

SIGNPOSTS OF THE SEDER: KADESH URCHATZ

Rabbi Michael Siegel

- **Kadesh – First Cup**
- Urchatz – Wash Hands
- **Karpas (dipping green vegetables in salt water)**
- Yachatz (breaking the middle matzah; creating and hiding the afikoman)
- Maggid: Ha Lachma Anya (introduction to the story)
- **Mah Nashtinah (Four Questions)**
- Avadim Hayinu (We were the slaves-beginning of the story)
- Account of the seder in Bnai Brak; Rabbi Elazer’s comment
- Baruch Hamakom Baruch Hu
- The Four Children
- “Our ancestors were idol worshippers”
- The Promise that stood for us - “Ve-hi She-amdah”
- **Arami Oved Avi (“My father was a wandering Aramean” - the core of the storytelling part of the Haggadah. The verses of the Biblical, though the interpretations are from the Mishnaic era. The mitzvah to tell the story is biblical.**
- Ten Plagues
- Sing “Dayyeninu”

- Explaining the three main symbols of the seder: “Pesach, Matzah, Maror”
- Bechol Dor Vador - “In Every Generation”
- **Hallel**
- 2nd cup of wine
- Rachtzah-washing of hands
- **Motzi Matzah – Eating of Matzah**
- **Maror-Eating of Maror (dipped in Haroset)**
- Korech (Matzah/Maror sandwich)
- Shulchan Orech – Dinner is served
- Tzafun – Afikoman
- **Barech – Blessing after the meal (the mitzvah to say a blessing after the meal is considered biblical)**
- **Third cup of wine**
- Opening door for Elijah
- **Hallel – Completing Hallel**
- **Fourth cup of wine**
- **Counting the Omer – on the 2nd night**
- Nirtzah-songs at the end of seder, including Adir Hu; Echad Mi Yodela, Chad Gadya

*****UNDERLINED: sections that have been traditionally regarded as halakhic requirements*****

Pesach Fun! Resources for Your Seder

Rabbi David Russo

1. Haggadah Resources
 - a. Haggadot
 - b. Seder Planning
2. Seder Food
3. Seder Art
4. Seder Fun - Activities, Video Clips, and more

1. Haggadah Resources and Seder Planning

- Haggadah online (my personal favorite):
Hartman, A Night to Remember Haggadah
<http://www.haggadahsrus.com/PDF/NTR%202012%20lo-res.pdf>
Why is this my favorite? It's great for adults and kids; everything is spelled out and well-organized; and it has beautiful pictures.
- Seder planner:
<http://www.haggadahsrus.com/PDF/Seder-Planner-NTR.pdf>
- Sefaria:
https://www.sefaria.org/Pesach_Haggadah%2C_Kadesh?lang=bi - easy to access on laptop and phone (not pdf) includes endless commentary and source sheets for further study

2. Art and the Seder

- Hartman, A Different Night Haggadah

<http://www.haggadahsrus.com/PDF/ADN%20Classic%202014%20final%20lo-res.pdf>

Example: The Four Children, pgs. 61-71. Come up with fun activities based on the artwork - for example, what's your favorite picture of the 4 children and why?

3. Seder and Food Fun

- Dr. Josh Kulp's Commentary on Karpas (Schechter Haggadah, pgs. 183-184):

"The tannaim shaped the seder's menu in the pattern of a typical Greco-Roman banquet, one which begins with appetizers including lettuce. Dipping was a normal way of eating food in this period... it is quite certain that the modern custom of eating only one meager appetizer before the meal would have been perceived by the tannaim as odd (and miserly). After all, why should free people go hungry at a festive meal?"

- My family has a full course of appetizers - terra chips, veggies, guacamole, salsa...
- My sister-in-law, Abigail's, birthday falls during Pesach. How can we make it special? Chocolate fondue.

4. Seder Activities

- Sefardic Call-And-Response

For hundreds of years, many Sefardic Jews have had this custom:

At various points in the Seder, family members dress up as if they had just left Egypt. Other family members ask formal questions and “the wandering Jew” explains what it has been like to leave Egypt, and be on the journey to Jerusalem.

For example:

A young person dresses in “kley golah” (Ezekiel 12:3 - “gear for exile”) and before the recitation of the Haggadah, appears before the participants, staff in hand and satchel on the shoulder. Someone asks the traveller:

Person 1: Where are you coming from?

