

POUR OUT YOUR WRATH | שפוך חמתך

the current war is being waged to pursue and eradicate Hamas. This Pesach, there may be no escape from coming to terms with the idea embedded in the Haggadah that no mercy is to be shown against people like Hamas whose avowed purpose is your destruction.

Despite the passage's compelling urgency, there are people who annually skip it entirely. The Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai wrote in one of his epic poems that we all live censored lives, that everyone chooses to omit passages, prayers, books, stories, and perhaps people as well from our lives. Whether you decide to include this section in your Passover Seder or omit it, please consider the following alternatives and questions.

Professor Asa Kasher, the primary author of the Israeli Defense Forces Code of Ethics, teaches that some parts of the Haggadah are exclusively about history, and this section is one of them. He does not eliminate the passage from his Haggadah, but he relegates it to the past, and regards it as no longer authoritative or relevant.

In addition, some Haggadot have added a prayer that asks for God to “pour out divine love” שפוך אהבתך (*Shfokh Ahavatkha*) as a compensatory, comforting and caring display of Divine Power.