

# Passover Feature

In honor of Passover, which commemorates the anniversary of the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage, the Las Vegas Israelite will publish a series of features. This year the Passover Festival is inaugurated at sundown on the evening of Monday, April 4, and ends on Tuesday, April 12.

## Perennial Liberation

By Ben Nathan

Passover denotes the theme of liberation, perennial liberation. It denotes liberation from bondage, from error, from misunderstanding and, ultimately, liberation from that portion of ourselves that is still in darkness, that portion that may be called "the interior Egypt".

With us it is always, in every man. From it man must continually go, not once but always. Not once, but continually. Not once, but again and again and again. From it no man can say he has once and for all successfully departed, once and for all successfully escaped. From the hold of that darkness, from its grip, no man can say he has permanently cleansed himself or, that having freed himself from it once, he is free of it permanently. There is no moment in this life, whether we are asleep or awake, active or still, to which its presence does not cling.

Some of our Sages infer that so persistent is that presence, so sticky, so permanently adhered to all we think and do, that not even the act and experience of death itself can completely liberate us from the tenacity of its grip. Its tentacles, they say, threaten to tangle our feet no less critically in the afterworld than they do here. So innate, they say, is that "interior Egypt" to our being, so consubstantial to the soul of man, that not until the prophecy that "death itself shall be taken away" is fulfilled will our escape from that bondage be truly secured. In short, they say, the liberation from our own darkness is so recurrent and continual a trial, so perpetual a test, that the soul of man gains no freedom from it neither in this world nor in any of those to come. Consequently, our Sages advise, we can anticipate the celebration of Passover eternally.

The need to depart from Egypt, our Sages tell us, is mandatory at every point in creation, and remains as such in all domains, above and below, earthly and cele-

tial. Though a soul make exodus from Egypt ten thousand times, it is not, they tell us, relieved of making that exodus ten thousand times more. For as there is today without night, so there is no Zion without Egypt. The ritual of purification is without end. Daily we are in Egypt's bondage, and every day man must flee from it. And in the degree that we daily neglect or forsake Zion, in like degree do we enhance and strengthen Egypt.

What the Sages say, then, is that our wandering in that desert is ever in perpetuation, and though, from generation to generation, we dream we have already crossed it, its sands are ever under our feet. There is no angel, not one, whose feet in fact are free of at least a grain of it.

So hold yourself as one ever in wandering, as one ever in the act of exodus. But hold that holding in joy, not in sorrow, knowing that He who with a strong arm has carried you thus far, will carry you thus far again. Know, too, we are told, that the Chariots of Egypt are behind you always and that those who crossed the Red Sea once are not yet done with that crossing.

### ISRAELITE ADS PAY



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## B.B.Y.O. - A.Z.A.

by Mike White

WOULD YOU BELIEVE that Las Vegas A.Z.A. is conducting its be-annual Initiation and Installation Ceremonies tomorrow, Sat., March 26? Acting in the capacity of Installing Officer will be Mr. David Gordon, Advisor to Las Vegas AZA, and Bill Brown, as Installing Marshall. The Alephs being installed are Ken Schitler, Godol, Larry Brown, S'gan, Jerry Gordon, Moreh and Kohn Godol, Jim Heimberg, Mazkir, Mel Katz, Gizbor, Mike White, Sopher, Bill Brown, Shotare, and Bob Sklar, Sh'tel. The Alephs being initiated into the Order are Mike Neuman, Bob Ukille, Darryl Clayman, Howie Glicker, and Steve Winard. The Ceremony begins at 7:00.

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that also tomorrow, Sat., March 26 at 8:00 the Danny Kolod Youth House is sponsoring an AZA dance featuring the Misty Souls? Admission is 50 cents and refreshments will be served. COME TO BELIEVE IT!

You won't believe it but the A.Z.A. Annual Carwash is coming. Hint: save your dirty cars for us.

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