From the Mishnah to Maggid

Part 5: Is Nirtzah Really a Step of the Seder?

I. Songs at the End of the Haggadah?

1) Shibolei Ha-Leket (13th century)

הקב"ה בעבור חסרו, ומברכין בורא פרי הגפן ושותין בהסיבת שמאל , ונהיגין לומר רהימין ופיומין המסוררים ברברי שנת והודאה, וכן ראוי לרבות בהלל ובהודאה לעושה נפלאות גדולות לברי כי לעולם חסדו על ישראל : ובין ארבעה כוסות הללו אם רצה לשתות ישתה בין שלישי לרביעי

And we bless *borei peri ha-gafen* and drink leaning to the left. And we are accustomed to say [types of liturgical poems] that are arranged with words of praise and thanskgiving...

2) Bach Orach Chayim 480:3 (17th century)

כתב מהרש"ל דמ"ש בטופסי המחזורים ברכת בפ"ה אכוס ד' אחר אז רוב ניסים ואומץ גבורותך אינו מן הראוי אלא בסוף חתימת ישתבח מיד יברך בפה"ג והכי משמע בשאלה ששאלו לרב האי גאון על דברי ר' סעדיא בסי' שאחר זה ואח"כ יתחיל אז רוב ניסים כו' ואומץ גבורותך ושאר פיוטים וכן עיקר

The Maharshal writes that that what it says in the Machzorim that one says *borei peri ha-gafen* on the fourth cup after *az rov nissim* and *ometz gevuratecha* is not appropriate. Rather, after completing *yishtabach*, one immediately says *borei peri ha-gafen*...

II. Does the Seder Have Steps?

3) R. Shmuel of Falaise (12th century), Simanei Ha-Seder

קדש ורחץ. כרפס יחץ. מגיד רחצ[ה]. מוציא מצה. מרור כורך. שלחן עורך. צפון ברך. הלל נרצה

4) Machzor Vitry (11th-12th century), alternate Simanei Ha-Seder

5) Leket Yosher (15th century), Simanei Ha-Seder

קר"י הכמ"ה ב"ן המל"ך אמ"ן: קידוש, רחיצה, ירקות. חולק, כהא, מוזג, הגדה. ברכת יין, נמילה. המוציא, מצה, למיך, כריכה. אפיקומן, מים אחרונים, נברך.

6) R. David Abudarham (14th century), Simanei Ha-Seder

יקרש / ימהר / וכרפס / וחצה. היורש / ונומל / ללחם / ומצה. ומרור / וכורך / ואוכל / פרוסה. תקי / יזמן / יהלל / בדיצה.

III. The Songs

7) Yannai (5th-6th century), Az Rov Nissim

ּוּרְכֵן וַיְהִי בַּחֲצִי הַלַּיְלָה אָז רוֹב נִסִּים הִפְּלֵאתָ בַּלַיְלָה, בְּרֹאשׁ אַשְׁמוֹרֶת זֶה הַלַּיְלָה. גֵּר צֶדֶק נִצְחָתּוֹ כְּנֶחֶלק לוֹ לִיְלָה, וַיְהִי בַּחֲצִי הַלַּיְלָה. דַּנְתָּ מֶלֶהְ גְּרָר בַּחֲלוֹם הַלַּיְלָה, הִפְּחַדְתָּ אֲרַמִי בָּאֶמֶשׁ לִיְלָה. וַיָּשֵׂר יִשְׁרָאֵל לְמַלְאָהָ וַיּוּכַל לוֹ לִיְלָה, וַיְהִי בַּחֲצִי הַלַּיְלָה.

AND so – IT HAPPENED AT MIDNIGHT. Many were the miracles You performed long ago, at night. At the beginning of the watch, on this night. You won [Abraham]'s battle, when [his men were] split, and the night. IT HAPPENED AT MIDNIGHT. You judged the king of Gerar in his dream at night. You put dread into [Laban] the Aramean's heart that night. And Israel struggled with an angel and overcame him at night. IT HAPPENED AT MIDNIGHT.

