

Prayer for Standing on the Scary Side of the Sea

A prayer written in the name of Rabbi Ishmael ben Elisha, as we enter the season of Pesach.

May it be Your will, G-d of our fathers and mothers, that we receive the wisdom of our Sages of blessed memory, who stand with us in all generations, on the scary side of the sea. We gratefully acknowledge and embrace their rich legacy of literature, showing us how to stand ready to embark on our journey to freedom.

Lead us to awareness that our path to freedom is not straight, but rather, crooked by design. Keep us mindful that the very crookedness of the path gives us time to reflect about our experiences, and to be showered with manna, so that when we arrive at our destination, we will know from where we have come and understand why we have arrived to this place.

Help us to remember that even as we leave in haste, we must carry the bones of our ancestors with us, just as our ancestors carried Joseph's bones. Help us to connect the tradition of giving the youngest among us the questions, with the consciousness to yet ask of the oldest among us ... What hidden treasures are to be found among these dry bones?

We ask for the ability to stop and hear the lock-stepped, thunderous march of a determined enemy, fully understanding that even though our enemy from the narrow places, Mitzrayim, appeared tamed by plagues, they will yet pursue us.

We ask for enduring memory that even as we left in viscous darkness, You Oh G-d lit the way out. Let us never forget that light so that we forever keep faith that seas can divide and clouds can cover our steps. Help us remember and keep faith that miracles do happen.

May we ever be reminded of our choices as we leave, and to resist the temptation to act treacherously, but rather, go forward with courage and integrity. And may it be Your will that we accept Your miraculous gifts and recognize that just as all of our treasures come from You, so too does our strength.

Praised are You, Redeemer of Israel and the Rock of our salvation, for the strength to stand—ready and together, in this Place, and for the vision, fortitude and love to propel us ever forward to other side of the water, Ivri, a free nation at last.

Amen.

Composed by Cathy Schechter
Blessing theme: Pesach