

Lo Dayenu

It is traditional at Passover to recite “Dayenu” meaning “It is enough,” in thanks for the blessings of the Exodus. But there are still many who have not shared in our good fortune, who still live in need or in fear. Today we are forced to grapple with a world that is full of challenges. We cannot rest, and we cannot wait to be rescued. And so, we must turn the old tradition around, and say “Lo dayenu,” – “It is not enough.” We must commit ourselves to a vision of resolution, peace, and human rights for all people. Until that day, it will not be sufficient.

If we were to end a single genocide but not stop the wars that kill people...

lo dayenu!

If we were to end those bloody wars but not prevent some people from starving while others live in luxury...

lo dayenu!

If we were to make sure that no person starved but not participate in creating a world of justice for all people...

lo dayenu!

The freedom we seek is a freedom from bloodshed as well as a freedom from tyrants. It is incumbent upon us not only to remember in tears the brutality of the tyrants and the blood of the prophets and martyrs, but to end altogether the letting of humanity’s blood. Let us choose peace: within ourselves, within our community, and throughout the world.

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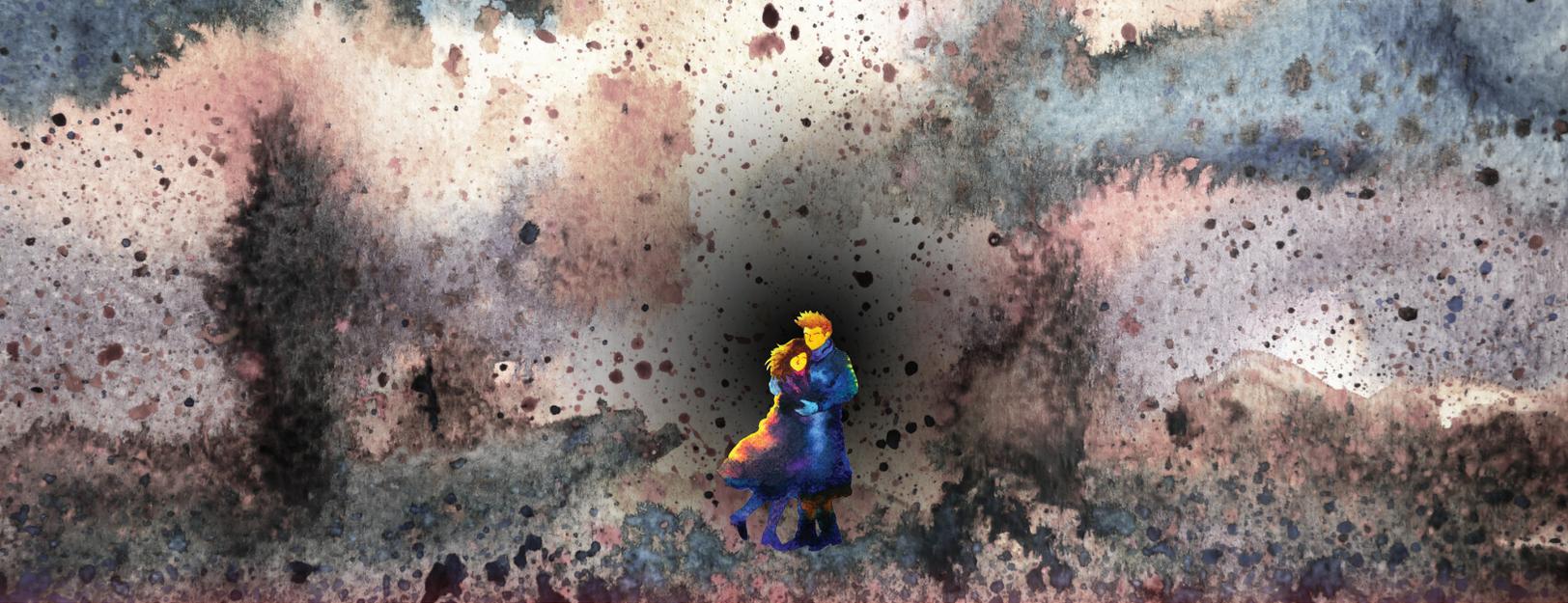
Dayenu! It would be sufficient!

Were we to create a just, humane world, we could all experience the completeness of freedom, happiness, and hope, as our song says: “If we had only our freedom, it would be enough; if we had only our happiness, it would be enough; if we had only our hope, it would be enough.”

Dayenu!

Kol Shalom Community for Humanistic Judaism, 2021





We Are Not Satisfied

Long ago our people learned
Not even food that they earned
Could satisfy their dignity
If they weren't free.

Lo dayenu, lo dayenu
Lo dayenu, dayenu, dayenu, dayenu
So they roamed for many years
With thirst and hunger, pain and tears
They sought a land of liberty
Where all are free.
Lo dayenu, lo dayenu
Lo dayenu, dayenu, dayenu, dayenu

The moral of this story's clear
People cannot thrive in fear
Justice is security
All must be free.

Lo dayenu, lo dayenu
Lo dayenu, dayenu, dayenu, dayenu

*Children's Haggadah, Rabbi Daniel Friedman
(Sung to the traditional tune of Dayenu)*

We Cannot Say Dayenu

But we cannot say *dayenu*
If we are delivered from bondage while others are not.

If we are valued while others are not,
If we have enough to eat while others do not,
if we are safe while others are not,
if we have a home while others do not,
if we are at peace while others are not,
we cannot say *dayenu*.

*Roots and Branches, A Humanist Haggadah for Passover
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Society for
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