

Keeping the Promise

After recalling Abraham's spiritual journey to God (p. 34) and his **ascent** to Eretz Yisrael, the Haggadah will recount the **descent** of his great grandchildren to Egyptian slavery ("The

The leader:

BLESSED is the One who keeps the Promise to Israel. The Holy One Blessed be He calculated the end of our exile and acted just as promised to Abraham our Father at the Covenant between the Pieces (*Genesis 15: 7-17*):

"And God said to Abram: You must know that your seed will be strangers in a land not theirs; the people (of that land) will put them in servitude and afflict them for four hundred years. But as for the nation to which they are in servitude – I will bring judgment on them, and after that (your seed) will go out with great wealth" (*Genesis 15: 13-14*).

בְּרוּךְ שׁוֹמֵר הַבְּטָחָתוֹ

Wandering Aramean," p. 36). But first the Haggadah reassures us, as God did to Abraham, that there is a Divine pledge to Jewish continuity whatever the ups and downs of history.

בְּרוּךְ שׁוֹמֵר הַבְּטָחָתוֹ לְיִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּרוּךְ הוּא. שְׁהִקְדוּשׁ
בְּרוּךְ הוּא חָשַׁב אֶת הַקֶּץ, לַעֲשׂוֹת כְּמָה שֶׁאָמַר לְאַבְרָהָם
אֲבִינוּ בְּבְרִית בֵּין הַבְּתָרִים, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר (בראשית טו, יג):
"וַיֹּאמֶר לְאַבְרָם יָדַע תֵּדַע, כִּי גֵר יִהְיֶה זְרַעְךָ,
בְּאֶרֶץ לֹא לָהֶם, וְעַבְדוּם וְעֲנּוּ אֹתָם אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה.
וְגַם אֶת הַגּוֹי אֲשֶׁר יַעֲבֹדוּ דָן אֲנִכִי.
וְאַחֲרָי כֵן יֵצְאוּ, בְּרִכְשׁ גָּדוֹל."

E. M. Lilien



Standing Up For Us

1. Cover the matza, raise your cup and sing together, acknowledging God's commitment to our survival.

THIS PROMISE has stood for our parents and for us in good stead.

For not just one enemy has stood against us to wipe us out.

But in every generation there have been those who have stood against us to wipe us out, Yet the Holy One, Blessed be He, keeps on saving us from their hands.

וְהִיא שְׁעֵמְדָה

2. Afterwards, set the cup down and uncover the matza for the continuation of Maggid.

V'hee she-am-da,
la-a-vo-tei-nu v'la-nu,
she-lo eh-chad beel-vad,
amad alei-nu l'cha-lo-tei-nu
eh-la she-b'chol dor va-dor
om-deem a-lei-nu l'cha-lo-tei-nu,
v'ha-ka-dosh ba-ruch hu
ma-tzee-lei-nu mee-ya-dam.

וְהִיא שְׁעֵמְדָה
לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ וְלָנוּ.
שֶׁלֹא אֶחָד בִּלְבָד,
עֲמַד עָלֵינוּ לְכַלּוֹתֵנוּ.
אֶלֶּא שֶׁבְכָל דּוֹר וְדוֹר,
עוֹמְדִים עָלֵינוּ לְכַלּוֹתֵנוּ,
וְהַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא
מִצִּילֵנוּ מִיָּדָם.

Rav's Pesach Story

From Serving Idols to Spiritual Liberation

מתחלה עובדי עבודה זרה

1. The Haggadah offers two versions of the Exodus story. The Talmudic Rabbi, **Shmuel**, emphasized political enslavement (“We were slaves in Egypt”). Now we turn to his colleague, Rav, to hear about spiritual servitude.

2. Rav's version is drawn from Joshua's farewell speech to the nation of Israel. Joshua feared that the new generation in Israel might assimilate to the local pagan cultures. So he told them the story of Abraham's liberation from idolatry.



Kadesh

Urchatz

Karpas

Yachatz

Maggid

Spiritual
Slavery
and
Keeping
the
Promise

IN THE BEGINNING our ancestors were idol worshippers
But now God has brought us near to serve Adonai.

The leader:

JOSHUA said to all the people: “Thus said Adonai the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors including Terach, father of Abraham and Nachor, lived beyond the Euphrates and worshipped other gods. But I took your father Abraham from beyond the Euphrates and led him through the whole land of Canaan and multiplied his offspring. I gave him Isaac, and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau . . . Then Jacob and his children went down to Egypt.”

“Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and brought plagues on Egypt after which I freed you – I freed your ancestors – from Egypt. Now, therefore, serve Adonai with undivided loyalty. . . . Or, if you are loath to serve Adonai, choose this day other gods to serve. But I and my family will serve Adonai.”

All:

IN REPLY, the people declared, “Far be it from us to forsake Adonai and serve other gods! For it was Adonai our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, the house of bondage, and who performed those wondrous signs before our very eyes . . . Now we too will serve Adonai, for Adonai is our God” (Joshua 24: 1-18).

מתחלה עובדי עבודה זרה היו אבותינו.
ועכשו קרבנו המקום לעבודתו. שנאמר (יהושע כ"ד):

”וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶל כָּל הָעָם:
כֹּה אָמַר יי אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל,
בְּעֵבֶר הַנָּהָר יָשְׁבוּ אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם מֵעוֹלָם, תָּרַח אָבִי
אֲבֵרָהֶם וְאָבִי נַחֲוֹר, וַיַּעֲבֹדוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים.
וְאָקַח אֶת אֲבִיכֶם אֶת אֲבֵרָהֶם מֵעֵבֶר הַנָּהָר,
וְאוֹלָךְ אוֹתוֹ בְּכָל אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן.
וְאַרְבֵּה אֶת זְרַעוֹ, וְאָתַן לוֹ אֶת יִצְחָק.
וְאָתַן לְיִצְחָק אֶת יַעֲקֹב וְאֶת עֵשָׂו.
וְאָתַן לְעֵשָׂו אֶת הַר שְׁעִיר, לְרִשְׁתּוֹ אוֹתוֹ.
וַיַּעֲקֹב וּבְנָיו יָרְדוּ מִצְרָיִם.”

Jews-by-Choice

Abraham and Sarah were converts who as mature adults made daring spiritual choices. Today many of us are really Jews-by-choice (whether as converts or as born Jews). For we continuously reflect on our life choices and make decisions about how Jewishly to live. Ask several people to share their personal journey as Jews.



Nota Koslowsky, U.S.A, 1944



Lola, U.S.A, 1920



Jakob Steinhardt, Germany, 1923



Dick Codor © 1981



The Four Children as Four Books

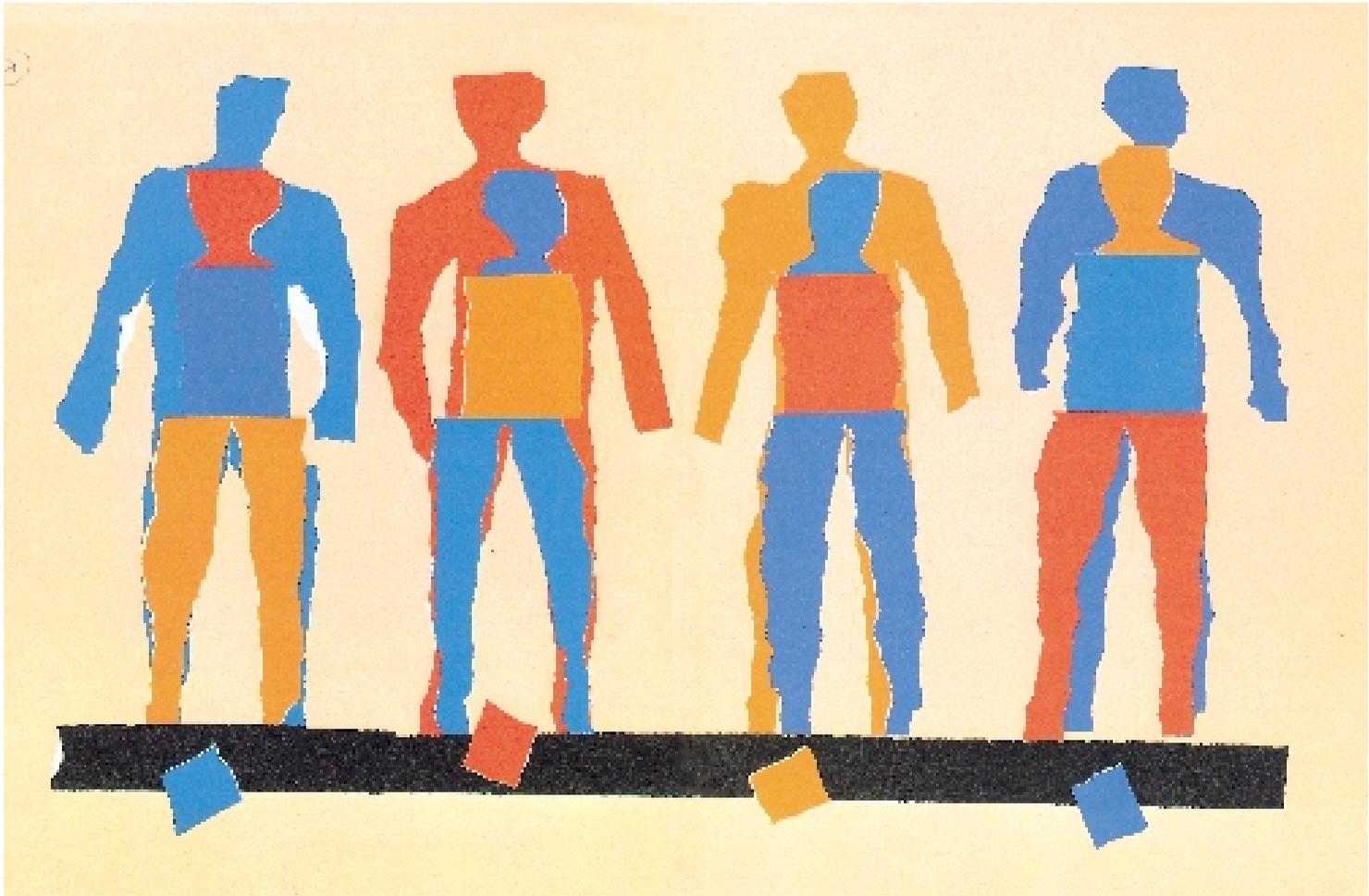
David Wander, The Haggadah in Memory of the Holocaust © 1988