Person 2: From the land of Egypt.

Person 1: Did you go out to freedom from the bondage of Egypt?

Person 2: Yes indeed, and now I am free.

Person 1: Where are you going?

Person 2: I am going to Jerusalem!

Example - Grandpa Saul wears a Pharaoh mask while we sing “Let My People Go”

- **Game: Would you Rather? Passover Edition**
 - Eat only maror the rest of your life OR drink only saltwater?
 - Recline whenever you eat OR dip everything you eat?
 - Hit the Dog OR Bite the Cat?
 - Drink 4 ounces of maror juice OR 10 drops of blood?

- Eat kosher for Passover all year round OR eat exclusively bread on Pesach?

- **Seder Grab-Bag**
Have kids gather a bag full of small items from around the house — almost anything will do. Place all items in a bag and pass the bag around the table during mealtime. Guests pick out an object without looking and then are challenged to make up a story about the object at hand that relates to the Passover story, an attribute of God or the plight of the Jewish people. Best answers get a prize.

Website with Activity Ideas

- www.passoversongparodies.com
- <https://www.templerodefshalom.org/passover-stir-up-your-seder>
- <https://reformjudaism.org/creative-ideas-your-passover-seder>
- <https://www.signupgenius.com/church/passover-games-and-activities.cfm>

- **Miriam's Cup**

Every seder table has a cup for Elijah. In my family, we also put out a cup for Miriam. In the Torah, Miriam is constantly associated with water - she saves Moses by the Nile, leads the Israelites in song after crossing the sea, and after she dies, the Israelites are suddenly without water. Our rabbis teach us that the Israelites' source of water in the desert was by merit of Miriam. At the end of the seder, we ask all of our guests to pour

a little bit of water into Miriam's cup, and to say what their hopes and dreams are for the coming year - making our water cup of redemption. This Pesach, I invite you all to share in the tradition of filling up Miriam's cup with hopes for a better, brighter future.

Video Clips & Movies that Convey Themes of Pesach

<http://www.cc.com/video-clips/h24vfx/the-colbert-report-jonathan-safran-foer>

Prince of Egypt (available on Hulu)

Integrating Media into the Video Clips

Stephen Colbert and Jonathan Safran Foer

<http://www.cc.com/video-clips/h24vfx/the-colbert-report-jonathan-safran-foer>

In the winter of 2012, Jonathan Safran Foer and Nathan Englander, two of our times' great writers, collaborated to write the New American Haggadah. When publicizing the new Haggadah, Safran Foer was interviewed by Steven Colbert on the Colbert Report.[1] Here are some excerpts from the interview:

Colbert: My guest tonight has a new book for Passover. I have four questions for him. Please welcome, Jonathan Safran Foer. Now you have given us The New American Haggadah. I obviously know what this is and what it means, but for those few members of my audience who aren't Jewish, what is this and what does it mean?

Safran Foer: The Haggadah is the user's manual for the most widely celebrated Jewish holiday Passover. Which is the annual retelling of

the Exodus from Egypt. One of the oldest continually told stories, and one of the most well known across cultures.

Colbert: I knew it had something to do with Passover, that's why I have an extra chair for Elijah.

Safran Foer: Usually there's a glass of wine too.

Colbert: There you go, that's actually margarita. Ok but, didn't this story already exist, it's called Exodus! So you think, you can improve on Moses!

Safran Foer: In fact this is probably, of all books ever written, the one that's been revised the most times. There are over 7,000 editions of it, that have been created. Wherever there have been Jews, whenever there have been Jews, there have been new haggadahs.

Colbert: Every single generation there's a new Jew who says, I could do better. It's not bad, don't get me wrong...

Safran Foer: It's not doing better so much as tuning the instrument... Yeah, what you do with it is try to make it felt, instead of just read. We have a new translation by Nathan Englander that I think is more accessible, more clear, more engaging, than any other Haggadah translation. We have commentaries from Jeffrey Goldberg, Lemony Snicket...

Colbert: Lemony Snicket? That makes sense, because Exodus is a series of unfortunate events.

Safran Foer: That would've been a great title for the book.

Colbert: But what drew you to it? Because you tell original stories. And this might be the least original story. Why tie yourself to a narrative that someone else has already established?