8) R. Elazar HaKallir (7th century), Ometz Gevuratecha

ּוּבְכֵן וַאֲמַרְתֶּם זֶבַח פֶּסָח. אֹמֶץ גְּבוּרוֹתֶיךּ הִפְלֵאתָ בַּפֶּסַח, בְּראֹשׁ כָּל מוֹעֲדוֹת נִשֵּׁאתָ פֶּסַח. גַּלִיתָ לְאֶזְרָחִי חֲצוֹת לֵיל פֶּסָח, וַאֲמִרְתָּם זֶבַח פֶּסַח. דְּלָתָיו דָּפַקְתָּ כְּחֹם הֵיוֹם בַּפֶּסַח, הִסְעִיד נוֹצְצִים עֵּגוֹת מַצוֹת בַּפֶּסח, וְאֵל הַבָּקַר רָץ זַכר לְשׁוֹר עֵרֶך פֶּסַח, וַאֲמַרְתָּם זָבַח פֶּסַח.

TELL [your children]: "THIS IS THE PESAH." You showed Your immense power in wonders on Pesah; to the head of all seasons You have raised up Pesah. You revealed to [Abraham] the Ezrahi what would come at midnight on Pesah. TELL [your children]: "THIS IS THE PESAH."

You knocked at his doors in the heat of the day on Pesah; he gave Your shining [messengers] unleavened cakes to eat on Pesah; and he ran to the herd, hinting at the ox in the Torah reading of Pesah. TELL [your children]: "THIS IS THE PESAH."

9) Adir Bimlucha (13th century?)

ּפִי לוֹ נָאֶה, פִּי לוֹ יָאֶה. אַדִּיר בִּמְלוּכָה, בָּחוּר פַהֲלָכָה, גְּדוּדַיו יאמְרוּ לוֹ: **לְד וּלְדָ, לְדָ פִי לְדָ, לְדָ אַר לְדָ, לְדָ יִיָ הַמַּמְלָכָה**, פִּי לוֹ נָאֶה, פִּי לוֹ יָאֶה. דָּגוּל בַמְלוּכָה, הָדוּר פַהֲלָכָה, וָתִיקֵיו יאמְרוּ לוֹ: לְד וּלְדָ, לְדָ פִי לְדָ, לְדָ אַף לְדָ, לְדָ יִי

FOR HIM IT IS FITTING, FOR HIM IT IS RIGHT. Majestic in Kingship, truly chosen: His legions say to Him: **"Yours and Yours; Yours, for it is Yours; Yours, only Yours; Yours, LORD, is the Kingdom."** FOR HIM IT IS FITTING, FOR HIM IT IS RIGHT. Unmistakable in His Kingship, truly glorious: His venerable ones say to Him: "Yours and Yours; Yours, for it is Yours; Yours, only Yours; Yours, LORD, is the kingdom." FOR HIM IT IS FITTING, FOR HIM IT IS RIGHT.

10) Psalm 89:12

לְדָ שָׁמַיִם אַף־לְדָ אָרֶץ תַּבָל וּמְלאָה אַתָּה יְסַדְתָּם:

The heaven is Yours, the earth too; the world and all it holds—You established them.

11) I Chronicles 29:11

לְךָ יְהֹוֶה הַגְּדַלֶּה וְהַגְבוּרֶה וְהַמִּפְאֶׁרֶת וְהַגַּצח וְהָהוֹד כִּי־כָל בַּשָׁמַיִם וּבָאֶרֶץ לְךָ יְהוֶה הַמַּמְלָלֶה וְהַמִּתְנַשֵּׂא לְכָל ו לְרָאשׁ:

Yours, LORD, are greatness, might, splendor, triumph, and majesty—yes, all that is in heaven and on earth; to You, LORD, belong kingship and preeminence above all.

12) Adir Hu (14th century?)

אַדִּיר הוּא יִבְנָה בֵיתוֹ בְּקָרוֹב. בִּמְהָרָה, בִּמְהָרָה, בְּיָמֵינוּ בְּקָרוֹב. אֵל בְּנֵה, אֵל בְּנֵה, בְּנֵה בֵיתָך בְּקַרוֹב. בְּחוּר הוּא, גָּדוֹל הוּא, דָּגוּל הוּא יִבְנָה בֵיתוֹ בְּקָרוֹב. בִּמְהָרָה, בִּמְהֵרָה, בְּיָמֵינוּ בְּקַרוֹב. אֵל בְּנֵה, אֵל בְּנֵה, בְּנֵה בֵיתְך בְּקָרוֹב.

