

Jewish Practice > Jewish Holidays > Passover > Coronavirus Passover Resources

The Post-Passover Quarantine Prayer of Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev

If the holy tzadik, Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev, would be with us today, he would certainly raise his hands to the heavens and argue with the Master of the Universe on behalf of His children, the Jews.

What he would say is far beyond my soul to know. But nevertheless, I'll take an ounce of **chutzpah** and guess the contents of his words.

"First you closed their schools," he would recount. "So that the children could not learn **Torah**. And yes, as it says in Your holy Torah, if there are no lambs, there are no sheep."

"So the teachers stayed up late at night preparing classes to teach online. And the little children ran to their computers each morning to learn the sweet words of your Torah."

"Then you closed their places of prayer, their **yeshivas**, their seminaries, their study halls. Prayer and Torah study—two out of three pillars upon which the world endures!"

"And so they made videos, livestream classes for thousands, spreading Torah to a degree never seen before. Joe Goldstein was stuck at home, so he started wrapping **tefillin** each morning, and he heard more Jewish words than he had his entire life."

"And then, you took away the third pillar of the world. You forced them apart from one another, so that no longer could a Jew have another Jew as a guest for the holy **Shabbat**, no longer could friends sit together over a table and share what stirs within their heart. How was one Jew to help another? How was one to even know what the other needs?"

"And so they emailed AskTheRabbi asking how they could get **matzah**, where they could get mezuzahs, what they should do for their grandmother, stuck alone for the **Passover Seder**. And one Jew responded to another, from one end of the world to the next, and found a way to help."

"And just when it seemed impossible for Jews to keep the Passover celebration, when all the Passover retreats were suddenly cancelled, and even the traditional family seders and **Chabad House** seders were called off, they ran to help one another, each one teaching the other the most exciting ways to make a seder, keeping the channels of matzah and Passover needs flowing outward to every Jew."

"Oh, Master of the Universe! Who can fathom Your ways? You sent sickness throughout the land, weakening the fathers and the mothers, striking down their elders and some young ones too, not allowing the children even the right to mourn as befits a Jewish child."

"The people were tired, confused, sickened, stressed and way over-extended."

"And what did they do? They picked up a mop and a vacuum cleaner, a rag and a heavy-duty cleanser and they set to work day and night to clean their homes for Passover!"

"Why? For what reason? For YOU! Despite all You did to hide from them, to keep them from your Torah, to keep them from closeness to You, they did this for You."

"Infinite, Unknowable, Source of Life and Master of All Things—who can understand You? Who can know the depths of Your goodness, the countless miracles You make for us each day? Who am I, this miserable meat-patty with eyeballs, to complain?"

"And yet, I must speak up, Almighty G-d! Look down upon Your people! After all that You have placed in their way, after every obstacle, and even after hiding from them within the bitter darkness of illness and mourning, see what they go through not to be separated from You!"

"Master of the World, Your children love You dearly. And they love one another, to the point that no walls or social distancing can tear them apart. And You love all of them infinitely more."

"So show them that love! Open up their hearts, their minds and their souls, and pour there Your love, Your passion, and the warmth of Your closeness! Take them out of the prisons of their limited consciousness into the broad expanse of Your **infinite light**! Show them the final **Exodus** for which their ancestors yearned all these millennia!"

Next year in [Jerusalem](#).

By Tzvi Freeman

[More from Tzvi Freeman](#) | [BSS](#)



© Copyright, all rights reserved. The content on this page is provided by our content partner, Chabad.org. If you enjoyed this article, we encourage you to distribute it further, provided that you comply with Chabad.org's [copyright policy](#).

More in this section

- [The Largest Seder Ever](#)
 - [Printable Program for Your Quarantine Moshiach's Meal](#)
 - [Moshiach's Meal: What Is It and How To Do It At Home](#)
 - [On the Last Day of Passover, Stop and Ask What You Really Want](#)
 - [Celebrating Passover in the Shadow of Coronavirus](#)
- [View All »](#)

You may also be interested in...

- [6 Things You Can Do About Coronavirus](#)
Watch (1:10)
- [Jewish and Chassidic Perspectives on the...](#)
Watch (17:06) 2 Comments
- [Six Things You Can Do About Coronavirus](#)
55 Comments
- [A New Dawn: Perspectives on a Changing World](#)
Watch (29:58) 1 Comment

Join the Discussion

12 Comments

SORT BY: [Newest](#) [Oldest](#)

Share your constructive comments or questions

R Rosally Saltsman Israel April 23, 2020
Wow! Love this!
[Reply](#)

C Casriel Brooklyn April 22, 2020
the soul of a great Jewish leader here for all to see, study, be inspired, and repeat in our own personal with with the Ribono Shel Olam lead us Father and we will follow
[Reply](#)

A Anonymous Commack April 22, 2020
A most moving piece.
Thank you and thank you.
[Reply](#)

H Huguetta zine USA April 22, 2020
Wonderful I love it it gave me hope
[Reply](#)

A Alexander Poltorak April 22, 2020
Beautifully said! I am sure, the Berdichiver Rebbe says Amen to your words as if he said them himself.
[Reply](#)

N Nathan April 22, 2020
Good Word
[Reply](#)

A Anonymous LAKE SAINT LOUIS April 21, 2020
We want Moshiach now!
[Reply](#)

Y Yonasan NC April 21, 2020
Amein!
[Reply](#)

C Chava I Eretz Yisroel April 20, 2020
Amen, and so beautiful!
[Reply](#)

A Anonymous April 16, 2020
Rabbi Tzvi Freeman.
This is so beautiful.
I pulled my shoulder out while cleaning for Pesach, 2 weeks before Pesach. The relentless pain in my shoulder and arm, and numbness in my hand have accompanied me through Pesach.
[Reply](#)

A Anonymous Los Angeles April 14, 2020
bh
wow these is one of the most beautiful things I read it really expresses my own feelings
[Reply](#)

E Esther April 14, 2020
Wow wow wow. Very powerful. Thank you for composing this prayer.
[Reply](#)

PASSOVER

- Coronavirus Passover Resources
- Print Haggadahs
- Getting Rid of Chametz Step-by-Step

- How to Celebrate Passover
- Passover Seder
- The Haggadah
- Study & History
- Stories
- Multimedia
- Recipes

- TOOLS & RESOURCES**
- Sell Your Chametz Online ↗
- Passover Store
- Order Matzah Online ↗
- Passover Kids Site ↗
- Passover Cards & Invitations ↗
- Passover in other Languages

QUICK LINKS

- Contact
- Subscribe

RELATED TOPICS

- Coronavirus / COVID-19 (2020) (121)
- Passover (1529)

SUBSCRIBE

Email Address [SUBSCRIBE](#)

Subscribe to e-newsletter list

[More subscription options »](#)

