’t it be nice if we got together more often ... as family? As Jews?