

מוֹצֵי־אֶרֶץ מַצָּה

Motzi Matzah¹

Hamotzi thanks God for bringing bread from the earth. This bread results from a partnership between God and humanity: God provides the raw materials and people harvest, grind, and bake. So too must we remember that combating human trafficking requires partnerships: among survivors, allies, lawyers, social workers, law enforcement, diplomats, people of faith...the circles of involvement are ever-expanding.

*Baruch Atah Adonai,
Eloheinu Melech ha'olam,
hamotzi lechem
min ha'aretz.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ
מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם הַמוֹצֵי־אֶרֶץ
לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

**Blessed are You ETERNAL our God,
Master of time and space, who brings
forth bread from the earth.**

¹ There is a custom not to eat matzah in the weeks before Pesach, so that the taste is fresh at the seder. If your community seder is being held before the holiday, options include using egg matzah, crackers such as Tam-Tams, or having matzah present as a symbol but not eating it.

Similarly, the blessings for eating matzah and maror should only be said on Pesach itself, since that is when the commandment applies.

רַחֲצָה

Rachtzah

Our hands were touched by this water earlier during tonight's seder, but this time is different. This is a deeper step than that. This act of washing our hands is accompanied by a blessing, for in this moment we feel our People's story more viscerally, having just retold it during Maggid. Now, having re-experienced the majesty of the Jewish journey from degradation to dignity, we raise our hands in holiness, remembering once again that our liberation is bound up in everyone else's. Each step we take together with others towards liberation is blessing, and so we recite:

- Rabbi Menachem Creditor,
Congregation Netivot Shalom,
Berkeley, CA

*Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu
Melech ha'olam, asher kidshanu
bemitzvotav vetzivanu al
netilat yadayim.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ
מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל
נְטִילַת יָדַיִם.

**Blessed are You ETERNAL our God, Master of time and space,
who has sanctified us with commandments and instructed us
regarding lifting up our hands.**