

IS FREEDOM RUSTY OR RELEVANT?

We recite these words in the Haggadah. But do they make sense? After all, the Jews left Egypt over 3,000 years ago! Sounds rather rusty... how can YOU make it relevant?

What challenges our freedom today?

For many of us, obtaining freedom thankfully does not mean physically breaking free from the chains of oppression and slavery. However, freedom of mind is sometimes hard to reach. Life is full of stress factors, be they academic or social stresses or any of life's challenges. Yet even with all that, we can still enjoy a sense of freedom.

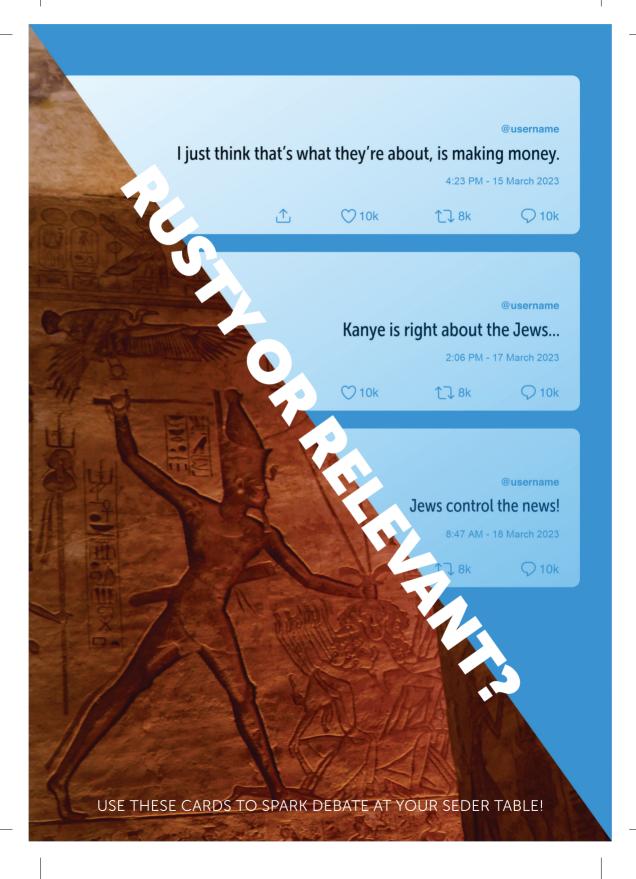
Acknowledging that life is busy and finding the right self-care, can alleviate stress and help free your mind. Be it playing sports, praying, writing poetry, doing art, or enjoying nature, there are many pathways that can allow you to feel a sense of freedom and joy. If we opt to forego that, we can easily get stuck in a cycle of stress - the very antithesis of freedom.

It takes some effort and practice but choosing freedom of mind could be the most liberating thing you do!









IS ANTISEMITISM RUSTY OR RELEVANT?

וָהָיא שֶׁעַמְדַה

"Vehi She'amda – in every generation our enemies try to destroy us, but God saves us from their hands".

We read about antisemitism in the Haggadah. However, it still exists today. In the past, slavery, Blood Libels, pogroms and expulsions defined antisemitism. Now, their successors: social media disinformation, exclusion and the denial of Israel's right to exist, continue to attack Jewish communities around the world

Has anything really changed? And what can we do?

In the past, the Jewish People, as the most obvious minority in Europe, were scapegoated and vilified. Today, Israel, the most obvious minority country in the Middle East, is the target of antisemitism. Israel – the collective manifestation of the Jewish People, is singled out as a detractor of human rights and freedom, with double standards employed to hold Israel to unique account. Jews in the UK also sometimes experience hatred and antagonism. This is often, although not always, linked to Israel.

