The Ten Plagues

As we recall the ten plagues that befell the Egyptians, we remove a drop of wine from our cups for each plague. We do this to demonstrate that we cannot drink a "full cup" of joy when other people suffered in the course of our own liberation.

There were ten plagues that God brought upon the Egyptians, and they were:

אַלּוּ עַשְׂרֵה מִפְּחָתִים יְבָרְחוּ בְּרֹאֶה הָאֲלֹהִים עַל הַמַּעֲצָרִים בְּמָעָרוֹת

Blood
דֶם
Frogs
יאפרצה
Lice
כְּנִים
Wild Beasts
עַרְבּ
Cattle Disease
נְבֶר
Boils
שֵׁיחַ
Hail
נֶרֶד
Locusts
אָרְבָּה
darkness
קִשׁוּ
Death of the Firstborn
קְםָת בְּכֻנּוֹרָת

Rabbi Yehuda devised three abbreviations for the plagues: “d’tach”, “adash”, “ba’achav”.

רָבִּי יֶهوּדָה מֵיְהַ נְתָנֶה בְּחַי חָיו
d’ת יַעֲד "שְׁ בָּאַחַב"

This year, as we enjoy the luxury of freedom, and the pleasures of the Seder meal, let us keep in mind that others continue to suffer for our present-day luxuries. Child and slave labor are the dirty secret behind many of the goods that
we consume. Just as we have listed the ten plagues, let us now list ten commodities that are often obtained today through the suffering of slaves and children. For each commodity, we remove a drop of wine from our cup:

- Carpets
- Clothing
- Coffee
- Cotton
- Diamonds
- Electronics
- Fireworks
- Gold
- Rice
- Sugarcane

May all people be freed in our time, and may we be agents for the eradication of slavery, for we were slaves in Egypt.

Next year: freedom!

For information about goods produced with child labor and/or forced labor, and how to avoid consuming them, visit:

- [http://www.rhr-na.org](http://www.rhr-na.org)
- [http://humantrafficking.change.org/](http://humantrafficking.change.org/)
- More resources on slavery:
  - ECPAT/USA (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking) [http://www.ecpatusa.org/](http://www.ecpatusa.org/)

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