Clay Children



Rony Oren, Animated Haggadah, Israel, © 1985 Jonathan Lubell, Scopus Films



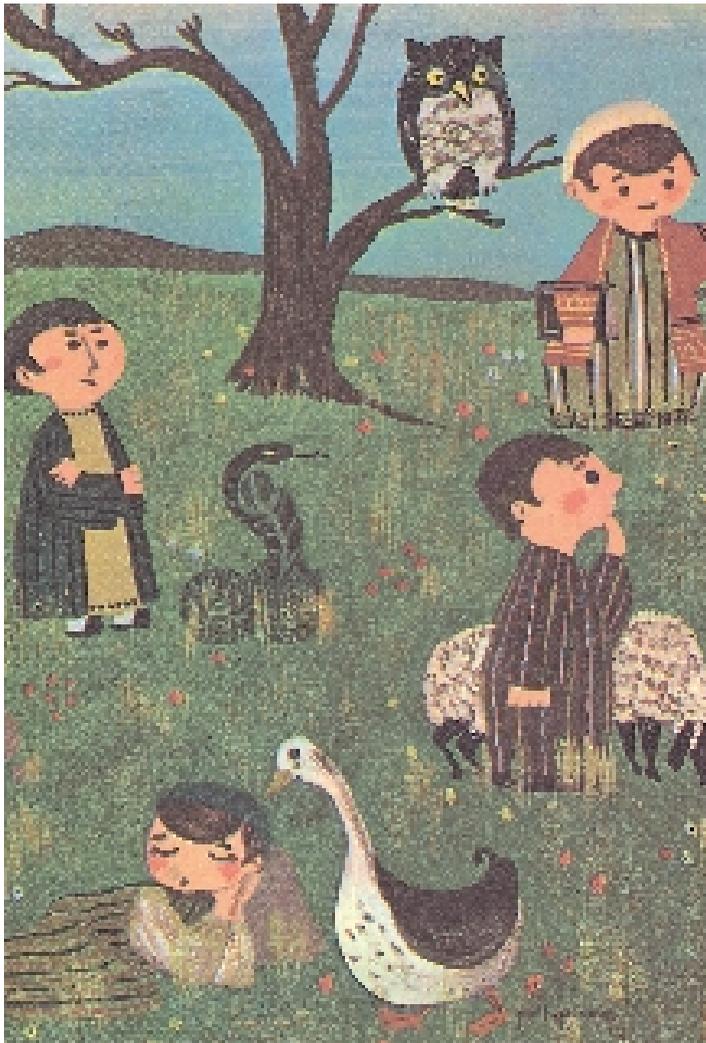
Four Aspects in Each of Us

Dan Reisinger, © 1982, Rabbinical Assembly of America



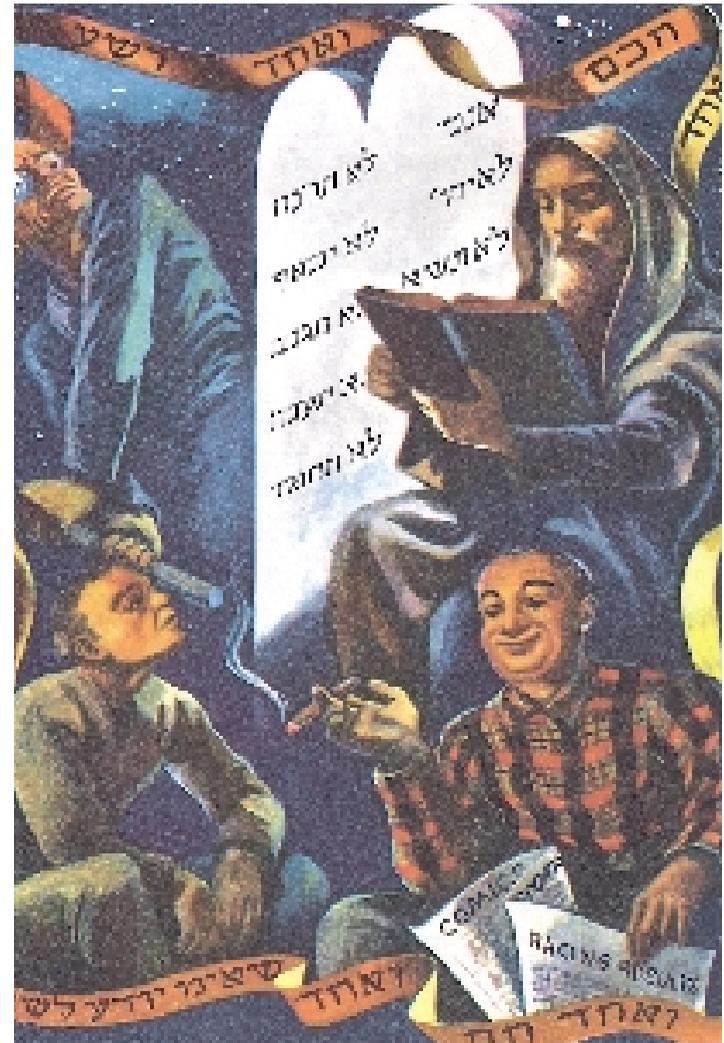
Four Children, Four Musicians

Shraga Weil, (CL 1963 Cat. S-3) © Safrai Gallery



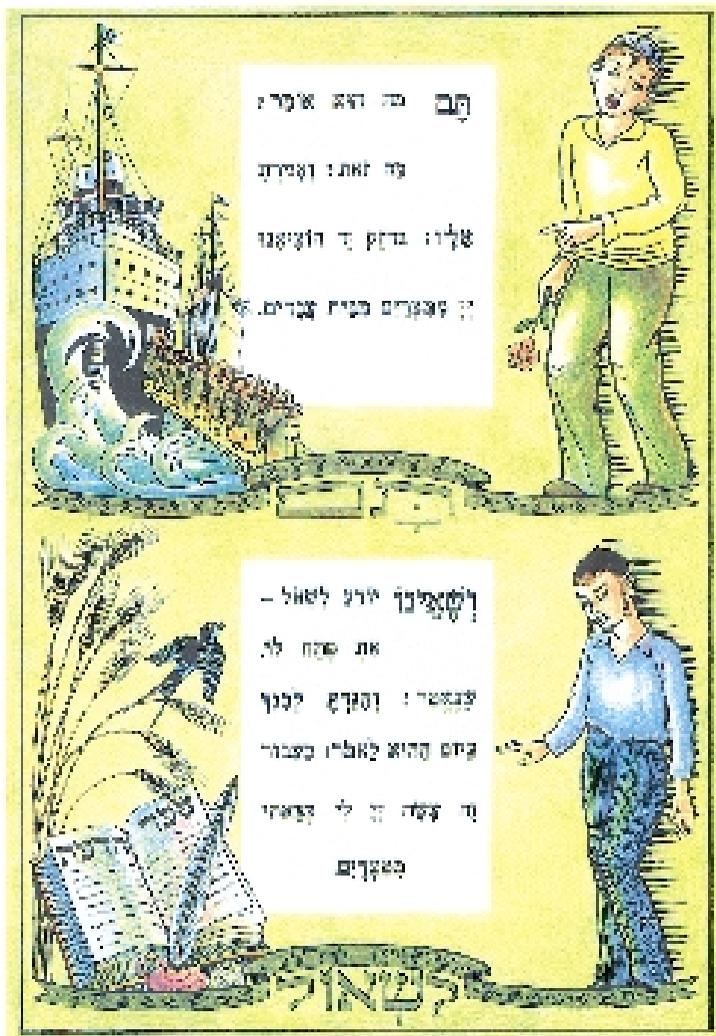
Four Personalities

Paul Freeman, U.S.A, 1960



Clashing Cultures

Siegmund Forst, Europe and U.S.A, 1959



Four Attitudes to the Zionist Dream



Tzvi Livni, Israel, 1955 © Yavneh Publishers

Every Child is a Blessing

I got the idea of representing the children as cards, by the way, from the tradition dating from the Middle Ages of depicting the simple child, or the child who doesn't know how to ask, as a jester or fool. I drew a book in each picture and positioned it to reflect each child's attitude to the tradition.

The text of the Haggadah introduces the four children with a short passage in which the word *baruch* (blessed) appears four times. I have designed these two pages to correlate each of these four "blessings" with one of the four children: every child is a blessing.

Diversity, how we deal with it, and how we can discover the blessing within it, is perhaps the theme of the midrash of the Four Children.

(David Moss, 20th C. artist, U.S.A. and Israel)

The Blessing of Diversity,
David Moss,
The Moss Haggadah © 1996





The Blessing of Diversity

The artist and calligrapher David Moss explains his depiction of the Four Children: EVERY CHILD is unique and the Torah embraces them all. The iconography that I've chosen here is based on playing cards. As in a game of chance, we have no control over the children dealt us. It is our task as parents, as educators, to play our hand based on the attributes of the children we are given. It is the child, not the parent, who must direct the process. This, I believe, is the intent of the midrash of the four children.

Each child's question appears on his card, and the Haggadah's answer appears below the card. The gold object in each picture denotes the suit of the card. The staves, swords, cups and coins used in Southern Europe developed parallel to the more familiar hearts, diamonds, clubs and spades of Northern Europe. The figures are likewise taken from archaic systems of playing cards which included king, knight, page, and joker or fool. The king image here represents the wise child wearing the crown of Torah. The knight represents the wicked child. In almost all old Haggadot the wicked child is shown as a soldier, sometimes mounted, sometimes on foot. The page is the simple child, and the joker or fool is the child who is not even capable of asking.