Safran Foer: The answer was in the question. It's the least original story. It's very familiar. It's been told by more than a hundred

generations of Jews. It is one of the most widely recognized stories across cultures. It's been borrowed by more social justice movements than any other stories. The Haggadah compels us to experience its retelling. To be characters inside the story, rather than just sit back and receive it. To do that, you have to create a document that is really engaging, confrontational, provocative.

The Halakha of Pesach in an Era of Coronavirus: *An FAQ*

Rabbi D'ror Chankin-Gould

Q: Seder this year is going to be so lonely. Is it ok to use video technology to have a virtual seder with others?

A: The Committee on Jewish Laws and Standards has, in fact, permitted the use of virtual technology for seder during this year of COVID 19.

Nor is the Conservative Movement alone in this permission. Leading Sephardic Orthodox authorities in Israel have gone to the same extraordinary lengths to make virtual seder an option for their constituents, even noting that intergenerational connections between young people and elders are necessary for both the continuity of tradition and for combatting depression and loneliness.

<https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/story/streaming-seder>

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/sephardic-orthodox-rabbis-say-passover-seder-can-be-held-via-videoconference/>

Please note the following guidelines for how you might use technology on Pesach differently than a weekday:

“Ideally, the video option should be accessed in a way that does not involve direct interaction with an electronic device, either by leaving the conference active for the duration of use, or using the equivalent of a timer to activate the conference in each location. In a later update we will list different videoconferencing options and their known capabilities to do so. Doing so is permitted within the bounds of previous decisions of the CJLS, and is certainly viable for first seder. If this is not possible, ways to minimize, but not eliminate, violations of Shabbat and Yom Tov include (in order of decreasing preference)

1. Arranging in advance for a non-Jewish person to activate the conference (practical in an institutional setting where there are non-Jewish workers or a household with non-Jewish members already present).
2. Using a virtual assistant, like Siri or Alexa, to activate the stream.
3. Logging in through a simple press of a button on an app, or clicking a link, on a device which is already activated, rather than by typing, and without having to “wake up” or turn on the device.
4. Doing so only after dark of 2nd day Yom Tov, when the first day of Yom Tov has ended”

In addition, it would be best to rely on video rather than written chats, where possible, in honoring the tradition of refraining from writing on Shabbat and Yom Tov, while still granting access to community and conversation.

See <https://www.ansheemet.org/> for a pre-recorded seder led by Rabbi Siegel and Hazzan Mizrahi

Upon request a free PDF of this excellent Hagaddah is available from the RA: <https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/form-download-feast-freedom-passover-haggadah-0>

Another free Haggadah resource with full transliterations is here: <https://jewishfreeware.org/?p=33>

Q: I have so much Hametz at home! Given the challenges and risks of grocery shopping, I don't want to get rid of it. What do I do?

A: On Pesach there are plenty of work-arounds. The basic idea is that you want to neither be in possession of nor see Hametz. So selling it (a useful legal fiction where you temporarily transfer ownership of the Hametz), closing it in a cabinet for the holiday, and saying the traditional prayer of “bitul” which rids you of responsibility not only for what you know of but also what you don't, is more than good enough.

Sell your Hametz [here](#)

<http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/sites/default/files/public/jewish-law/holidays/pesah/b-dikat-hameitz.pdf>

Q: I usually go to Anshe Emet to ceremonially burn my Hametz, what should I do this year?

A: The mitzvah on the morning before the seder (April 8th) is to take some Hametz and ceremonially destroy it and then say the attendant prayer. According to halakha, one can get rid of Hametz by: burning it; crumbling it and throwing it to the winds; crumbling it and throwing it into an ocean or river; (or even flushing it down the toilet) [Mishna Berura 445:5]. So this year, you might use a safe barbeque to burn Hametz, or you might flush some down the toilet.

<https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/sites/default/files/public/jewish-law/holidays/pesah/b-dikat-hameitz.pdf>

Q: I'm worried about spending too much time in a grocery store for Pesach shopping, and anyway, the products I'm used to are harder to come by. Should I treat this year differently than in the past?

A: This is a year to keep it simple: Many of our traditions in a normal year are more elaborate than necessary. Here are some examples from the Committee on Jewish Laws and Standards on the minimum necessary components of Seder shopping:

<https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/story/kashrut-subcommittee-recommendations-passover-5780-light-covid-19>

A few tips to keep in mind when purchasing food for the seder:

Matzah - One is obligated to avoid Hametz throughout Passover, but the obligation to eat matzah is limited to fulfilling the rituals of the first/second night seder alone. Therefore, communities should ensure that each home has at least enough matzah for each person to fulfill the obligation of *אכילת מצה*, eating matzah, for [each] seder. Think, basically, about one piece of matzah per person, per seder.

