

Where Miracles Take Place

עֲשָׂרָה נִסִּים נַעֲשׂוּ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בְּבֵית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ:

לֹא הִפִּילָה אִשָּׁה מֵרִיחַ בֶּשֶׂר הַקֹּדֶשׁ;
וְלֹא הִסְרִיחַ בֶּשֶׂר הַקֹּדֶשׁ מֵעוֹלָם;
וְלֹא נִרְאָה זְבוּב בְּבֵית הַמִּטְבָּחִים;
וְלֹא אִרְעָה קָרִי לִכְהֵן גְּדוֹל בְּיוֹם הַכַּפּוּרִים;
וְלֹא כָּבוּ גַּשְׁמִים אֵשׁ שְׁלַעֲצֵי הַמַּעֲרָכָה;
וְלֹא נִצְחָה הָרוּחַ אֶת עֲמוּד הָעֶשֶׂן;
וְלֹא נִמְצָא פְּסוּל בְּעוֹמֵר וּבִשְׂתֵי הַלֶּחֶם וּבְלֶחֶם הַפָּנִים;
עוֹמְדִים צְפוּפִים וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוִים רוּחִים;
וְלֹא הִזִּיק נָחַשׁ וְעֶקְרָב בִּירוּשָׁלַיִם מֵעוֹלָם;
וְלֹא אָמַר אָדָם לְחֵבְרוֹ: צַר לִי הַמָּקוֹם שְׂאֵלַיִן בִּירוּשָׁלַיִם.

Ten miracles were accomplished for our ancestors in the Holy Temple:

No woman ever miscarried from the smell of holy flesh;
nor did the holy flesh ever become putrid;
no fly was ever seen in the slaughtering places;
nor did the High Priest ever become impure on Yom Kippur;
nor did the rains ever extinguish the fire on the altar;
nor did the wind ever disperse the pillar of altar smoke;
nor was there ever any defect in the Omer, the two loaves or the showbread;
when standing, people were crowded together, but when prostrating there was space;
neither serpent nor scorpion ever harmed anyone in Jerusalem;
nor did anyone ever say to a companion: There is no place for me to stay in Jerusalem.

(Pirke Avot 5:7)

Sicha, Hebrew for “conversation,” is an organization promoting the vital ongoing dialogue between classical Jewish texts and lived experience.

sichaconversation.org