



HOPE AMIDST THE TEARS

A reflection on karpas

We dip a vegetable—karpas—into saltwater, to taste the tears of grief our ancestors shed during slavery in Egypt, mingled with their hope for a future of freedom. Tonight, we commemorate this ancient suffering and redemption, and recognize that these tears and hope are also our own...

Tears of outrage at disasters, inequality and injustice in our midst.
Tears of fear for the uncertain future of our planet.
Tears of grief for friends and loved ones we've lost.

Hope that we can repair these wounds.
Hope for equality, peace and justice.
Hope for a better tomorrow.

Passover arrives in the spring, when new growth—like this karpas—is emerging all around. All over the world, people's resilience, strength, compassion and innovation bring the promise of change.

Raise the karpas, dip it in saltwater and say:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָאֲדָמָה.

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, borei peri ha-adama.

We praise God, Ruler of Everything, who creates the fruits of the earth.

This Passover, may our hope assuage our tears. May the season of growth bring a new future, bright with possibility for justice.



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