

BRINGING SEDER to CHAOS



Freedom in Quarantine

DAY 10 - BARUCH HAMAKOM



A highlight for so many at the seder is to discuss the four different sons. Which one are you? Are these the only four? What's the deal with the wicked son and why are we punching him in the face?

Before we get to the four sons at the seder, we introduce them with the following paragraph:

ברוך המקום ברוך הוא, ברוך שנתן תורה לעמו ישראל ברוך הוא. כנגד ארבעה בנים דיברה תורה. *Blessed is God (makom) Blessed is He, Blessed is He that gave the Torah to his nation the Jewish people. The Torah speaks corresponding to four sons.*

We have many different names for God and it is interesting to note that we use the uncommon name of *makom* (literally means place) in this context. In order to understand why this name is chosen for God, we need to understand why we refer to God as *makom* (place).

The Rabbis point out in the midrash (Bereishis Rabbah 68:9) that the name *makom* signifies that Hashem does not have a place in this world, rather He is the place of the world. Like Uncle Moishy has taught us: Hashem is here, Hashem is there, Hashem is truly everywhere. **The name *makom* represents the idea that Hashem is everywhere in this world.**

Rav Soloveitchik (1903-1993) points out that we specifically use this name *makom* when we comfort a mourner: המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים, *Hashem (makom) should comfort you amongst the rest of the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.* The message we are trying to give a mourner is that although one may feel abandoned by God at this time of loss, Hashem is there experiencing the pain with you. God, who is everywhere, is here with you now in this time of pain.

Expanding this thought, Rav Soloveitchik explains that on the night of the seder we express loud and clear that Hashem loves each and every one of his children. **No one should think the Torah is only relevant to the wise son; the Torah is for each child, even the wicked son.** Hashem is the place of this world, which includes each and every one of us, which is why we begin the Seder with *Baruch HaMakom* as an introduction to the four sons.



HASHEM IS HERE

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Name one place in the world (be specific) where you have felt God's presence.

Submit Your Answers

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