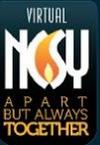


BRINGING SEDER to CHAOS



Freedom in Quarantine

DAY 12 - MITCHILAH OVDEI AVODAH ZARAH



Superheroes have a Jewish origin. Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, the creators of Superman, incorporated a lot of Jewish ideas into Superman's story. His super strength derives from the story of Shimshon. His double identity was inspired by balancing their own Jewish identity. Even Superman's Kryptonian name, Kal-El, derived from Hebrew words for God.

Perhaps nothing captures the mystery and excitement of superhero stories like their origin stories. In the book, *Enter the Superheroes*, the authors highlight the role superhero origins play in our self-conception. They write:

"A doomed planet explodes, and its last surviving child is rocketed to Earth. The son of a wealthy family watches his parents murdered before his eyes in a dark alleyway. A noble princess is sent from her isolated homeland to a world of alien values. An unpopular high school student with glasses is bitten by a radioactive spider....These stories are elemental, simple, inspirational, and powerful. Because they tell of ultimate strength, deep despair, unfathomable longing, and immeasurable bravery, superhero stories have been an enduring form of entertainment reflecting American ideals and celebrating the inherent nobility of man."

During the seder, we tell our origin story as well. The Talmud has a fascinating dispute about which story of shame we should begin with. Some explain that we should begin with the story of our forefathers who worshiped idols. Others insist that we should begin with the story of our ancestors who were subjugated in slavery. The present Haggadah text includes both. Everyone agrees that part of telling a heroic story is beginning with an origin.

The Passover Seder is a retelling of the origin story of the Jewish people. Before discussing our heroic redemption, much like any superhero origin, we too are instructed to retell our lowly origins. **That's how heroes are made.**

Join the Conversation

Tell us your origin story in 20 words or less.

Submit Your Answers

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