

“The Jewish Soul Haggadah: Where Heaven and Earth Touch”

by Bruce David

A project over nine years in creation, this Haggadah is the culmination of more than thirty years of work. It embodies much of my life efforts, using the art to reach others with the values and importance of the Jewish legacy. Besides the art, the Haggadah contains contemporary stories, poems, prayers and meditations that I have written throughout the years. It combines relevant modern issues, along with the understandings of our historical legacy, allowing for unique ways of sharing the Passover story. It is designed to offer a Passover guide that will benefit people on many different levels - to inspire, educate, and entertain those who read it.

Just a few of the distinctive features of “The Jewish Soul Haggadah: Where Heaven and Earth Touch” are:

- 1) A “Storytelling Seder Plate,” where the depiction of each item on the Seder Plate shares part of the Passover Story (pgs. 4-5).
- 2) A *drash* (short story) comparing the Passover Story with the “Wizard of Oz” (pg. 8).
- 3) “Echoes of our Souls – A Shema Meditation” (pg. 2-3).
- 4) A unique perspective on the “Four Children” section of the Seder entitled, “Four Children, Four Stages of Growth, Four Parts of Ourselves” (pg. 36).
- 5) “In Our Heart of Hearts, Whispers of Hope for Our Children,” a special blessing from parents to their children (pgs. 38-39).
- 6) A” Pesach Freedom Drash” (pg. 41).
- 7) An original “Ten Plagues” picture created specifically for this Haggadah. In the design, a tornado devastating the land is also a wine cup containing illustrations of each of the Ten Plagues. The composition additionally includes a representation of when we remove the ten drops of wine from the cup during the Seder (pg. 43).
- 8) “Cheese Blintzes and Prayers...When We Have To Eat Our Words,” a short *drash* (pg. 52).
- 9) An “R” rated *drash* because it contains nudity and roosters. Based on a Rebbe Nachman teaching (pgs. 82-83).

The multidimensional symbolism contained within my story-telling pictures is one of the most unique features of my art. When the viewer looks at the pictures from different perspectives, they can see the compositions in different ways. My art has been exhibited at almost all the major national and international Jewish conferences with great success. My work has won the praise of many art professionals including Museum and School of Fine Art Directors, Distinguished Lecturers in Fine Arts, Art Professors, Gallery Owners and art critics. Additionally, it has been featured on the cover of, and in numerous articles of, magazines, newspapers and books. References and copies of publicity are available on my web site or by request. Besides the hand pulled original serigraphs and limited edition lithographs, I additionally create large commission pieces for synagogues, organizations and individuals, including stained glass windows, glass mosaics, metal sculpture and bronze relief.

“The Jewish Soul Haggadah ... Where Heaven and Earth Touch” has been shown to many individuals in order to obtain feedback on my efforts. Several of these in the publishing world you may be familiar with including Arthur Kurzweil, David Behrman and Avi Fox. All of these individuals, as well as other rabbis and professors who have seen the Haggadah, felt that I have created something extremely unique and special. Avi Fox, who runs Rosenblum’s Book Store in Chicago and carries an extensive number of Haggadah, says he has never seen anything like mine, and that he thought it would be a great seller. You are welcome to contact him and any of the others directly.

I am currently in need of funding for producing an edition of this Haggadah, and am hoping that by combining our talents, resources and abilities, we would be able to have greater success in our efforts to reach others with the important values of the Jewish heritage. By bringing special and meaningful Judaica into homes and synagogues, we would be able to help others better appreciate and enjoy the beauties of our legacy.

Please feel free to openly share with me any suggestions you may have that will enable me to improve my efforts, as well as make the Haggadah more marketable. The whole objective of this project is to reach as many people as we can in the best ways possible. I feel your assistance will be invaluable in achieving this goal.

Please let me know if there is any other information you need, or anything else I can do to assist you. Once more, thank you so much for your assistance with this endeavor. I greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely,

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