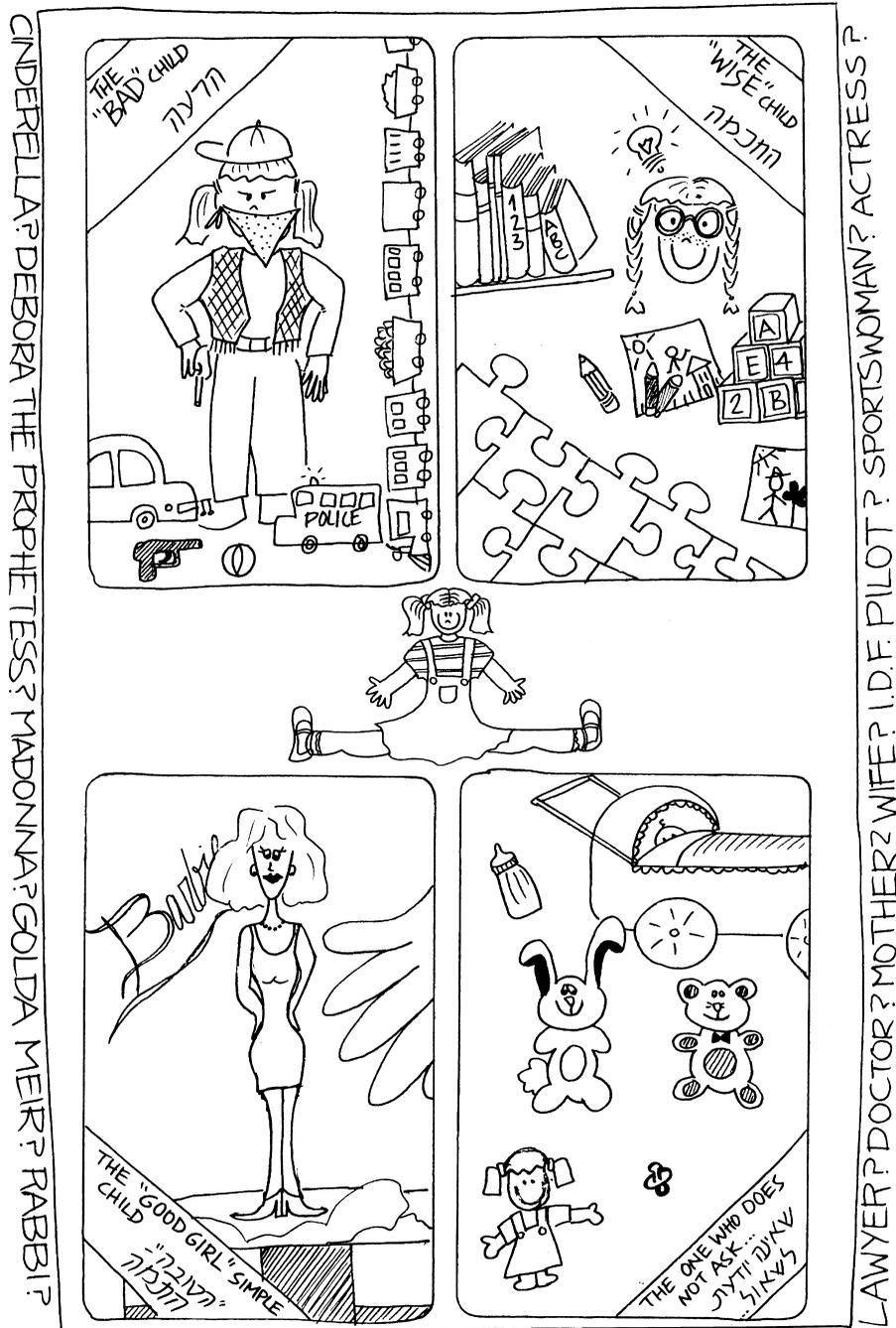
Eastern European Types

*Arthur Syzk,
Poland, 1939*

The Art of the Four Children

1. **Compare and contrast** the artists' interpretations of each of the Four Children (p. 18-33).
2. **Which portrayal** is most surprising? most disturbing? most appropriate?
3. **What conceptions** of Jewish values and society are implicit in the various depictions? (See the unabridged version of A Different Night, p. 174-176, for a commentary on each illustration.)

The Ideal Jewish Girl?
Tanya Zion, Israel, 1996



Kadesh
Urchatz
Karpas
Yachatz
Maggid

Four
Children
in Art

The Contemporary "Four Children"

Which famous person today would be the best representative of the "wise child," of the "wicked child," and so on? Suggest candidates and discuss their suitability. Or suggest animals to symbolize the Four Children. (See p. 29.)

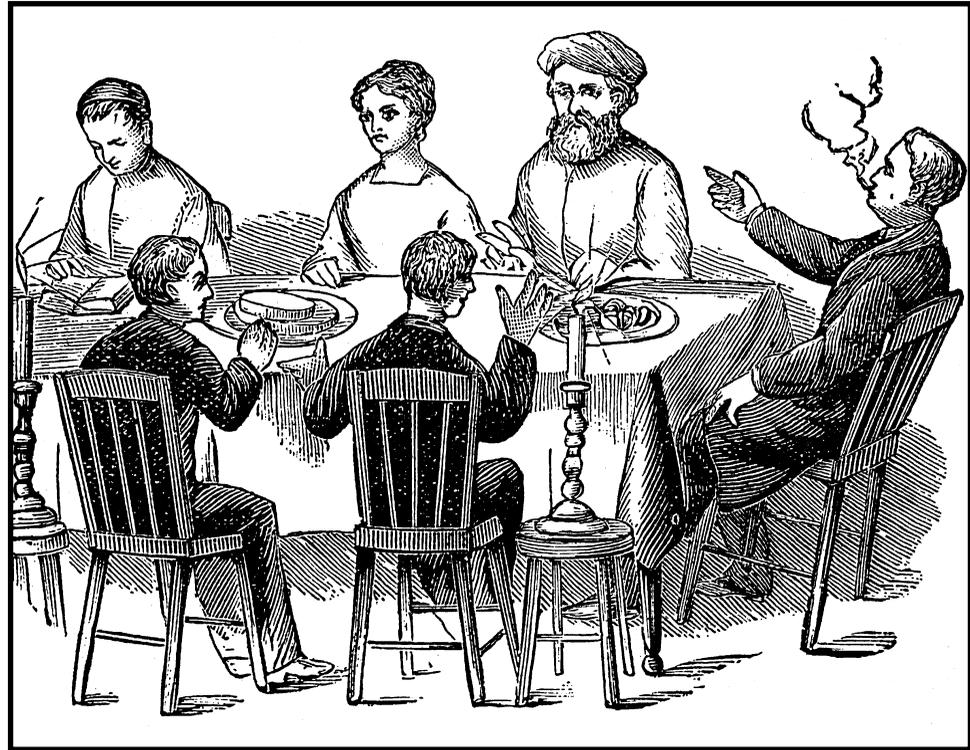
A Child's Perspective

Ask the younger children to describe the behavior of "a bad child" at the Seder.

- What might be causing such behavior?
- Do they approve of the parent's response in the Haggadah?
- How would they handle the situation?
- Why do they think the "silent child" asks no questions?
- How might that child be coaxed into greater involvement?

Beyond Labels

I DO NOT VIEW labels as static pigeon-holes. I believe in the power of the educational act to release locked up potentials. For example, **one who does not know how to ask** may be silenced by the rules of society. The silence may hide an exceptional, sensitive child whose questions are choked. A parent can "open the child up," remove the obstructions, enable personal growth and break stereotypes (*Yaariv Ben Aharon, Kibbutz author*).



The Immigrant Family

Chicago Haggadah, 1879

Bridging the Generation Gap

The inter-generational dialogues in the Torah explicitly refer to parents who participated in the Exodus addressing their children who have grown up in freedom in the Land of Israel. The parents have undergone an experience of slavery and redemption which is totally foreign to the reality of their offspring.

Discussion #1: What are the generation gaps among us, the

participants of tonight's Seder? Go around the table and have people relate a formative experience which might be difficult for their parents or children to comprehend.

Discussion #2: In the illustration above, who do the characters represent? How do their clothing and body language express the generation gap? Who is the dominant figure at the table?

The Four Children Continued

Narrator: What does the simple child ask?

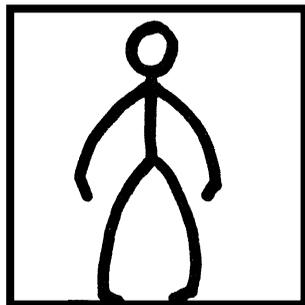
Simple Child: "What is this?" (*Exodus 13:14*).

Narrator: And you shall say to that child:

3rd Parent: "By a mighty hand Adonai brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

Narrator: **As for the child who does not know how to ask**, you should prompt him, as it is said: "You shall tell your child on that day, saying:"

4th Parent: "It is because of this, that Adonai did for me when I went free from Egypt" (*Exodus 13:8*).



Otto Geismar, 1927

תָּם וְשְׂאִינוּ יוֹדְעֵי לְשׂאול

תָּם מֶה הוּא אוֹמֵר?

"מֶה זֹאת?" (שמות יג, יד)

"וְאָמַרְתָּ אֵלָיו:

בְּחֹזֶק יָד הוֹצִיאָנוּ יְיָ מִמִּצְרַיִם מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים."

וְשְׂאִינוּ יוֹדְעֵי לְשׂאול?

אֵת פֶּתַח לוֹ.

שְׂנֵאָמֵר: "וְהִגַּדְתָּ לְבִנְךָ, בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לֵאמֹר:

בְּעֵבוֹר זֶה עָשָׂה יְיָ לִי, בְּצֵאתִי מִמִּצְרַיִם." (שמות יג, ח)

The Parent of the Silent Child

The child does not ask because he is afraid of making a mistake. He does not know how to phrase his question and lacks confidence. Therefore, the parent should try to lead him into a conversation, to encourage him, to strengthen him, to strengthen his confidence. (Marc Angel, *Sephardic Haggadah*, p. 30)



Kadesh

Urchatz

Karpas

Yachatz

Maggid

Four Children

"You shall tell your child" (*Exodus 13:8*)

The Rabbis wondered about: "You shall tell your child on that day: 'It is because of this, that Adonai did for me when I went free from Egypt.'"

Could this verse mean that you should begin to tell the story at the beginning of the month (in which the Exodus occurred)?

No, for the verse explicitly states "on that day" (of the Exodus).