HE is MAJESTIC may He build His house soon, soon, speedily in our days. Build, O God, build, O God, build Your house soon. He is chosen, He is great, He is unmistakable. May He build His house soon, soon, speedily in our days. Build, O God, build, O God, build Your house soon.

13) Echad Mi Yodea

ּשְׁלשָׁה עָשָׂר מִי יוֹדַעַ? שְׁלשָׁה עָשָׂר אָנִי יוֹדַעַ: שְׁלשָׁה עָשָׂר מִדַּיָא, אַחַד עָשָׂר שִׁבְטָיָא, אַחַד עָשָׂר כּוֹכְבַיָּא, עֲשָׁרָה דְבְרַיָא, הִּשְׁעָה יַרְחֵי לַדָה, שְׁמוֹנָה יִמֵי מִילָה, שִׁבְעָה יְמֵי שֵׁכָּתָא, שִׁשָׁה סְדְרֵי מִשְׁנָה, חֲמִשָּׁה חוּמְשֵׁי תוֹרָה, אַרְבַּע אִמָּהוֹת, שְׁלשָׁה אָבוֹת, שְׁנֵי לֵחוֹת הַבְּרִית, אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ שֵׁבַשְׁמִים וּבָאָרֶץ

Who knows thirteen? I know thirteen: thirteen attributes [of God's compassion], twelve tribes, eleven stars, Ten Commandments, nine months until birth, eight days to a *brit*, seven days from Sabbath to Sabbath, six divisions of the Mishna, five books of the Torah, four mothers, three fathers, two Tablets of the Covenant; BUT OUR GOD IS ONE, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH.

14) Children Go Where I Send Thee... (African American spiritual)

Children, go where I send thee How shall I send thee? I'm gonna send thee twelve by twelve: Twelve for the twelve Apostles, Eleven for the eleven deriders, Ten for the Ten Commandments, Nine for the nine all dressed so fine. Eight for the eight that stood at the gate, Seven for the seven that never got to heaven, Six for the six that never got fixed, Five for the gospel preachers, Four for the four that stood at the door, Three for the Hebrew children, Two for Paul and Silas, One for the little bitty baby. Born. born Born in Bethlehem.

15) Chad Gadya

ַוְאָתָא הַקּדושׁ בָּרוּה וּשִׁחַט לְמַלְאַהְ הַמֶּוֶת, דְשָׁחַט לְשׁוֹחֵט, דְּשָׁחַט לְתוֹרָא, דְשָׁתָה לְמִיָא, דְכָבָה לְנוּרָא, דְּשָׂרַף לְחוּטְרָא, דְהַכָּה לְכַלְבָּא, דְנָשׁׁה לְשׁוּגְרָא, דְאָכָלָה לְגַדְיָא, דְּוַבִּין אַבָּא בִּתְרֵי זוּזֵי. חַד גַּדְיָא,

Then came the Holy One and slew the angel of death, who slew the slaughterer who slew the ox who drank the water that put out the fire that burned the stick that hit the dog who bit the cat who ate the goat my father bought for two zuzim; ONE LITTLE GOAT, ONE LITTLE GOAT.

16) This is the House that Jack Built (Folk song)

This is the house that Jack built. This is the malt that lay in the house that Jack built. This is the rat that ate the malt That lay in the house that Jack built. This is the cat That killed the rat that ate the malt That lay in the house that Jack built. This is the dog that worried the cat That killed the rat that ate the malt That lay in the house that Jack built.

17) Kid Do Go (Folk song transcribed in 1905 by William Wells Newell)

KID DO GO.

As I was going over London Bridge, I found a penny ha'penny, and bought me a kid. Kid do go. Know by the moonlight it's almost midnight, Time kid and I were home an hour and a half ago.

Went a little further, and found a stick. Stick do beat kid, Kid won't go. Know by the moonlight it 's almost midnight, Time kid and I were home an hour and a half ago.

Went a little further, and found fire. Fire do burn stick, Stick won't beat kid, Kid won't go. Know by the moonlight it 's almost midnight, Time kid and I were home an hour and a half ago.

Went a little further, and found rope. Rope do hang butcher, Butcher won't kill ox, Ox won't drink water, Water won't quench fire, Fire won't burn stick, Stick won't beat kid, Kid won't go. Know by the moonlight it 's almost midnight, Time kid and I were home an hour and a half ago.

