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HEBREW COLLEGE
Jewish learning and leadership for a pluralistic world

NEWS & VIEWS

April 4, 2018 | 19 Nisan 5778

Chag Pesach Sameach!

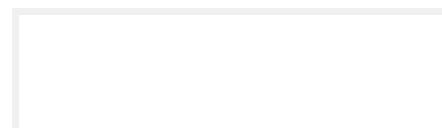
(Hebrew College will be closed on April 5 & 6 in observance of Passover)

Blog Edition



Posts from this [Hebrew College-hosted blog](#) is published weekly in [Patheos](#).

On Partial Truths



Parasha for the Last Day of Pesach

By Rabbi Elisha Herb, Rab`16
Rabbi, Temple Beth Shalom, Salem, OR



A fire and brimstone Christian preacher once taught me that the cunning of the snake in Eden was his mastery of “half-truths.” He knew he could hook Eve by saying of the fruit of the forbidden tree, “You will not ‘surely die’—God knows that on the day you eat of its fruit, your eyes will be opened and you will become like one of the Divine Powers, knowing good and evil.”

“It’s true!” the preacher ranted. “They did not **physically die** for eating the fruit. But spiritually they **were** dead. Dead as doornails.” This is the power of deception, he maintained: to speak in half-truths; **partial** truths have **power**.

In the Pesach Haggada, we sing, “This is the bread of poverty ... let all who are hungry come and eat.” There is an inner tension in this song. Is this truly an invitation to all who are hungry? Or is it merely aspiration?

It is said of Rav Huna (Talmud Bavli, **Taanit 20b**), that when sitting down to a meal, he would open his door and cry out, “Whoever needs to eat, come and eat!” Rava, hearing this anecdote from a student of Rav Huna, responded that he could not emulate this behavior. “There are a great many poor people [in this town] and I could not feed them all.” So, too, our recitation of “let all who are hungry” is not entirely an invitation, nor is it merely aspiration.

Read more

Gala 2018

May 3, 2018 | 18 Iyar 5778

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Seated dessert program at 7:30 pm

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