Could that mean that we start when it is still daytime?

No, for the verse explicitly states: "because of this." "**This**" refers to matza and marror laid before you (only on Seder night). (*Mekhilta*)

"**This**" implies that the parents must point at the matza and marror, using them as visual aids to tell the story. (*Rabbi Simcha of Vitri*)

וְהִגַּדְתָּ לְבִנְךָ

"וְהִגַּדְתָּ לְבִנְךָ." יְכוּל מְרֵאשׁ חֲדָשׁ?

תְּלִמּוּד לּוֹמֵר: "בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא" (שמות י"ג ח).

אִי בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא, יְכוּל מִבְּעוֹד יוֹם?

תְּלִמּוּד לּוֹמֵר: "בְּעֵבוֹר זֶה."

"בְּעֵבוֹר זֶה", לֹא אָמַרְתִּי, אֶלָּא בְּשַׁעֲה שְׂיִישׁ

מִצָּה וּמְרוֹר מְנַחִים לְפָנֶיךָ.



Siegmund Forst, 1958

Beating the Bounds: Producing Wicked Children

THE PASSOVER CELEBRATION is aimed at the child in all of us, allowing us to open our imaginations, to rediscover the lost elements of wonder, pleasure, and hilarity that are captured in this event. Having children at the Seder can help make this happen.

If we make our children unhappy, they will remember Passover, but not fondly. In the British Isles, there is a custom of taking sons out every year to “beat the bounds.” Today they use the stick as the boundary markers, but they used to beat the boys at the site of those markers to ensure that they would remember the limits of ancestral property. Beating our ancient heritage into our children’s psyches may make them remember, but it is probably the reason so many people remember ritual and ceremony as intrinsically unpleasant.

(Ira Steingroot, Keeping Passover)

“Who is truly Wise?”

The wise child of the Haggadah is portrayed as a knowledgeable, believing and obedient child. This child formulates long complex questions, distinguishes multiple categories of laws, and accepts the God who commanded “us.” But let’s beware of this stereotyped, academic brainchild. Is this child truly wise?

• **Don Isaac Abrabanel, “The Smart Alec”:** “This ‘wise-guy’ child is arrogant in his ‘wisdom.’ He shows off the distinctions he can make between types of mitzvot. ‘But you teach him the subtleties down to the last detail in the Mishna.’ Let the ‘smart-alec’ who appears wise in his own eyes see that there is still much for him to learn.

There is twice as much wisdom in these laws as in the question. Let the

wise grow in wisdom and in humility.”

• **Israel Eldad, “To Know When to Ask”:** “No! The wise child does not derive his title from the pretense to know-it-all. One who thinks he possesses wisdom already, does not ask at all. ‘One who does not even know how to ask’ has a negative trait, typical of the know-it-all. The truly wise child asks genuine questions, not cynically and mockingly like the rebellious child and not superficially like the simple child. He seeks the essence of things, ‘What is the true nature of the laws, testimonies and statutes that God has commanded us?’”

• **The Chassidic Seer of Lublin:** “In my judgment, it is better to be a wicked person who knows he is wicked, than a righteous one who knows that he is righteous. Worst of all is to be a wicked person who thinks he is righteous.”

(Menachem HaCohen, Haggadah of HaAm)

The “Wicked Child” – An Unfair Description?

The “wicked” child expresses a sense of alienation from our Jewish heritage. In this age of liberalism and democracy, of pluralistic tolerance for many cultural expressions, should a person who expresses such a feeling be condemned as “wicked” or “evil”?

• Hold a brief discussion on the topic. Would a different characterization be more appropriate to our contemporary sensibilities - such as “the rebellious one,” “the skeptic,” “the arrogant – *chutzpadik*?”

Is “setting his teeth on edge” the best strategy to deal with such a person?

• **Role-Playing:** try to “get inside” the personality of the so called “wicked” children and their parents. Describe the feelings of each one in this tense confrontation described in the Haggadah.

Suggestion: Have the younger participants at the Seder describe the feelings of the parent, and have those who are already parents describe the feelings of the child.

The Four Children as a Screenplay

חֶכֶם וְרָשָׁע

1. A simple reading of the Haggadah's midrash of the four children can obscure the fact that it provides the script for a dialogue. Let each character in the dialogue be played by a different Seder participant.

- 2. The cast** is as follows:
- Narrator
 - Each of the four children
 - Four parents who answer.
- 3. The reading** goes as follows:

Narrator: **What does the wise child say?**
Wise Child: "What are the testimonies, the statutes, and the laws which Adonai our God has commanded you?" (*Deut. 6:20*).
Narrator: You must tell some of the laws of Pesach (from the Mishna, for example):
1st Parent: "We do not proceed to any *afikoman* (dessert or after dinner celebrations) after eating the Pesach lamb" (*Mishna Pesachim chapter 10*).

Narrator: **What does the wicked child say?**
Wicked Child: "Whatever does this service mean to *you*?" (*Exodus 12:26*).
Narrator: This child emphasizes "*to you*" and not to himself or herself! Since the child excludes himself or herself from the community and rejects a major principle of faith, you should "set that child's teeth on edge" and say:
2nd Parent: "It is because of this, that Adonai did for *me* when I went free from Egypt" (*Exodus 13:8*).
"Me" and not *that one!* Had *that one* been there, he or she would not have been redeemed.

Embarassing your Parents

This difficult child is determined to embarrass us, the parents (in the midst of the Seder before all the guests). He implies that the wine and lambchops are only for our culinary pleasure when he says pointedly, "This service is for you" (not for God). (*Don Isaac Abrabanel, Spain, 15th C.*)

חֶכֶם מַה הוּא אוֹמֵר?

"מַה הָעֵדוּת וְהַחֻקִּים וְהַמִּשְׁפָּטִים, אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֲתֶכֶם?" (דברים ו, כ)
 וְאִם אֵתָּה אָמַר לוֹ כְּהַלְכוֹת הַפֶּסַח:
 "אֵין מִפְּטִירֵינוּ אַחַר הַפֶּסַח אֲפִיקוֹמָן."
 (משנה, פסחים פרק י')

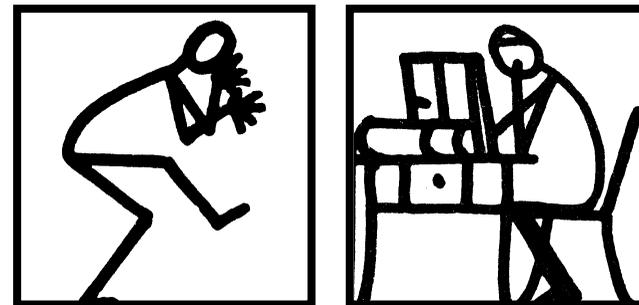
רָשָׁע מַה הוּא אוֹמֵר?

"מַה הָעֵבֶדָה הַזֹּאת לָכֶם?" (שמות יב, כו)
 "לָכֶם" וְלֹא "לוֹ!"
 וּלְפִי שֶׁהוֹצִיא אֶת עַצְמוֹ מִן הַכָּלָל, כָּפַר בְּעִקְרוֹ. וְאִם אֵתָּה הִקְהִי אֶת שְׁנָיו, וְאָמַר לוֹ: "בְּעִבּוֹר זֶה, עָשָׂה יי לִי, בְּצִאתִי מִמִּצְרַיִם" (שמות יג, ח). "לִי" וְלֹא "לוֹ".
 אֵלּוּ הֵיךְ הָיָה שֵׁם, לֹא הֵיךְ נִגְאָל.



- Kadesh
- Urchatz
- Karpas
- Yachatz
- Maggid

Four Children



Otto Geismar, *the Wise Child and the Wicked Child*, 1927

Education Through Dialogue

A Reminder for Parents

Thus far the Haggadah has given guidelines to the parent who is full of earnest enthusiasm to pass on an historical and cultural “message” to the younger generation. If ever there was an event which appeals to the parent’s desire to bring their youth-culture-centered children to appreciate the old values of cultural and ethnic pride and identification, the Pesach Seder is it!

Here lies a dangerous pitfall for the parent-educator. The leader of the Seder is likely to concentrate on the text of the Haggadah without sufficiently taking into consideration the audience – the younger generation – and their level of interest. Absorbed with the sales-pitch, the salesperson often forgets the customer!

“The Four Parents:” Children Label Their Parents

IN THE DAYS of the patriarchal regime, we allowed ourselves to categorize our children harshly, accepting only one as positive – the wise one.

The simple, the wicked and the one who knows not how to ask questions had to swallow hard and hide their sense of being insulted . . .

Now in our days no child is identified as “the offspring of the parent” and often



Prague, 1526

the parent is identified as “the parent of that child.” We have arrived at an era not of patriarchy or matriarchy but the rule of children. In our age it is then miraculous that our dear, delightful children don’t divide us up and categorize us. At the best, we would be rated “naive or simple minded parents” or “parents who don’t know how to respond to a question.” (Israel Eldad, “The Victory of the Wise Son”)

The Pitfalls of Labelling

I INSTINCTIVELY recoil from static stereotypes that label persons simplistically. Therefore, I choose to interpret the midrash of the four children as a diverse set of strategies for addressing four different facets of each and every child. Each personality combines these facets in different ways. For example, **the wise**

and **the rebellious facets** can be combined for evil. Then the cunning mind is used to inflict pain on one’s parents. Alternatively, the combination can produce a revolutionary chalutz (pioneer) seeking not just to undermine the traditional order but to create new frameworks of meaning. This requires an intelligence which is not conservative like the traditional “wise child” but which looks beyond the horizon, beyond the existing laws and their pat rationale.

(Yaariv Ben Aharon, Kibbutz author)

Questioning Our Wisdom

The truly wise question the wisdom of others because they question their own wisdom as well, the foolish, because it is different from their own.

Rabbi Leopold Stein, *Journey into the Self*
(Germany, d. 1882)

The Four Children

1. The Haggadah offers us educational advice about intergenerational storytelling. The midrash of the Four Children invites us to distinguish different character types and to suggest different approaches to our offspring.

Consider the artistic interpretations of the Four Children, and compare and contrast them.

BLESSED be God

Blessed be He

Blessed be the Giver of the Torah to the people Israel

Blessed be He.

