



Jewish Educational Wisdom,  
Experience & Leadership

# Hunger Haggadah

Written and Prepared by Rabbi Erin Hirsh, January 2006

*Baruch Atah Adonai Elohaynu Melech ha-Olam shehecheyanu v'kiymanu v'higianu  
laz'man hazeh*

Praised are You, Sustainer of Humanity, for enabling us to reach this time together.

- Reader One: More people are hungry in the world today than ever before: an estimated 840 million people, 1/6 of the people in the world.
- Reader Two: Over 30,000 children under the age of five die each day from hunger and other preventable causes.
- Reader Three: The majority of those people live in what we call the developing world, in places like Africa and Asia.
- Reader Four: There is also hunger in the Middle East, including a growing amount in both Israel and the Palestinian territories.
- Reader Five: But there is a lot of hunger in the United States, too, even though it is the wealthiest country in the world.
- Reader Six: Every day in the United States, 33.6 million people –13 million children and 20 million adults- go hungry.
- Reader Seven: And within the United States, there is plenty of hunger in Pennsylvania. Over 10% of the families in our state have hungry people or have to worry about going hungry.

- Reader Eight: In the five-county Philadelphia area nearly 226,000 households must cut the size of their meals or skip meals; they may feel hungry, but cannot afford food.
- Reader Nine: And in the Jewish community of Philadelphia, there is hunger. About 3000 Jewish people who keep kosher would go hungry each month if Jewish organizations didn't help them get food.
- Reader Ten: That doesn't count however many thousand other Jewish people there are in Philadelphia who don't keep kosher and go to specifically Jewish organizations to get food. We can only guess there must be thousands more of them.

The Earth produces 20% more food  
than it would take to feed every single person on earth!

Hunger is not really about food.  
Hunger is NOT about food.  
Hunger is about power.

60% of you are Low-income. You have nothing to eat but rice and water.  
25% of you are Middle-income. You have rice, water, and also beans to eat.  
15% of you are High-income. You have pasta with sauce, salad, and juice.

*Baruch Atah Adonai Elohaynu Melech ha-Olam  
haMotzi lehem min ha'aretz.*

Praised are You, Sustainer of Humanity, source of bread of the Earth.

## It Could Be Me

Alexander Scrung, Grade 8 New York City

I think that hunger is one of the worst problems in the world today because when I see a bum or somebody on the street, train or train station, I feel sorry for them. Because you never know, one day it could be me. I think...the president... should take better precaution of it instead of helping ... people in... other foreign countries. He should handle the homelessness, crime and hunger over here in the United States. That's how I feel about it.

### ROOT CAUSE OF HUNGER ONE:

#### **LACK OF EDUCATION.**

Right now, 115 million children in the world can't go to elementary school. School fees are one of the many obstacles denying children in developing countries a basic education- and locking them into a cycle of poverty.

### Why Is It?

*Courtney Kenney, Grade 8, LA*

Why is it?

They have to travel for days,  
Just to get a little food.

When we can just pick something up,  
Whenever we are in the mood.

Why is it?

They can get only small portions,  
That barely help them get by,  
When we have feasts and banquets,  
And meals with food piled high.

Why is it?

Everything is so unfair!

**ROOT CAUSE OF HUNGER TWO:**

**LACK OF ACCESS TO RESOURCES.**

Millions of farmers are deprived of the resources they need to survive, including land, water, credit, and access to markets for their goods.

Just Like Me

*Donley W., Grade 8, New York City*

Hungry they are, hungry they will be.  
 Hunger is killing 40,000 people a day, just like me.  
 They are young and old dying not because nobody cares,  
 but because nobody knows.  
 So let us do something, so it is known.

**ROOT CAUSE OF HUNGER THREE:**

**CONFLICT AND WAR.**

Millions die each year from conflict-related hunger and disease. Worldwide, there are about 20 million people displaced by war and humanitarian emergencies.

Hunger

*Unknown, Grade 8, New York City*

All over the world, people are hungry...Hungry because they need food.  
 I feel sorry for the people on the streets that are hungry...I don't ever want to be a crack  
 head, etc...I want to be a good eating kind of person.  
 I don't care if I am fat or skinny....But I'm going to eat and be a healthy boy.

## ROOT CAUSE OF HUNGER FOUR:

### **TRADE.**

Millions of farmers, laborers, and factory workers are affected by the unfair rules of world trade. High tariffs, subsidies, and bans on certain imports are often insurmountable barriers to people trying to break the cycle of poverty.

### Spit

*Anthony Mullings, Grade 8, New York City*

Hunger, hunger everywhere.

People outside night and day are starving each and every day.

They look for a bite to eat and a warm place to sleep.

People are starving here and there and some people don't really care.

They'll walk past a hungry person and spit before they would help a homeless person.

## ROOT CAUSE OF HUNGER FOUR:

### **DISCRIMINATION.**

Members of ethnic and religious minorities often have limited access to resources and government assistance. They are frequently the last to receive emergency aid in the wake of disasters.

**Our vision** is a world without hunger and malnutrition - a world in which each and every person can be assured of having the food they need to be healthy and well-nourished. Our vision is a world which provides for and protects the welfare and human dignity of all of its people. A world in which all children can grow, learn and flourish, developing into healthy, active, caring members of society.