

Bais HaVaad on the Parsha

Inyana D'Yoma

This Is It

Excerpted and adapted from a shiur by Dayan Chaim Weg

And you

shall tell your son on that day saying, "On account of this did Hashem do for me when I left Egypt."

(Shemos 13:8)

According

to the Mechilta, the words *ba'avur zeh* (on account of this) teach that the mitzvah to tell the story of the exodus from Egypt applies only when

the matzah and *maror* are placed before you, i.e., at the Pesach Seder.

[EO1]

There are three ways to understand this Mechilta:

The simplest is the Sefer Hachinuch's approach (21)

that *Chazal* are simply teaching us the date and time of the mitzvah: the night of Pesach, at the Seder.

The second approach is that *Chazal* are also teaching the order of the Seder: The story must be told first, while the matzah and *maror* are on the table, and they must be eaten immediately thereafter. This may be the meaning of the Rambam (Sefer Hamitzvos, Asei 157), who says that the telling must be performed at the beginning of the night, and only then are the matzah and *maror* eaten (see Bi'ur HaGra, O.C. 483) [EO2].

The third explanation is that *Chazal* are teaching that the matzah and *maror* must be used to help tell the story. This may be the approach of the Me'iri (Pesachim 116), who says that *ba'avur zeh* teaches that pick the items up and display them. Similarly, the Shulchan Aruch HaRav (O.C. 473) says *ba'avur zeh* teaches that the *maror* must be on the table during the telling of the story. (Placing the matzah on the table is required based on a different *pasuk*, that of *lechem oni*.)