THE TORAH alludes to Four Children:

One Wise, One Wicked, One Simple,

One Who Does Not Know How to Ask.

כְּנֵגַד אַרְבַּעַה בְּנֵים

2. The Rabbis turn the commandment of “v’heegadta” (you shall tell) into a mitzvah of **dialogue** – with give and take on both sides. Successful dialogue means that each side, and especially the side anxious to “pass on the message,” be keenly attentive to what the other is saying and feeling – to the particular personality and his or her needs.

בְּרוּךְ הַמְּקוֹם.

בְּרוּךְ הוּא.

בְּרוּךְ שֶׁנָּתַן תּוֹרָה לְעַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל.

בְּרוּךְ הוּא.

כְּנֵגַד אַרְבַּעַה בְּנֵים דְּבִרָה תּוֹרָה.

אֶחָד חָכָם, וְאֶחָד רָשָׁע, וְאֶחָד תָּם,

וְאֶחָד שְׂאִינוּ יוֹדֵעַ לְשַׁאוֹל.



Kadesh

Urchatz

Karpas

Yachatz

Maggid

Four Children



Istavan Zador, Four Children (Budapest, 1924)

The Longest Seder: The Five Rabbis of Bnai B'rak

בְּנֵי בְרַק

A TALE OF Rabbi Eliezer, Rabbi Yehoshua, Rabbi Elazar son of Azarya, Rabbi Akiva and Rabbi Tarfon: they were reclining at the Seder in Bnai B'rak, and they spent the whole night long telling the story of the going out of Egypt, until their pupils came and said to them: "Our masters, it is time to recite the morning Sh'ma!"

Recalling the Exodus Every Night

RABBI ELAZAR son of Azarya said: "Even though I am like a man of seventy, I had never understood why the going out from Egypt should be mentioned at night-time, until **ben Zoma** explained it to me from the verse, *'That you may remember the day when you came out of Egypt all the days of your life'* (Deuteronomy 16:3).

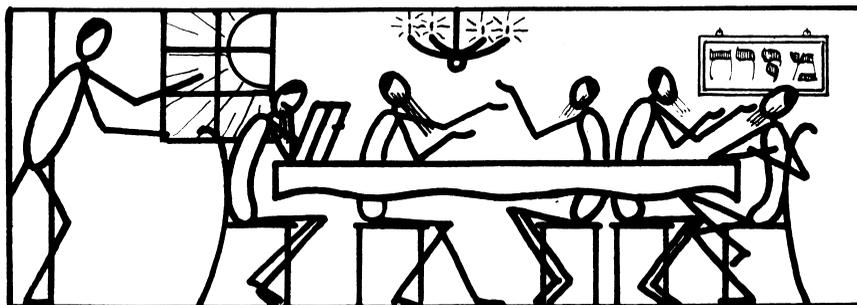
'The days of your life' means just the days! BUT *'All the days of your life'* means the nights as well!"

However the **Rabbis** explain:

"The days of your life' means this life!

BUT *'All the days of your life'* means the days of the Messiah as well!"

מַעֲשֵׂה בְרַבֵּי אֱלִיעֶזֶר, וְרַבֵּי יְהוֹשֻׁעַ, וְרַבֵּי אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן עֲזַרְיָה, וְרַבֵּי עֲקִיבָא, וְרַבֵּי טַרְפוֹן, שֶׁהָיוּ מְסַבִּין בְּבְנֵי בְרַק, וְהָיוּ מְסַפְּרִים בִּיְצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם, כָּל אוֹתוֹ הַלַּיְלָה, עַד שֶׁבָּאוּ תַלְמִידֵיהֶם וְאָמְרוּ לָהֶם: רַבּוֹתֵינוּ, הִגִּיעַ זְמַן קְרִיאַת שְׁמַע, שֶׁל שַׁחֲרִית.



Otto Geismar, 1927

אָמַר רַבֵּי אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן עֲזַרְיָה. הֲרִי אֲנִי כְּבֹן שְׁבַעִים שָׁנָה, וְלֹא זָכִיתִי, שֶׁתֵּאֱמַר יְצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם בַּלַּיְלוֹת. עַד שֶׁדָּרְשָׁה בֶן זֹמָא. שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: "לִמְעַן תִּזְכֹּר, אֶת יוֹם יְצִיאַתְךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם, כָּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ." "יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ" – הַיָּמִים. "כָּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ" – הַלַּיְלוֹת. וְחֻכְמִים אוֹמְרִים: "יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ" – הָעוֹלָם הַזֶּה. "כָּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ" – לְהַבְיֵא לַיְמֹת הַמְּשִׁיחַ.

Personal Recollections: "My Most Unusual Seder"

The Seder is as much a family renewal ceremony as a remembrance of ancient Egypt. Sharing family memories with the younger members as well as involving the guests, who may feel homesick, will contribute to the bonding of all participants.

1. Ask the participants, especially the guests, to share a special Seder memory from home or from their most unusual Seder. (See *The Leader's Guide*, pp. 47-54 for great Seders in Jewish history).

2. Ask the participants, especially the oldest ones, to recall their best or their worst moment at the old family Seder. (For example, the Seder when I had stage fright in the middle of the four questions).

The Rabbis as Storytellers

Shmuel's Story: "We were slaves"

Storytelling Options

The Haggadah recommends that parents now go beyond the text of the Haggadah and improvise dramatically in retelling the story of the Exodus. **The traditional Haggadah does not include a script for the storyteller.** For ideas, turn to pages 86-91.

When, in time to come, your children ask you: "What is the meaning of the decrees, laws, and rules that Adonai our God has enjoined upon you?" You shall say to your children: "We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt and Adonai freed us from Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Adonai produced before our eyes great and awful signs and wonders in Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his household; and God freed us from there, so that God could take us and give us the land that had been promised on oath to our ancestors" (Deut. 6:20-23).

עֲבָדִים הָיִינוּ

"עֲבָדִים הָיִינוּ לְפָרְעָה בְּמִצְרַיִם.
וַיּוֹצִיאֵנוּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִשָּׁם,
בְּיַד חֲזָקָה וּבְזֵרוּעַ נְטוּיָה."



Optional Song:

עֲבָדִים הָיִינוּ, הָיִינוּ
עֲתָה בְּנֵי-חֹרֵיךְ, בְּנֵי-חֹרֵיךְ.

Avadeem hayeenu, hayeenu,
Ata bnei choreen, bnei choreen



Kadesh
Urchatz
Karpas
Yachatz
Maggid

We Were
Slaves

What if

IF GOD hadn't taken our ancestors out of Egypt, then we would still be enslaved to Pharaoh in Egypt, along with our children, and our children's children.

EVEN IF all of us were wise, all of us discerning, all of us veteran scholars, and all of us knowledgeable in Torah, it would still be a mitzvah for us to retell the story of the Exodus from Egypt.

THE MORE and the longer one expands and embellishes the story, the more commendable.

וְאִלוּ לֹא הוֹצִיאָה הַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא אֶת אֲבוֹתֵינוּ
מִמִּצְרַיִם, הָרִי אָנוּ וּבְנֵינוּ וּבְנֵי בְנֵינוּ,
מִשְׁעֲבָדִים הָיִינוּ לְפָרְעָה בְּמִצְרַיִם.

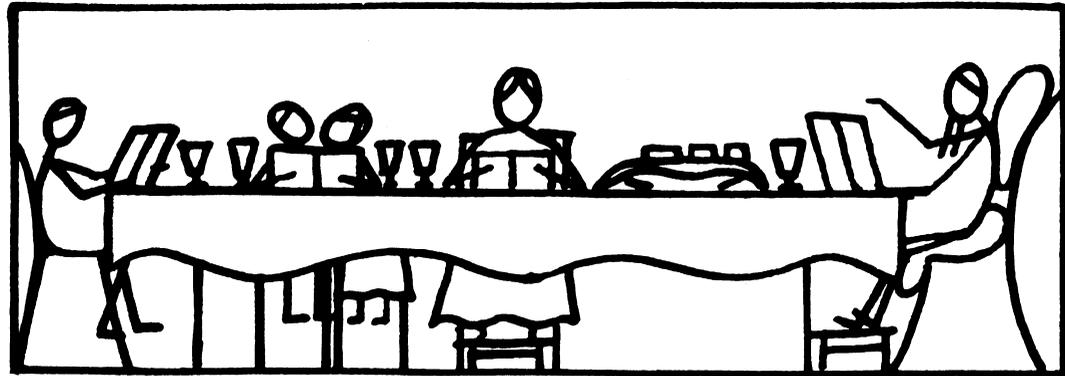
וְאִפִּילוּ כָּלְנוּ חֲכָמִים,
כָּלְנוּ נְבוֹנִים, כָּלְנוּ זְקֵנִים,
כָּלְנוּ יוֹדְעִים אֶת הַתּוֹרָה,
מִצְוָה עָלֵינוּ לְסַפֵּר בִּיצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם.

וְכָל הַמְרִבָּה לְסַפֵּר בִּיצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם,
הָרִי זֶה מְשֻׁבָּח.

(Now adults are invited to retell the Exodus story in their own words, or to read aloud one story about Moshe, p. 87-90.)

In Search of the Four Answers

As often happens after the youngest child recites the four questions, the family and guests applaud but do not bother to answer the questions. Since a young child's questions should not go unanswered, we shall present one answer to each, but there are many more answers.



ON ONE HAND, the matza and the maror belong to the menu of the slaves and the oppressed:

1. Why eat plain matza which is hard to digest?

Poor laborers and slaves are fed matza not only because it is cheap but because it is filling and requires a long digestion period. The diet was designed by the oppressor to exploit the people efficiently.

2. Why eat raw, bitter vegetables?

Maror is eaten plain only by the most oppressed workers who are given little time to prepare their meals. With more time they would have made these herbs into a tasty salad.

ON THE OTHER HAND, dipping and reclining typify the manners of the leisure class in Roman times:

3. Why dip twice before eating?

On Seder night we are obligated to dip twice – karpas in salt water and maror in charoset – before the meal begins. Even today, finger foods dipped in tangy sauces are typical hors d'œuvres with cocktails (the first cup of wine) at banquets.