Karpas - Can be any vegetable. [In Israel, boiled potato is a common food for karpas]

Maror - If horseradish is not available, people are encouraged to find other vegetables or fruits that can bring a tear to the eye if consumed raw: hot peppers, fresh ginger, mustard greens, raw lemon. In Israel, romaine lettuce is commonly used as maror.

Egg and Roasted Shankbone on Seder Plate -- A roasted beet and rice (if consuming kitniyot) in place of the shankbone and egg.(Pesachim 114b)

Q: But grocery shopping is an issue not only for seder foods, but for the entire holiday? What can I do differently in an age of coronavirus?

A: The CJLS has produced a very helpful guide to the MANY products that do not require a Kosher for Passover symbol if purchased *before* Pesach. This year, when other options are less accessible, they have also guided us towards the ability to purchase many such products *during* Pesach as well.

<https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/story/kashrut-subcommittee-recommendations-passover-5780-light-covid-19>

Food requiring no Kosher for Passover certification no matter when purchased:

- Baking soda
- Pure bicarbonate of soda, without additives
- Eggs
- Fresh fruits and vegetables (including pre-washed bagged)
- Fresh or frozen kosher meat (other than chopped meat)

- Nestea (regular and decaffeinated)
- Pure black, green, or white tea leaves
- Unflavored tea bags
- Unflavored regular coffee
- Olive oils (and other pure oils)
- Whole or gutted fresh kosher fish
- Whole or half pecans (not pieces)
- Whole (unground) spices and nuts
- OU/Star-K Raisins
- Kosher wine
- Plain butter, either salted or unsalted
- Plain seltzer water

The following list of basic foods is ideally for pre-Passover purchasing food, but could extend, if determined necessary based on food supply shortages, and their likely production before Passover began, to purchase on Hol-HaMoed as well.

- All pure fruit juices
- Filleted fish
- Frozen fruit (no additives)
- Plain cheeses (without added flavor morsels)
- Non-iodized salt
- Pure white sugar (no additives)
- Quinoa (with nothing mixed in)* GF ideal
- White milk
- Some products sold by Equal Exchange Fair Trade Chocolate
- Frozen Vegetables (needs to be checked for possible hametz before cooking)
- Chopped meat
- Plain, non-flavored almond milk, rice milk, soy milk, cashew milk.
- Non-flavored Cream Cheese with ingredients of milk and cream, salt, stabilizers (xanthan and/or carob bean and/or guar gums)

- Non-flavored Yogurt with milk and bacteria, only (which are Lactobacillus bulgaricus and Streptococcus thermopiles).
- Canned Tuna with just tuna, water or oil, salt, and pyrophosphates
- 100% maple syrup
- 100% Agave
- Ground Salt and Peppers
- Plain (non-Flavored) Decaf Coffee
- Pure Honey
- Dried fruit, prunes only without potassium sorbate
- Canned vegetables/fruit with year-round hekhsher in which ingredients are the item itself, salt and water.

Requires Kosher for Passover label at any time:

- All baked goods
- Farfel
- Matzah
- Any product containing matzah
- Matzah flour
- Matzah meal
- Pesach cakes
- All frozen processed foods
- Candy
- Chocolate milk
- Herbal tea
- Decaffeinated Tea
- Ice cream
- Liquor
- Soda
- Vinegar
- Margarine

Q: I've never eaten kitniyot on Pesach before, but this year is so much harder, is it ok to eat kitniyot?

A: Actually, the Committee of Jewish Laws and Standards permitted eating kitniyot on Pesach to all Jews some years ago. This year they have gone even further:

“While the CJLS formally permitted Ashkenazim (who choose) to consume kitniyot in 2015, due to the unprecedented disruptions in the food supply, the CJLS encourages everyone to consider putting aside the Ashkenazic custom of eschewing legumes (beans and lentils), corn and rice, if only for Passover 5780 (2020).”

<https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/sites/default/files/assets/public/halakhah/teshuvot/2011-2020/Levin-Reisner-Kitniyot.pdf>