

DISCOVER THE CHILD WITHIN YOU

Walt Disney was once asked to explain the secret to one of his greatest triumph's, a mile stone in the film making industry, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. He replied, "Over in our place, we are sure of just one thing: everybody in the world was once a child. So, in planning the new picture, we do not think of grownups or children, but just of that kind, clean, unspoiled spot deep down inside everyone of us, that the world has maybe made us forget, and maybe, just maybe, our pictures can help to recall".

This in a nutshell is the timeless message of Passover, as conveyed in the verse, "You shall tell your child." In other words, the theme of Passover is to discover and connect with the child within us. For it is only a child who can experience true freedom.

As adults we have lost the ability to behave genuinely and unconditionally. Our intentions that guide and inspire our actions are tainted with ulterior motives. We are always looking for a return in some shape or form, either consciously or subconsciously.

In contrast, children are pure. Their intentions are consistent with their behaviour. They are able to act more freely because they are more honest. As a result, they can afford to invest greater passion and joy into every experience in life because they are less calculated, as their motives are pure.

This is what it means to be a child. This is also the timeless message of Passover. For only a child can experience true freedom.

So on Monday night as we gather around the table with family and friends to celebrate freedom, let us focus especially on the children. More importantly, however, let us try to discover the child within us. For it is only the child inside each and every one of us that can experience genuine freedom. And once we experience true freedom our questions will be answered.

Wishing you a Happy and Kosher Passover,

Rabbi Yosef Vogel