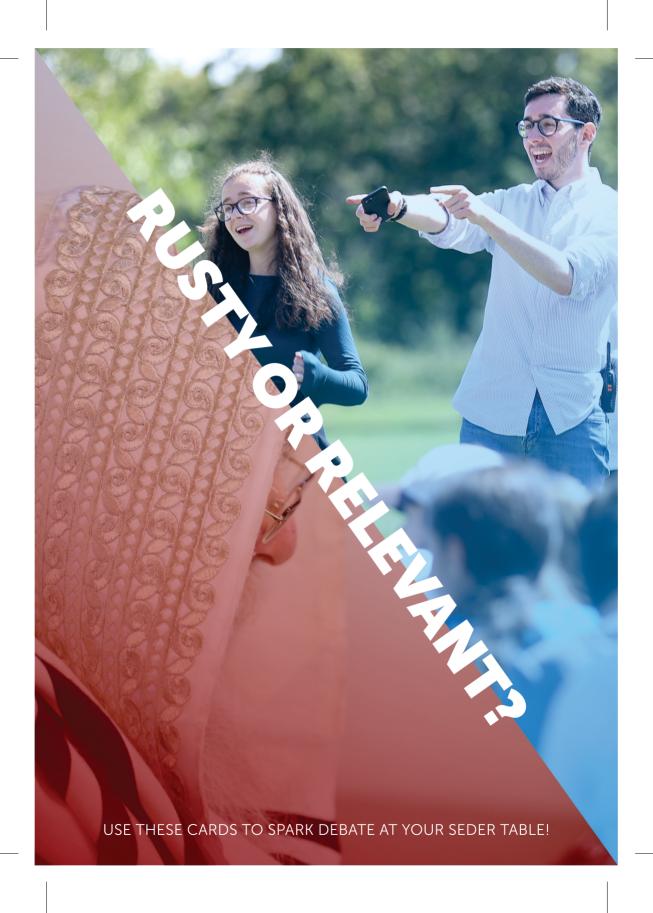
We can all do something to help by being better informed and therefore able to answer the tough questions.





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IS LEADERSHIP RUSTY OR RELEVANT?

הֲרֵי אֲנִי כְּבֶן שִׁבְעִים שָׁנְה "I am like a man of 70 years", says Rabbi Elazar Ben Azariah in the Haggadah, whilst, in reality, he was just 18 years-old.

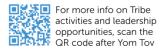
Rabbi Elazar was appointed the head of the Jewish Court before he had even turned 20! He was extremely reluctant to accept this senior role at such a young age. In a miraculous turn of events, he grew a grey beard overnight, making him look older and wiser. This made him realise that he was the right man for the job and should take on the responsibility for which he was born.

Can we all be leaders?

We are all born with a purpose but sometimes our fears, doubts and external factors get in the way. We are not sure if we are the right person for the job. The story of Rabbi Elazar reminds us to have more belief in our unique leadership capabilities.

Tribe believes in leadership opportunities for young people through communities, summer camps and trips.

There is something in this world that only you can do. Make it happen!







ARE THE TEN PLAGUES RUSTY OR RELEVANT?

אֵלוּ עֶשֶׂר מַכּוֹת ---

"Eilu eser makot..."

"These are the ten plagues".

Due to the actions of the Egyptian people, they suffered through the ten plagues, which affected their environment. Crops were eaten by locusts, animals died in the field, water turned to blood, and more. Today, it is our actions that impact our environment. It is now for us to recognise how dangerous we can be to the world around us, from vulnerable insects at the bottom of the food chain to large mammals constrained by human activity. Forests, coral reefs, fauna, glaciers, birdlife: every living element on earth is vulnerable to human activity.

Do we as Jews have a responsibility to protect the environment and the world around us?

Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis has said that "each one of us has a responsibility to safeguard and protect the planet we all share." The United Synagogue's response is Dorot, a project which aims to tackle the environmental crisis. From cutting out disposables, to rewilding land owned by the US, to planting thousands of trees, there are lots of ways for you to get involved.

Is there something small that you can take on this Pesach to help protect the environment?





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