

Dayenu

- Michael Merdinger.

Insight into the Dayenu phrasiology

Dear friends,

At the Seder (just a few days ago!) we sang Dayenu, that famous passage in the Haggadah where we express our thanks to God for all He has done for us.

One of the things that struck me this year was that the word "todah" or "hoda'ah", thanks, does not appear. Rather, it is phrased in the language of "it would have been enough for us".

This language--"it would have been enough"--teaches us something about the essence of gratitude. It implies that we feel we do not deserve the blessings we received. If we feel we deserve what we are given, then we never really feel gratitude to the giver.

To be truly grateful, we must work to remove our sense of entitlement and expectation. Then we can fully experience the grace and kindness of others, and of God.

Chag Kasher v'Sameach,

Rabbi M.