4. Why recline on pillows while drinking wine?

The body language of the free reflects their ease and comfort. Reclining on sofas or pillows, everyone – big and small alike – experiences the freedom of the upper classes. On Seder night these foods and these table manners are props and stage directions in the script acted out by all. *(based on Don Isaac Abrabanel, Zevach Pesach, Spain, 15th C.)*

"Izzy, Did You Ask a Good Question Today?"

Isidor I. Rabi, the Nobel laureate in physics was once asked, "Why did you become a scientist, rather than a doctor or lawyer or businessman, like the other immigrant kids in your neighborhood?"

"My mother made me a scientist without ever intending it. Every other Jewish mother in Brooklyn would ask her child after school: 'Nu? Did you learn anything today?' But not my mother. She always asked me a different question. 'Izzy,' she would say, 'Did you ask a good question today?' That difference – asking good questions – made me become a scientist." *(Donald Sheff, New York Times, Jan. 19, 1988)*

It is an old saying: Ask a Jew a question, and the Jew answers with a question. Every answer given arouses new questions. The progress of knowledge is matched by an increase in the hidden and mysterious.

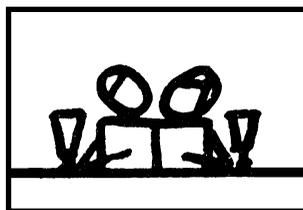
(Rabbi Leo Baeck, Judaism and Science, Germany, 1949)

A wise person's question is half the answer.

(Shlomo Ibn Gabirol, Spain, 1050)

Four Questions

1. Pour the second cup for everyone and let the younger children sing "Ma Nishtana."



מה נשתנה

2. Some people distribute nuts and candies to reward the children's curiosity.

MA NISHTANA

HOW IS THIS NIGHT different from all other nights?

ON ALL other nights, we eat either leavened bread or matza, but on this night we eat only **matza**.

ON ALL other nights, we eat other kinds of vegetables, but on this night we eat **maror** (bitter herbs).

ON ALL other nights, we need not dip our vegetables even once, but on this night we **dip** twice.

ON ALL other nights, we eat either sitting upright or reclining, but on this night we all **recline**.

*Ma nish-ta-na ha-lai-la ha-zeh,
mee-kol ha-lei-lot?*

*She-b'chol ha-lei-lot,
anu och-leen,
cha-metz u-matza
Ha-lai-la ha-zeh, ku-lo matza.*

*She-b'chol ha-lei-lot
anu och-leen sh'ar y'ra-kot,
Ha-lai-la ha-zeh maror.*

*She-b'chol ha-lei-lot
ein anu mat-bee-leen,
afee-lu pa-am achat
Ha-lai-la ha-zeh, shtei-p'ameem.*

*She-b'chol ha-lei-lot
anu och-leen,
bein yo-shveen
u-vein m'su-been
Ha-lai-la ha-zeh,
ku-la-nu m'su-been.*

מה נשתנה

הַלֵּילָה הַזֶּה
מְכַל הַלַּיְלוֹת?

שֶׁבְּכָל הַלַּיְלוֹת
אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין
חֵמֵץ וּמַצָּה,
הַלֵּילָה הַזֶּה כְּלוּ מַצָּה.

שֶׁבְּכָל הַלַּיְלוֹת
אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין שְׂאֵר יִרְקוֹת
הַלֵּילָה הַזֶּה מְרוֹר.

שֶׁבְּכָל הַלַּיְלוֹת
אֵין אָנוּ מְטַבְּלִין
אֶפְּיֵלוּ פְּעַם אַחַת,
הַלֵּילָה הַזֶּה שְׁתֵּי פְּעָמִים.

שֶׁבְּכָל הַלַּיְלוֹת
אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין
בֵּין יוֹשְׁבֵין
וּבֵין מְסֻבֵין,
הַלֵּילָה הַזֶּה
כְּלָנוּ מְסֻבֵין.



Kadesh

Urchatz

Karpas

Yachatz

Maggid

Four
Questions

A Passover Skit

In Egypt the Jews ate quickly and anxiously because they were nervous about the plague of the first born and they were expecting their imminent departure into freedom. Today Jews of Africa and Asia customarily act out the Exodus itself dressing their children (or a dramatically inclined adult) in baggy clothes, a scarf or hat, hiking boots, a walking stick, a belt with a canteen and, most important, the afikoman wrapped in one's clothes on the shoulder (or perhaps in a back pack).

Try sending the youngest children out of the room (or the house) with a bag of props and the help of an adult to prepare this dialogue. Here is a semi-traditional script that may be used by the "actors" at the Seder.

An Open Door Policy

BEFORE COMMENCING any meal, Rav Huna of Babylonia used to **open** the door and announce: "Let all who are in need come and eat" (B.T. Taanit 20b).

Concern for the needy is characteristic of every Jewish celebration. The Torah emphasizes: "You shall rejoice in your festival – with your son and daughter, your male and female servant, the Levi, the stranger, the orphan and the widow in your communities" (Deut. 16:14).

Knock on the door

Adults - Who's there?

Children - Moshe, Aaron, and Miriam.

Adults - Come in. Tell us about your journey!

Children - We have just arrived from Egypt where we were slaves to Pharaoh. He made us do such hard work. [*Improvise about how bad it was.*]

Adults - How did you escape?

Children - God sent Moshe and Aaron to tell Pharaoh: "Let my people go." When he refused, God sent 10 plagues. [*Improvise describing some of the plagues.*]

Finally God brought the most awful plague on the first born of Egypt. Then Pharaoh was really scared, so he kicked us out.

Adults - Why are you dressed like that? What is on your shoulder?

Children - We escaped in the middle of the night and had no time to let the dough for our bread rise. The dough that we wrapped in our cloaks and slung over our shoulders turned to matza in the heat of the sun.

Adults - Tell us about your adventures.

Children - Pharaoh changed his mind after releasing us and chased us to the edge of the Red Sea. We would have been caught for sure, but then God split the sea. [*Describe how it felt.*]

Adults - Where are you going now?

Children - To Jerusalem.

All - **La-shana ha-ba-ah Bee'Yerushalayeem!**



Prague, 1526

Maggid: Ha Lachma Anya



מגיד הָא לַחְמָא עֲנִיָא

Telling the Story: ‘This is the Bread of Poverty and Persecution’

1. The heart of the Seder is “Maggid” from the term “Haggadah” meaning storytelling. In words but also in drama we retell the Exodus, beginning with an Aramaic explanation of the origin of matza.

2. Remove the cloth covering the matzot so that they are in plain view during the telling of the story, the Maggid. **Raise** the three matzot and point out the broken middle matza. Now the afikoman, the second half of the middle matza, is hidden until dessert.

3. Some Rabbis require the Seder plate as well as the matzot to be lifted up, as if they were about to be removed from the table even before the meal has begun. This was originally designed to arouse the children to ask questions.

4. Many Jews from **African-Asian countries** open the Maggid with a **Passover skit**. Experiment with the script (provided on p. 13). **Moroccan Jews** pass the matzot over everyone’s head while reciting Ha Lachma Anya. Some people open the door at this point, as if to offer hospitality to anyone without a Seder.



Kadesh

Urchatz

Karpas

Yachatz

Maggid

Ha
Lachma
Anya

HA LACHMA ANYA

THIS IS THE BREAD of poverty and persecution that our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. As it says in the Torah “seven days shall you eat . . . matzot – the bread of poverty and persecution” (Deut. 16:3) so that you may “remember that you were a slave in Egypt . . .”

(Deut. 16:12).

LET ALL who are hungry, come and eat
LET ALL who are in need, come and share
the Pesach meal.

THIS YEAR we are still here –
Next year, in the land of Israel.

THIS YEAR we are still slaves –
Next year, free people.

Ha la-ch-ma an-ya

Dee-acha-lu av-ha-ta-na

B’ar-ah d’meetz-ra-yeem.

Kol deech-feen, yei-tei v’ yei-chol,

Kol dee-tzreech, yei-tei v’ yee-fsach.

Ha-sha-ta ha-cha,

L’sha-na ha-ba-ah

be-ar-ah d’yis-rael

Ha-sha-ta av-dei,

L’sha-na ha-ba-ah

B’nei cho-reen.

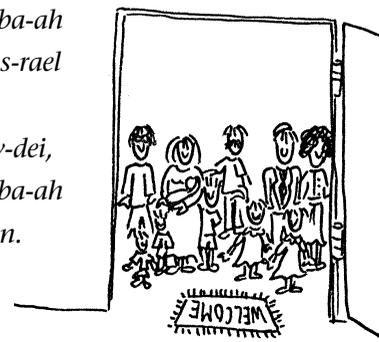
הָא לַחְמָא עֲנִיָא

דִּי אֶכְלוּ אֲבֹהֵתְנָא
בְּאַרְעָא דְמִצְרַיִם.

כָּל דְכָפִין יִיְתִי וַיִּכּוֹל,
כָּל דְצָרִיךְ יִיְתִי וַיִּפְסַח.

הַשָּׁתָּא הַכָּא,
לְשָׁנָה הַבָּאָה
בְּאַרְעָא דְיִשְׂרָאֵל.

הַשָּׁתָּא עַבְדֵי,
לְשָׁנָה הַבָּאָה
בְּנֵי חוֹרִין.



