

THE ANSWER

'We begin with the shame and conclude with the praise' (Talmud — Pesachim 116a)



עַבְדֵי־הַיְיָ *Avadim hayinu* — **We were slaves** of Pharaoh in Egypt, and the Eternal our God brought us out with a strong hand and an outstretched arm.

And if the Most Holy, blessed be He, had not brought our ancestors out from Egypt, then even we, our children, and our children's children might still have been in bondage to the Pharaohs in Egypt. Therefore, even if we were all wise and filled with understanding, or all of us were scholars, well versed in the Torah, it would still be our responsibility to tell the story of the departure from Egypt. And all who elaborate upon the story of the departure from Egypt are accounted as worthy of praise. It is said that Rabbi Akiba sat all night discussing this story with four other Rabbis. Concerning the passage, "remember the day of your going out from Egypt all the days of your life," they concluded, the *days of your life* refers to this world only, but *all the days of your life* includes the time of the Messiah.