



The First Seder of Passover



Passover Laver
Istanbul (Turkey)
1849-1850
The H. Ephraim and Mordecai Benguiat Family
Collection at the Jewish Museum

This is a Passover Laver, or handwashing basin and pitcher, made in Istanbul, Turkey. Many Sephardi Jews lived and still live in Turkey today! If you look closely at these golden objects you will see delicate designs of leaves, flowers, and spirals. Special vessels like these were also commonly used in the Ottoman Empire by Muslim families in their homes.

There are two parts of the Passover *seder* when all dinner guests wash their hands - one time without reciting a prayer, and the second time while chanting a prayer.

**Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam,
asher kideshanu be-mitzvotav vetzivanu, *al
netliat yadayim.***



Learn about the Exodus, the story we tell every year at our Passover *seder*, in 10 easy steps by watching this PJ Library video.

EXODUS STORY

In the Exodus story, God helps the Jewish people free themselves from bondage under the Egyptian Pharaoh. God sends down ten plagues to try to convince the Pharaoh of God's power, and persuade him to let the Jews go free. These plagues included rivers of blood, cities filled with frogs, hail storms, disease that hurt the Egyptian cattle, and complete darkness. Many times, these plagues

that were meant to help free the Jews ended up hurting and sometimes killing Egyptians. As God performed the miracle of opening the Sea of Reeds for the Israelites, God also closed the waters on top of the Egyptians and their chariots.

On Passover we tell the story of our Exodus from Egypt as a way to remember the plight of our ancestors, understand the suffering of others who have been and continue to be enslaved today, celebrate our freedom, and strive towards freedom for all.

A tradition that some families practice during the Passover *seder* is to dip their forks into cups of red wine, and place the wine droplets on their plates or napkins. They do this 10 times as they recite the ten plagues that God sent down in Egypt.

How can we remember and pay respect to the Egyptians that were hurt in the Exodus story?

How can the complicated Exodus story help us understand the world in which we live today?

What are some modern day plagues that you might be experiencing in your life? How might others around you be experiencing these plagues similarly/differently?

For additional questions, watch the below conversation between Yehuda Kurtzer, President of the Shalom Hartman Institute, and his children surrounding the 10 Plagues.

STUDYING THE TEN PLAGUES WITH OUR CHILDREN



Pesah ala mano sung by Flory Jagoda

*Purim, Purim, Purim lano
Pesah, Pesah ala mano
Laz masas'si stan faziento
Loz japrakis si stan koziendo
Aman aman...
Il Dio bendico muz da mazal.*

Purim, Purim, Purim has passed
Pesach, Pesach, is approaching
The matzahs are being baked
The stuffed leaves are being cooked
All mighty God give us good luck (mazal)

*Purim, Purim, Purim lano
Pesah, Pesah ala mano
La nona sta diziendo aloz njetos
Alipja il puelvo, kantoniz i loz tecos
Aman, aman...
Il Dio bendico muz da mazal.*

*Purim, Purim, Purim lano
Pesah, Pesah ala mano
Il Singjor Rubi diso a laz tijas
No kumer il pan oco dijas
Aman, aman...
Il dio bendio muz da mazal.*

Purim, Purim, Purim has passed
Pesach, Pesach, is approaching
The grandmother leads her grandkids to pick
up every crumb and drop of dust, even on the
ceiling
All mighty God give us good luck (mazal)

Purim, Purim, Purim has passed
Pesach, Pesach, is approaching
The Rabbi comes to tell the aunts
Don't eat bread for 8 days
All mighty God give us good luck (mazal)

LISTEN TO THE SONG



On Passover, Jews are not supposed to eat bread. The specifics of these rules differ from Jewish community to Jewish community. However, one thing they all have in common is being creative in the kitchen! There are so many ways that Jews throughout history have made delicious Passover meals without bread and flour. Today, we will read about two recipes from Turkey that traveled from country to country, and was passed down from generation to generation.

Mina de Espinaca (Spinach Pie)
Buñuelos de Pesach (Matzah Fritters)

Spinach pie and buñuelos are both foods that people can eat all during the year! Do you remember the buñuelos recipe from Chanukah? But on Passover, Jews change up the ingredients in clever ways so that they can eat these yummy foods and still follow Jewish tradition.

FOLLOW THE RECIPES



A Passover *seder* can last a long time! To keep your dinner fun and engaging for people of all ages this year, why not try playing a Passover-themed card game? This game can be played in stages, so you can stop and start at any time! The card game is suitable at any point during the Passover *seder*. Thank you to [PJ Library](#) for this great resource!

PRINT THE CARD GAME