The Story of the Compulsive Saver

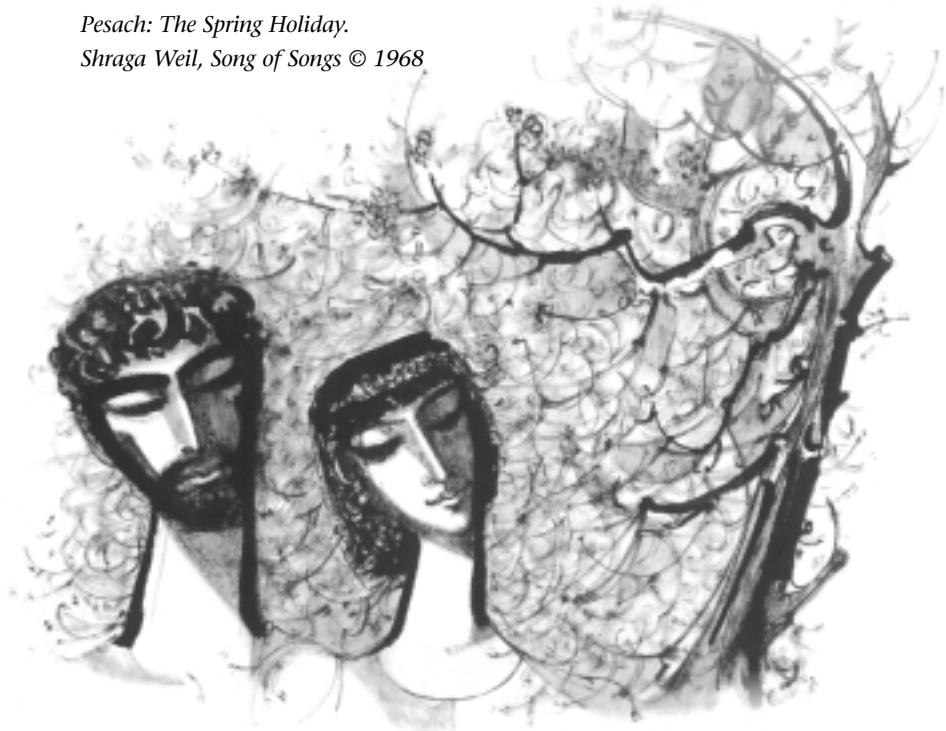
IN THE JERUSALEM neighborhood of Talpiot lived an eccentric old man in a large villa. He visited the synagogue religiously whenever a kiddush was served with cakes and kugel. At shul everyone filled themselves with sweets but this elderly man took twice as much, filling his pockets and his mouth. His fellow Jews smiled at his anxious hoarding and wondered how a man living in a large house could be so desperate for a little cake.

Once a curious Jew asked him to explain. The old man replied heavily: "In the concentration camps in Poland there was never enough bread. I have never liberated myself from my fear that tomorrow there may not be any more food."

A Personal Thanksgiving

The Pesach family gathering is in fact a thanksgiving banquet during which we retell our national salvation. It is also appropriate to weave into the Seder, memories of personal deliverance from danger. Invite the family and guests to recall their own family stories of redemption from illness, from danger, or from persecution. Perhaps they can discuss the lessons they drew from these crucial events in their lives.

Pesach: The Spring Holiday.
Shraga Weil, Song of Songs © 1968



Why Karpas?

The word "Karpas" derives from the Greek "Karpos" meaning fruit of the soil. The historical origins of dipping Karpas at the Seder reflect the accepted cuisine of the Greco-Roman symposium.

Metaphorically, Karpas, the spring vegetable, represents both the historic birth of Israel out of the womb of Egypt and the rebirth of nature renewed each spring. According to Philo and to Rabbi Joshua the original birthday of nature – the Creation – occurred at Pesach-time, not Rosh Hashana. Similarly, the Italian name for spring *prima-vera* and the French *printemps* preserve the sense of the return to the original "first time" of the world.

Spring (old English) is originally applied to the place of origin from which a stream arises. Later it was applied to the season, the "spring of the year."

Urchatz *The First Handwashing*



וּרְחַץ

1. The ritual handwashing prepares us for eating finger foods, Karpas, the hors d'oeuvres of the Pesach banquet. It sanctifies the act of eating.

2. Ask for two volunteers: one to carry a pitcher of water and to pour water over each guest's hands, and one to carry a basin and a towel. No blessing is said for this handwashing.

Karpas *The First Dipping — Spring Greens*

כַּרְפָּס



Kadesh

Urchatz

Karpas

Yachatz

Washing Hands, Dipping Greens, and Breaking Matza

1. Distribute Karpas (a vegetable) and dip it in salt water, while reciting the appropriate blessing. Some Jews dip in charoset.

2. While some medieval rabbis strictly forbid eating more than an olive's size of parsley for Karpas, you may wish to

revive the ancient custom of eating **extensive appetizers** — each with its own dip. You may continue dipping and tasting various fresh vegetables and other appetizers during the Seder until sufficiently full to persevere during the extensive storytelling (Maggid), but not so full as to ruin one's appetite for the matza eaten later.

For vegetables (like celery, parsley, or potatoes):

BLESSED ARE YOU, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the earth.

Ba-ruch ata Adonai,

Elo-hei-nu me-lech ha-olam,

bo-rei pree ha-ada-ma.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְרֵי הָאֲדָמָה.

Yachatz *Breaking the Matza*

יַחַץ

1. Breaking the Matza is one of many ritual acts that turn the food of the Seder into a symbol of meaning.

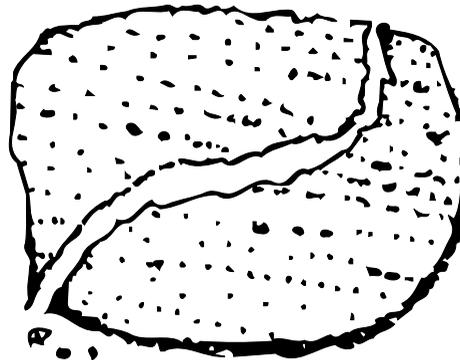
2. Count off the matzot from top to bottom: 1, 2, 3, naming them, if you wish, "Cohen," "Levi" and "Yisrael" (the three ritual classes of the Jewish people).

The top matza is for the usual blessing over bread (motzi). Tonight that blessing is recited over matza.

The bottom matza is for the Hillel sandwich (korech) made with matza, maror, and charoset.

3. Break the middle matza in two and explain that this is for a dual purpose: the bigger portion is to be

hidden for the "afikoman" and eaten when retrieved from the children for dessert. It will be the last taste of food at the Seder. The smaller portion will be eaten with the top matza when we say the special blessing over matza at the beginning of the meal.



BLESSED ARE YOU, Adonai
our God, Ruler of the Universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine.

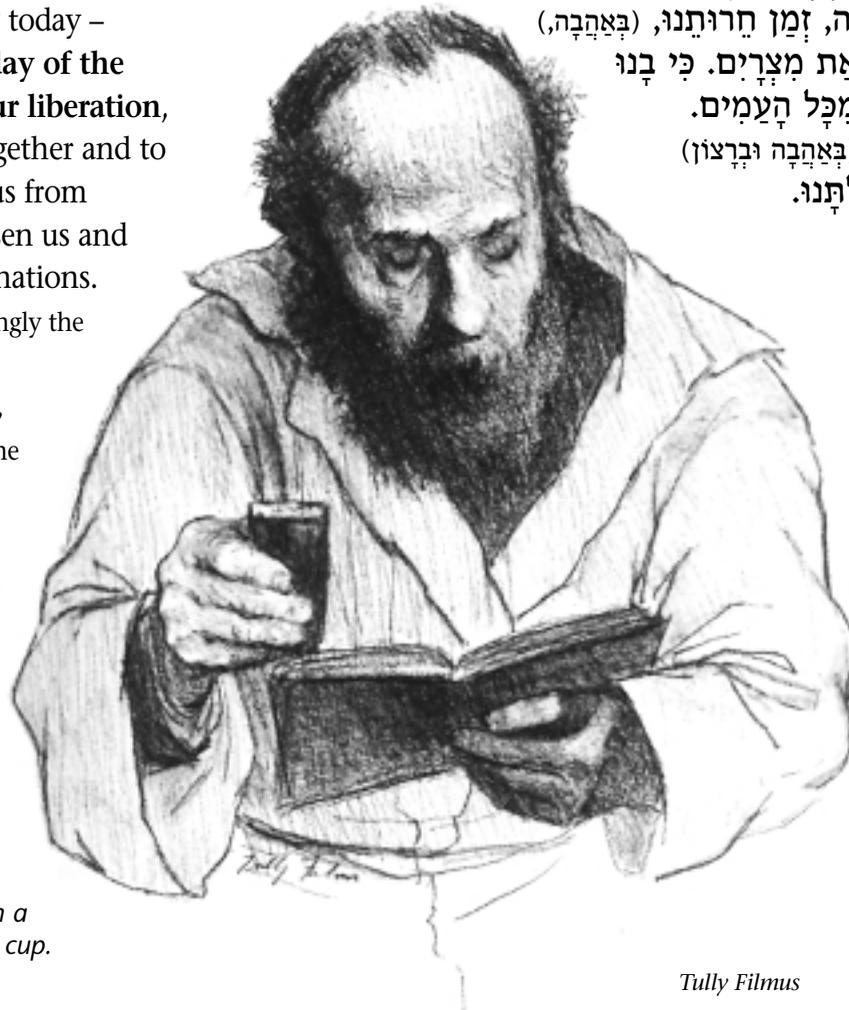
*Ba-ruch ata Adonai,
Elo-hei-nu me-lech ha-olam,
bo-rei pree ha-gafen.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי,
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
בוֹרֵא פְרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

BLESSED ARE YOU, Adonai our God, Ruler of the
Universe, who has chosen us from among the nations
and the languages, sanctifying us by your mitzvot.
Lovingly, You have given us [Shabbat for rest and] **festivals
for happiness**, including today –
[the Shabbat and] the **Holiday of the
Matzot**, the **season of our liberation**,
a sacred day to gather together and to
commemorate the Exodus from
Egypt. For You have chosen us and
sanctified us among the nations.
You have granted us [lovingly the
Shabbat and] joyfully the
holidays. Blessed are You,
Adonai, who sanctifies [the
Shabbat and] the people of
Israel and the festivals.

BLESSED ARE YOU,
Adonai our God, Ruler
of the Universe, who
has kept us alive and
brought us to this happy
moment in our lives.

