



The Second Seder of Passover



Miriam Cup
Amy Klein Reichert
1997
The Jewish Museum Collection

This cup is a restless vessel, like Miriam's ancient well dancing with the people Israel at the Red Sea. It is heard as well as seen, the cymbals ornamenting the bowl's perimeter respond to the slightest vibration of the table. On the seder table, it echoes the sounds of freedom—the wind rustling through grasses, the murmuring of exiles, a joyous song with a tambourine. -Amy Reichert (artist)

During the Passover *seder*, we drink 4 cups of wine (or grape juice). We also set out a cup of wine for Elijah the Prophet. In some families, they also set out a cup of water for Miriam, a female heroine of the Passover story. We do this to remember the miraculous well of water that followed Miriam in the desert after the Exodus from Egypt. We celebrate the strength of women - past and present - and ensure that we tell their stories.

While there is no specific blessing for the water in Miriam's cup, some people say: ***This is the Cup of Miriam, the cup of living waters. Let us remember the Exodus from Egypt.***



I don't know about you, but I am always asking questions! Why is the sky blue? Why is the grass green? Why do I *have* to do my homework? Why, why, why, why, WHY? On Passover, children and adults alike are encouraged to ask questions and seek out answers. And instead of saying, "because I told you so," adults are required to respond to your questions with satisfying answers!

There are some unique traditions that happen during the Passover *seder*. We eat matzah instead of fluffy bread; we eat bitter herbs instead of sweet greens; we are commanded to dip our veggies twice; we recline while we eat. These are all some interesting traditions, but why do we do them? In order to get to the bottom of these tough questions, we first have to ask them - in song!

LEARN THE MA NISHTANA SONG HERE

Did you have fun singing? Great! The Passover *seder* is filled with symbolism. This means that a lot of the objects on your table, and a lot of the traditions that you practice, represent a part of the Passover story. The matzah that you eat, for example, symbolizes or represents how hurried and rushed the Israelites were as they fled Egypt - they left so quickly, their bread didn't have time to fluff up and rise! The bitter herbs that we eat symbolize the bitter, sad, and hard life that the Israelites had while they were enslaved in Egypt. While these symbols might be a little bit of a downer, the other two are a lot more exciting! We dip our veggies twice and recline while we eat to symbolize the freedom we experienced as we left Egypt.

What are some other interesting traditions that you witnessed at your Passover *seder*? What might these traditions symbolize or represent?

Is there a part of the Passover story that isn't being told at your *seder* table? What new tradition can you add to represent that part of the story?

CHALLENGE:

With your adults, research traditions that are practiced during Passover from Jews in other parts of the world!



Judeo Arabic Who Knows One sung by Chloe Pourmorady and Asher Shasho Levy

*Min ya'elam wumin yidri
Allah rab el mijalli
heda hinen il tleta'ash*

*(13) Tleta'ash il bar-misvah
(12) Tna'ash shibte Yisrael*

Who knows, and who understands?
God is the master of the revealed universe

Thirteen is Bar Mitzvah
Twelve tribes of Israel
Eleven stars in the sky

(11) *Hda'ash kokab bisama*
 (10) *'Asher qilmat itorah*
 (9) *Tisa'at ishor il hible*
 (8) *Tmint-iyam il mila*
 (7) *Sab'at-iyam il hupa*
 (6) *Site sdadir il Mishna*
 (5) *Khamse msahaf itorah.*
 (4) *Arba'a imatna*
 (3) *Wutlate abatna*
 (2) *Wutnen Musa waAharon*
 (1) *Wahid yali khalana,*

Ten commandments
 Nine months of pregnancy
 Eight days for circumcision
 Seven days for huppa
 Six orders of the Mishna
 Five books of the Torah
 Four mothers
 Three fathers
 Two are Moses and Aaron
 God is the one and the only Creator.
 God, God, there is no God but God.

Allahu Allahu la ilahh illa hu

LISTEN TO THE SONG



Speaking of Passover traditions and symbols, here's another one! You may see something on your *seder* table called **charoset**. Depending on where your family is from, this sweet side dish will be made from different ingredients - apples, dates, nuts, honey, syrup, and more! Sometimes the *charoset* is chunky - and symbolizes the bricks that the Israelites made while they were enslaved - and sometimes the *charoset* is smooth and pureed - symbolizing the mortar that held the bricks together. But while this food might look like bricks and mortar, it tastes oh so sweet, reminding us of our freedom!

Remember the question "Why do we dip our veggies twice?" We first dip our veggies into yucky salt water reminding us of the tears of the Israelites. However, the second time we dip our veggies, we slather them in *charoset*! There is also another tradition at the *seder* table called Hillel's Sandwich, where dinner guests make mini sandwiches from matzah, veggies, and *charoset*.

Here is a recipe for *charoset* (or **dukka**) that is commonly found in Yemenite-Jewish households around Passover.

Thank you to Talya Adler for her family's recipe. One way that this recipe differs from the Ashkenazi version of *charoset* is that its consistency is more of a paste rather than chunks of fruits and nuts.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups dates
- 2 cups raisins
- 4 apples
- 2 cups walnut
- Cloves
- 1 cup sweet wine

Process:

1. Put dates, raisins, apples, and walnuts through a meat grinder. The consistency should be like a thick, cement paste.
2. Add the cloves and wine to the mixture.



You've learned a lot about Passover symbolism this year! Collect all that you've learned and expand your knowledge on Passover symbols by making your own *seder* plate! Thank you to [PJ Library](#) for this great resource!

Materials:

- Large paper plate
- 6 mini cupcake liners
- Glue
- Markers

Steps:

1. Glue the cupcake liners around the edge of the paper plate.
2. Use the markers to label each liner with the name of one of the *seder* plate items, and add colorful drawings around the rest of the plate.

Zeroa - Shankbone - Symbolizing the lambs that were sacrificed during the 10th plague.

Beitzah - Egg - Symbolizing the beginning of life, or a new life for the freed Israelites

Maror - Bitter Herbs - Symbolizing the bitterness of slavery

Charoset - Sweet Mixture - Symbolizing the bricks/mortar and sweetness of freedom

Karpas - Vegetables (Parsley) - Symbolizing spring time

Matzah - Flat bread - Symbolizing the rush out of Egypt

3. Fill the plate with the seder items.
4. Display proudly at your family's seder.