Shema Yisrael Programme – Freedom

The best things in life are free, with the exception of Chinese political dissidents.

**Ari Teman, American Comedian**

Freedom is the oxygen of the soul.

**Moshe Dayan**

Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves.

**Abraham Lincoln**

As I walked out the door toward my freedom I knew that if I did not leave all the anger, hatred and bitterness behind that I would still be in prison.

**Nelson Mandela**

Some tourists think Amsterdam is a city of sin, but in truth it is a city of freedom. And in freedom, most people find sin.

**John Green, The Fault in Our Stars**

When a man is denied the right to live the life he believes in, he has no choice but to become an outlaw.

**Nelson Mandela**

People demand freedom of speech as a compensation for the freedom of thought which they seldom use.

**Søren Kierkegaard**

For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.

**Nelson Mandela**

Responsibility is the price of freedom.

**Elbert Hubbard, American writer, publisher, artist, and philosopher**

It is difficult to free fools from the chains they revere.

**Voltaire**

Is freedom anything else than the right to live as we wish? Nothing else.

**Epictetus, Greek Stoic Philosopher**

May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right.

**Peter Marshall, Scottish Presbyterian Minister**

דרוֹר ז. [דרורים] – liberty

חֹפשׁ, חופש ז. [חפשים, חופשים] – liberty, vacation

עצמאוּת נ. [עצמאיות, עצמאויות] – independence

שׁחרוּר ז. [שחרורים] – liberation, release

חירות –liberty

חופשיות –irreligion, familiarity

תהלים פרק קכו

﻿(ה) הַזֹּרְעִים בְּדִמְעָה בְּרִנָּה יִקְצֹרוּ: (ו) הָלוֹךְ יֵלֵךְ וּבָכֹה נֹשֵׂא מֶשֶׁךְ הַזָּרַע בֹּא יָבוֹא בְרִנָּה נֹשֵׂא אֲלֻמֹּתָיו:

Psalms 126:5-6

Those who sow with tears will reap with song. He will go along weeping, carrying the valuable seeds; he will come back with song, carrying his sheaves.

תלמוד בבלי מסכת תענית דף ה עמוד א

הזרעים בדמעה ברנה יקצרו הלוך ילך ובכה נשא משך הזרע וגו'. מאי הלוך ילך ובכה נשא משך וגו'? אמר רבי יהודה: שור כשהוא חורש - הולך ובוכה, ובחזירתו אוכל חזיז מן התלם.

Babylonian Talmud Tractate Taanis 5a

Those who sow with tears will reap with song. He will go along weeping, carrying the valuable seeds; he will come back with song, carrying his sheaves (Psalms 126:5-6). What is the meaning of ‘He will go along weeping, carrying the valuable seeds’? Rav Yehudah said: When the ox is ploughing, on his forward journey he weeps, but on his return journey he eats the young green grass from the furrows.

רד"ק תהלים פרק קכו פסוק ה

(ה) הזורעים. לפי שדימה הגלות לארץ הנגב שהזורע בה יִזְרַע בדמעה, כי בזורעו בוכה ומתחנן לאל יתברך שימטיר עליה ויקצור מה שזורע בברכה. והדבר רחוק שהזורע בה יקצור ממנה אם לא יהיו רחמי האל יתברך, כן ישראל בגלות עם כל צרתם זורעים, והזריעה היא מעשה הַמִּצְוֹת, ועושים אותם בדמעה, מפני צרת הגלות, ומייחלים לאל יתברך שיוציאם מהגלות, ויקצרו ברנה מה שׁזרעוּ בדמעה. והקציר הוא הגמול הטוב, כדכתיב (הושע י, יב): זרעו לכם לצדקה קצרו לפי חסד:

Radak, Rabbi David Kimchi (Narbonne, France d.1235)

THE ONES WHO PLANT According that it compares the exile to dry land that the one who plants seeds in it will plant with tears, for with his planting he cries and supplicates to God, He will be blessed, that He cause [rain] to shower down on it [the land] and he will reap that which he plants with blessing. If the compassion of God is lacking, it will be unlikely that the one who plants seeds in the [dry] land will reap from it. So too for the Jewish people in exile with all their misfortunes they are planting, and the act of planting is the performance of God’s commandments, and they them WITH TEARS from the misfortunes of the exile and they wait and hope for God, that He will remove them from exile and THEY WILL REAP WITH JOY that which they sowed with tears. And the harvest is the reward as it is written (Hosea 10:12) ‘Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap according to mercy; [break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, till he comes and rains righteousness upon you].’