*Now be seated, recline com-
fortably leaning to the left on a
pillow, and drink most of the cup.*



Tully Filmus

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ
מִכָּל עַם, וְרוֹמַמְנוּ מִכָּל לְשׁוֹן, וְקִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתֶיךָ,
וַתִּתֵּן לָנוּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּאַהֲבָה (שְׁבִתוֹת לְמִנוּחָה וּמוֹעֲדִים
לְשִׂמְחָה, חֲגִים וְזִמְנִים לְשִׁשּׁוֹן אֶת יוֹם הַשְּׁבִת הַזֶּה
וְאֶת יוֹם) חֲג הַמִּצְוֹת הַזֶּה, זְמַן חֲרוּתֵנוּ, (בְּאַהֲבָה,
מִקְרָא קֹדֶשׁ, זְכוֹר לִיציאת מִצְרַיִם. כִּי בָנוּ
בְּחַרְתָּ וְאוֹתָנוּ קִדְּשָׁתָּ מִכָּל הָעַמִּים.
(וְשִׁבְתָּ) וּמוֹעֲדֵי קֹדֶשׁךָ (בְּאַהֲבָה וּבְרָצוֹן)
בְּשִׂמְחָה וּבְשִׁשּׁוֹן הִנְחַלְתָּנוּ.
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, מִקְדֵּשׁ
(הַשְּׁבִת וְ)יִשְׂרָאֵל
וְהַזְּמַנִּים.

*On Saturday night
only, insert Havdalah
here (page 9) before
Shehecheyanu.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי,
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שְׁחַחְנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזְמַן הַזֶּה.



Kadesh

First Cup

Kadesh: Sanctifying Time Kiddush



קִדְּשׁ

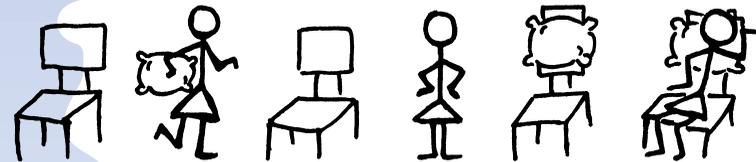
1. The Kiddush sanctifies not the wine, but the holiday. Pesach is dedicated to – “Remember the **Day of your Exodus** from Egypt” (Ex.13:3). (On Shabbat we add the texts in shaded boxes and in parentheses in the body of the Kiddush to commemorate the Creation of the World).

2. Offer to pour the wine or grape juice into someone else’s cup. In turn each one is served by another as befits royalty. Having attained the high status of freedom we celebrate it in style, preferably with red wine, because the rabbis considered it more elegant.

3. Stand to recite the Kiddush, then **recline** to the left to drink the wine, as befits Greco-Roman nobles who also reclined to the left at symposia (intellectual drinking banquets). If there are no pillows on the chairs, ask the children to bring as many as possible.

הַנְּנִי מוֹכֵן וּמְזַמֵּן לְקַיִם מִצּוֹת כּוֹס רֵאשׁוֹן
שֶׁל אַרְבַּע כּוֹסוֹת.

HERE I AM, ready to perform the mitzvah of the first cup of wine and to dedicate this whole evening “to telling the story of wonders performed for our ancestors on the night of the 15th of Nisan,” 3,200 years ago. (Maimonides, Chametz 7:1).



“Don’t Cry over Spilt Wine”

A PUBLIC MESSAGE from the Hosts to All Their Guests: “Don’t Cry over Spilt Wine.”

Rabbi Akiba Eiger (Germany, 18th C.) used to be very strict about the mitzvah of hospitality especially on Pesach. Once when he was leading a large Seder, one of the guests happened to spill a cup of wine. The clean white tablecloth was stained. Seeing the guest’s enormous embarrassment, Rabbi Eiger himself bumped the table spilling his own glass of wine. He exclaimed: “**Oh, this table must be off-balance.**”



On Shabbat rise and recite from Genesis 2:1-3:

[There was evening and there was morning, and the sixth day was over. The sky and the earth and all their contents were completed. On the seventh day God completed all the work. God ceased (*shabbat*) from all activity. God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because on that day God ceased from all the work of creation.]

(וַיְהִי עֶרֶב וַיְהִי בֹקֶר)
יּוֹם הַשְּׁשִׁי, וַיְכַלּוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְהָאָרֶץ וְכָל צְבָאָם. וַיְכַל אֱלֹהִים בַּיּוֹם
הַשְּׁבִיעִי, מְלֹאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה, וַיִּשְׁבֹּת בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי, מְכַל
מְלֹאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה. וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶת יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי, וַיְקַדֵּשׁ אֹתוֹ,
כִּי בּו שְׁבַת מְכַל מְלֹאכְתּוֹ, אֲשֶׁר בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים לַעֲשׂוֹת.

Signposts for the Seder

סימני הסדר

1. The official opening of the Seder should begin by welcoming all the guests. Make sure to introduce all the participants, so that everyone will be made to feel part of the Jewish family – especially on a night when we recall what it felt like to be strangers in the land of Egypt. You may ask all the participants to say their Hebrew names as well.

2. We review briefly the order of the Seder by singing the medieval poem by Rabbenu Shmuel of Falaise (France) that summarizes the Signposts of the Seder (“Kadesh Urchatz”).

3. You may wish to give credit to all who have helped prepare this Seder – its foods, its readings and its activities.

THE 15 STEPS OF THE SEDER



<i>All sing:</i>	Kadesh	First cup and Kiddush
	UrChatz	First handwashing (without a blessing)
	Karpas	First dipping: vegetable and salt water
	Yachatz	Breaking the middle matza
	Maggid	Storytelling
	Rachtza	Second handwashing (with a blessing)
	Motzi	First blessing over the matza
	Matza	Second blessing over the matza
	Maror	Second dipping: maror in charoset.
	Korech	Hillel sandwich
	Shulchan Orech	Festive meal
	Tzafun	Afikoman (dessert)
	Barech	Birkat hamazon (the blessing after eating)
	Hallel	Psalms of praise
	Nirtza	Concluding prayer and folk songs

קִדְשׁ וּרְחַץ
 כָּרְפַס יַחַץ
 מְגִיד רְחִצָּה
 מוֹצִיא מַצָּה
 מְרוֹר כּוֹרֵךְ
 שְׁלַחַן עוֹרֵךְ
 צָפוֹן בָּרֵךְ
 הִלֵּל נִרְצָה

Candle Lighting
 Blessing the Children
 Sign Posts

The Agenda of the Seder

Blessing the Children

בְּרַכַּת יְלָדִים

The custom of blessing one's offspring originates with Jacob and his grandchildren. On the eve of Yom Kippur, on Shabbat

and holidays many parents lay their hands on the head of each child, blessing them with the priests' benediction.

A Private Moment of Intimacy with our Children

Rabbi Jacob Emden of Prague (19th c.) recommends that one place both hands on the child's head, just as Moshe blessed Joshua his successor with two hands – without reservation, without jealousy. The priests also bless the people with two open-faced hands as an expression of love. "Everyone can also take this opportunity to add their own personal blessing to each child according to one's gift of eloquence" (Siddur Bet El). There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is **roots**; the other, **wings**.

For male children:

MAY GOD make you like Ephraim and Menashe. **יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּאֶפְרַיִם וְכַמְנַשֶּׁה.**
(Genesis 48:20 from Jacob's blessing for his grandchildren)

For female children:

MAY GOD make you like Sarah and Rebecca, Rachel and Leah. **יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּסָרָה רַבְקָה רַחֵל וְלֵאָה.**
(See Ruth 4:11, the women's blessing for Ruth the convert)

For all:

MAY GOD bless you and keep you.
May God's face shine upon you and favor you.
May God's face turn to you and grant you shalom.
(Numbers 6:24-26, the priestly benediction)

**יְבָרְכֶךָ יי וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ
יְאָר יי פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחַנְךָ
יִשָּׂא יי פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ
וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם.**

WHO IS GOD? WELL IT IS AN INVISIBLE PERSON AND HE LIVES UP IN HEAVEN*
I GUESS UP IN OUTER SPACE*HE MADE THE EARTH AND THE HEAVEN & THE STARS AND THE SUN AND THE PEOPLE*HE MADE LIGHT HE MADE DAY HE MADE NIGHT*HE HAS SUCH POWERFUL EYES HE DOESN'T HAVE MILLIONS AND THOUSANDS AND BILLIONS AND HE CAN STILL SEE US WHEN WE'RE BAD* HE STARTED ALL THE PLANTS GROWING*TO ME I THINK OF HIM WHO MAKES FLOWERS & GREEN GRASS & THE BLUE SKY & THE YELLOW SUN*GOD IS EVERYWHERE & I DON'T KNOW HOW HE COULD DO IT



Who Knows God?

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Candle Lighting



הַדְּלָקַת נֵרוֹת

1. Lighting the candles marks the beginning of Pesach as well as the end of the frantic work of preparation. It contributes to the transition to sanctity.

2. Before sunset, it is traditional to light at least two candles placed on or near the table. Some families light one candle for each family member. Others prepare two candles for each woman over the age of bat mitzvah. Ideally, the

candles should be longer lasting than usual, so they will provide light for the length of the Seder.

3. Usually on Pesach one first recites the blessing and then lights the candles without covering one's eyes. However, when Seder night occurs on Friday night, then one lights the candles first, covers one's eyes and then recites the blessing.



Candle Lighting
Blessing the Children



BLESSED ARE YOU, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who sanctified us by commanding us to light the [Shabbat and] holiday candles.

Many say the following when lighting the candles, while others recite it together with Kiddush (There is no need to recite this blessing twice).

BLESSED ARE YOU, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has kept us alive and brought us to this happy moment in our lives.

*Ba-ruch ata Adonai,
Elo-hei-nu me-lech ha-olam,
asher kee-d'sha-nu b'meetz-vo-tav
v'tzee-va-nu l'had-leek ner shel
[Shabbat v'shel] Yom Tov.*

*Ba-ruch ata Adonai,
Elo-hei-nu me-lech ha-olam
she-he-chee-ya-nu v'kee-ma-nu
v'hee-gee-anu laz-man ha-ze.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר
שֶׁל (שַׁבָּת וְשֶׁל) יוֹם טוֹב.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי,
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנוֹ הַזֶּה.

A Traditional Woman's Prayer at Candle Lighting

May it be Your will, God of our ancestors, that You grant my family and all Israel a good and long life. Remember us with blessings and kindness, fill our home with your Divine Presence. Give me the

opportunity to raise my children and grandchildren to be truly wise, lovers of God, people of truth, who illuminate the world with Torah, good deeds and the work of the Creator. Please hear my prayer at

this time. Regard me as a worthy descendant of Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, our mothers, and let my candles burn and never be extinguished. Let the light of your face shine upon us. Amen.