Mah Nishtanah - אָר נִשְּׁתַּנְה





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ב"ה

מַה נִשְׁתַּנָה הַלַיְלָה הַזֶה מִכֶּל הַלֵּילוֹת

Mah nishtanah halaylah hazeh mikol halaylot
Why is this night different from all other
nights?

MAH NISHTANAH MESSAGE

On Pesach we ask Hashem: Why is this exile (galut) different from all other exiles? We ask Hashem to take us to freedom and bring Moshiach speedily!





שֶׁבְּכֶל הַלֵּילוֹת אֵין אָנוּ מַטְבִילִין אֲפִילוּ פַּעַם אָחָת הַלַּיִלָה הַזֵה שְׁתֵּי פִּעָמִים

- She'bechol haleilot ain anu matbilin afilu pa'am echat, halyla hazeh shtei pe'amim
- On all other nights we don't dip even once; but on this night we dip twice.

MAH NISHTANAH MESSAGE

Dipping a vegetable into saltwater reminds us of the bitter tears we shed in Egypt.
Dipping the Maror in charoset reminds us of the bricks we created as slaves. But
when we dip, we also think about freedom; slaves eat plain food, like dry, crusty
bread, free people eat tasty food!





שֶׁבְּכָל הַלֵּילוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין חָמֵץ אוֹ מַצָה הַלַּיִלָּה הַזֵה כָּלוֹ מַצָה

She'bechol haleilot anu ochlin chametz o matza, halyla hazeh kulo maztah

on all other nights we eat Chametz or Matzah; but on this night we only eat Matzah.

MAH NISHTANAH MESSAGE

Matzah was the bread of slaves. It's flat, plain, and humble. But Matzah also reminds us how we rushed out of Egypt with no time to let our dough rise. That's freedom!



שֶׁבְּכָל הַלֵּילוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין שְׁאָר יְרָקוֹת הַלַּיִלָה הַזֵה מֵרוֹר

She'bechol haleilot anu ochlin she'ar yerakot, halyla hazeh maror

On all other nights we eat all types of vegetables; but on this night we eat bitter Maror.

MAH NISHTANAH MESSAGE

Remember how it feels to eat Maror, the bitter herb? Your eyes tear up, your face turns red, and your mouth is on fire! That reminds us of how hard it was to be a slave in Egypt.



שֶׁבְּכֶל הַלֵּילוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין בֵּין יוֹשְׁבִין וּבֵין מִסָבִּין הַלַּיִלָה הַזֵה כַּלַנוּ מִסָבִּין

She'bechol haleilot anu ochlin bain yoshvin u'vain mesubin, halyla hazeh kulanu mesubin

On all other nights we eat sitting or leaning; but tonight we all lean.

MAH NISHTANAH MESSAGE

On Pesach we sit back, relax, and lean like a king while drinking and eating.

We're like royalty tonight—truly free!