Rope began to hang butcher, butcher began to kill ox, Ox began to drink water, Water began to quench fire, Fire began to burn stick, Stick began to beat kid, Kid began to go. Know by the moonlight it 's almost midnight,

So kid and I got home an hour and a half ago.

18) Chaim Yosef Dovid Azulai (Chida) (18th century)

ממני אחד שהיה מתלוצו על פיוט חד גדיא שאלת שאומרים בערי אשכנו ליל התקרש חג ופער פיו וקם אחר מהחכורה וכרהו אם כרוא נרוי או"ר שלא סים חייב ונרהו שלא כריו והמכרה כלכר ושכמ"ם . תשובה כל כי האי מילתא פשועה לפניה כי אנוש זה זר יהיר לץ המתלולץ על מה שנהנו רבבות אלפי ישראל בערי פולין ואשכנו ואביורייהו ואשר לפנים בישראל נדולי עולם קרישי עליונין ודור דור וחכמיו והן עוד היום לא אלמן ישראל כמה וכמה אשי ישיבות ונאוני הזמן ה׳ עליהם יחיו וכלם אפרו ואומרים פיוע זה ונמלא רשע זה מתלוצו ברבבות ישראל. וגדוליהם אבות ב״ר וגאוני ארץ אנושה מכתו וחייב נדוי דהרי אפי׳ האומר הני רבנן חייב בכ"י. ועוד שתעתי מתנידי אתת שנאון מופלא בדורו עשה למעלה מעשרה פירושים בפיוט זה בפרד"ם פירושי"ם נחמדים ומתוקים. ואין ספק כילא דבר רק הוא. וכבר נודע תוקף

גדולת פיוטי אשכנז המיוסדים על החכמה האמיתית כאשר דיבר בקדשו רבינו האר"י זציל. וכתבו משם רבינו מהר"א

You asked me: Someone was mocking the *Chad Gadya* poem that is recited in the communities of Ashkenaz on the night of the holy festival, and he opened his mouth [in ridicule]. One of the group rose up and placed him under a ban (*niddui*).

Is his excommunication valid? Or perhaps he was not obligated [to be excommunicated], and the ban was unjustified—such that the one who imposed it is himself ensnared [in wrongdoing].

Response: This matter is entirely straightforward before us, for this man is an arrogant scoffer (*letz*), mocking what has been practiced by tens of thousands among Israel in the cities of Poland and Ashkenaz and their surrounding regions. This is a custom established by the greatest sages and the most exalted holy ones of previous generations in Israel, the scholars of each era. And even today, Israel is not bereft of Torah giants—many heads of yeshivot and contemporary sages, may God sustain them, who all recite this *piyyut (Chad Gadya)*.

Thus, this wicked person is mocking multitudes of Israel, including their great leaders, the heads of rabbinical courts, and the sages of the land. His punishment is severe, and he is certainly deserving of excommunication (*niddui*). ...

Furthermore, I have heard from reliable sources that an extraordinary genius of his generation composed more than ten different interpretations of *Chad Gadya* according to the fourfold method of *Pardes* (literal, allegorical, homiletical, and mystical), all of them beautiful and sweet. There is no doubt that this is not an empty matter (*Devarim 32:47*).

It is well known how profound the greatness of the *piyyutim* of Ashkenaz is, as they are founded upon true wisdom, as was attested in the holy words of our master, the Ari of blessed memory.

19) Incomplete Manuscript version of Chad Gadya (15th century) (taken from *The Schechter Haggadah* by Dr. Joshua Kulp (2009))

One goat which my father bought for two zuzim, one goat. And a dog came and ate the goat And a stick came or division	הד גריא דזבן אבא בתרי זוזי חד גדיא.
And a stick came and hit the dog	אתא כלבא ואכל גדיא
And a fire came and burned the stick	אתא חוטרא ומחא כלבא
And water came and extinguished the fire	אתא נורא ואוקיד חוטרא
And an ox came and drank the water	אתא מיא וטפא נורא
And a rope came and tied up the ox	אתא יתרא ושתא מיא
And a mouse came and ate the rope	אתא עכברא ואכלא עכברא דאכלא
And a cat came and ate the mouse	אתא שונרא ואכלא עכברא דאכלא