

Maggid // A Story of Resistance

- Reader:** The haggadah tells us that in every generation we must each see ourselves *k'ilu hu yatzah mee-Mitzrayim* – as though we ourselves were freed from Egypt. In our political era, the story speaks for itself:
- All:** Long ago, a new king rose over Egypt. ‘Behold!’ he said. “The people are too many and too mighty. Let us deal shrewdly with them.” He set over them taskmasters to afflict them and to make their lives bitter and harsh. We became slaves to Pharaoh in *Mitzrayim*. (*Exodus 1:9-11, 14*)
- Had God not brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, we and our children and our children’s children would still be servants to Pharaoh.
- Reader:** There arose in America a President who did not know the real promise of this country, who did not recognize the beauty of our American ideals. He made our lives harsh with schemes of registries, walls, deportations, and humiliation. He embittered our lives: trampled the poor, cut our safety nets, and flouted the law. He and his cronies afflicted us and encouraged his minions to hate and revile us. He feared that we, the people, were too numerous - and he tried to divide us from each other.
- All:** But the more he afflicted us, the more we multiplied. (*Exodus 1:12*)
- Reader:** When millions of people marched around the globe and filled the streets again and again - we multiplied. When we stood with the Dreamers in the halls of power until they had to arrest us - we multiplied. When we threw his cronies out of office in Alabama, in New Jersey, and in elections all over this country - we multiplied. When we said, #MeToo and #TimesUp, and the harassers and rapists and abusers were outed week by week - we multiplied. When we found out that his lackeys and toadies were Russian stooges - we multiplied (our investigations!) When our brothers’ and sisters’ and children’s blood cried out from another school shooting, another police shooting, and we saw the Pharaoh’s hands filled with blood money - we multiplied.
- All:** We will not stand idly by the blood of our sisters and brothers. (*Leviticus 19:16*) We know the heart of the outsider, because we were outsiders in *Mitzrayim*. (*Exodus 23:9*)
- Reader:** Together, we will lift up our own strong hands and outstretched arms – in the streets, in the halls of power, and at the ballot box. We come from a proud history: our Jewish forebears were workers, strikers, unionists, and activists. Our immigrant families fled terror and sought freedom. Our enslaved and indigenous ancestors fought for their place in an America that tried to deny their humanity. We share a common ancestry of resistance. We have fought and died for the right to vote, and we will exercise it.
- All:** Not just one enemy alone has risen against us, but in every generation they have risen against us to destroy us. Yet we have been saved from their hands. (*traditional Haggadah*)
- Reader:** Today we face a new Pharaoh and we live in fear for our neighbors, our communities, our country, and ourselves. But let us remember that today’s Pharaohs were elected (barely) and we will un-elect them!

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