

Have a happy, healthy. **FREEDOM** FILLED and uplifting Pesach!

A Kid Friendly Weekly Publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences

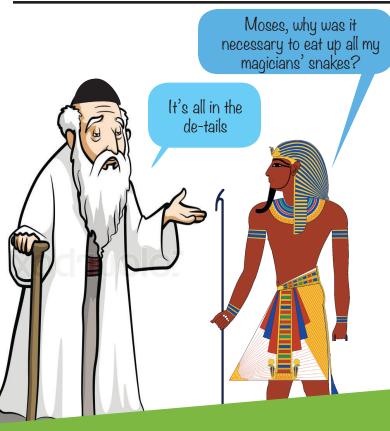
Season 3 Episode 29

## Free-smart

by Rabbi Dani Locker

wo toddlers are playing outside their house which happens to be near the state prison. Suddenly, a man in an orange jumpsuit climbs over the wall, and sprints down the road, shouting, "I'm free! I'm free!"

he older of the children looks at the other one and says, "Big deal! I'm Four!"





ot even a giggle? Tough crowd, today.

We hear the word freedom used in connection to Passover. Like, all the time. We celebrate our freedom. The festival of freedom. Freedom from slavery. But we don't always understand what it means. Like the kid, we think freedom is just some state of being that happens naturally, like an age. You can DO anything to change your age. You get older at the same pace whether you're sitting in front of a video game console or driving a Bugatti. Most people think freedom is something that happened to us. We used to have to work for Pharaoh. Now we don't. Hooray! Party! Add excited emojis here!

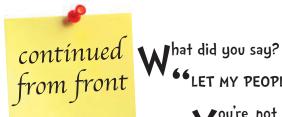
hat's not what freedom is. Not really. In the modern world, most countries allow Jews complete freedom to live as Jewishly as we want. Yet fewer Jews by percentage are living like Jews than at almost any point in our history.

uick quiz: What were the words Moses used when he asked Pharaoh to let the Jews out of Egypt... continued

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What kind of boat helps Jewish kids on the West Coast? A sponsor-ship!



you're not wrong, but you've conveniently left out half of the statement.

66LET MY PEOPLE GO, SO THEY MAY SERVE ME.

Tup. God's goal in letting us out was not just a humanitarian effort (Goditarian?) to aid oppressed people. It was a plan to help us make the right decisions. To have the chance to use the Torah to choose right from wrong. To recognize the Creator who has provided our lives and everything we have.

••Let my people go, so they may serve me."

Tn our world of ultimate freedom, people are more  $oldsymbol{1}$  consistently trapped by their habits. It's a world of addictions (I'm not even talking about the chemical kind. Addictions to technology, to certain behaviors, to unhealthy relationships, to inappropriate content). It's a world of NEED. We are people who need much more than anyone in history has ever possessed. A world where a teenager who has hundreds of clothes items, a comfortable house, free schooling and a phone that can do almost anything, NEEDS more; the newer phone, that pair of shoes, a cooler vacation.

e're not free at all.

od gives us the ability to choose freedom, yet that I freedom comes through discipline and a commitment to moral values and thinking before acting.

nausing before we eat to thank God gives us the freedom to appreciate what we have.

Praying daily gives us the freedom to recognize there's a power way beyond our own.

Celebrating the holidays in a meaningful way gives us the freedom to put our own problems and accomplishments in perspective.

tudying Torah thoroughly give us the freedom > to get a deeper understanding of how the world works, people work, and just how much more we don't understand.

reaching our children (and learning from our parents) gives us the freedom from stress, in knowing that we're part of a massively long and strong chain of transmission that goes back thousands of years to direct divine revelation, and some of the greatest human teachers ever.

his is the freedom of Passover. Let my people go, so they may serve me."

This year, focus on your true freedom. Not the freedom of doing nothing, or not working. The freedom of living the best, most accomplishing, meaningful life, possible!



What mythical creature should not be eaten on Passover, unless your Sephardic?

A uni-corn!

**OUCH! GROAN!** 

got a better joke? email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

Remember the key mitzvot to do on the Seder night:

- 1. Say Kiddush
- 2. Eat your matzah (at least onewhole square, or half a round matzah).
- 3. Drink 4 cups of wine or grape
- 4. Eat the marror (romaine lettuce or horseradish).
- 5. Tell the story of the Jews leaving Egypt. Best to use a question and answer format.

Do these both Friday night and Saturday night.

