

The Four Questions

One of the main focal points of the traditional Passover seder is the *maggid*, the telling of the story of the Exodus from Egypt. This story begins with the youngest person at the seder asking the Four Questions (*Mah Nishtanah*). These questions provide the impetus for telling why this night is different from all other nights.

Learn more about the four questions and how they are sung at ReformJudaism.org/Passover.

מַה נִשְׁתַנָּה הַלַּיֶלָה הַזֶּה מִכָּל-הַלֵּילות

Mah nishtanah halailah hazeh mikol haleilot?

How is this night different from all other nights?

1. שַבָּכל-הַלֵּילוֹת אַנִוּ אוֹכְלִין חָמֵץ וּמַצָּה הַלַּיֵלָה הַוֹּה כְּלוֹ מַצָּה.

Sheb'chol haleilot anu ochlin chametz umatzah, halailah hazeh, kuloh matzah.

On all other nights, we eat chameitz and matzah. Why on this night, only matzah?

2. שֶׁבְּכֹל-הַלֵּילוֹת אָנְוּ אוֹכְלִין שְׁאָר יִרְקוֹת הַלַּיֵלָה הַזֶּה מָרוֹר.

Sheb'chol haleilot anu ochlin sh'ar y'rakot, halailah hazeh, maror.

On all other nights, we eat all vegetables. Why, on this night, maror?

3. שַבָּכל-הַלֵּילוֹת אֵין אָנוּ מַטִבִּילִין אַפִּילוּ פַּעַם אֶחָת הַלַּיֵלָה הַזֵּה שָׁתֵּי פִעָמִים

Sheb'chol haleilot ein anu matbilin afilu pa'am echat; halailah hazeh, sh'tei f'amim.

On all other nights, we don't dip even once. Why on this night do we dip twice?

ַ 4. שַׁבְּכל-הַלֵּילוֹת אָנְוּ אוֹכְלִין בֵּין יוֹשְׁבִין וּבֵין מְסֻבִּין הַלַּיֶלָה הַזֶּה כֻּלָנוּ מְסֻבִּין

Sheb'chol haleilot anu ochlin bein yoshvin uvein m'subin; halailah hazeh, kulanu m'subin.

On all other nights, we eat either sitting upright or reclining. Why on this night do we all recline?