

## An Incredibly Short Seder

**Step 1)** Light some candles.

**Step 2)** Drink a cup of wine, the first of four.

**Step 3)** Ask Four Questions:

*What's with the flat bread?*

We eat unleavened bread because the people fleeing Egypt didn't have time to let their bread rise.  
It's also tasty covered in chocolate.

*What's with all the stuff on this plate?*

The horseradish reminds us of the bitterness of slavery, the apples of the bricks and mortar that were produced, the saltwater of the tears of all those who are oppressed, the egg and parsley the rebirth of a people into spring. The orange is for inclusivity, because it "should not be here".

*Why all the pillows?*

We recline to remind us to savor our freedom, and to remind us that others are not yet free.

*When can we eat?*

Soon; but first, a story and some wine.

**Step 4)** Tell the story of Exodus

A long time ago, the Hebrews fled a famine and found refuge in the land of Egypt. See Jacob and the Technicolor Dreamcoat for more background on that story. After generations passed, a new Pharaoh saw the number of Hebrews in his land, and ordered them enslaved.

Afraid of a rebellion, Pharaoh decreed that all male Hebrew children be killed. One brave woman defied the order, placing her son in a basket and sending him floating down the river Nile. His sister Miriam followed the basket from the banks, until it was found by a princess, who drew him from the water. Miriam offered her mother as a wet-nurse, and Moses was raised as a prince of Egypt.

Although a child of privilege, as he grew he became aware of the slaves who worked in the brickyards of his father. When he saw an master beating a slave, he struck and killed him. Fearing retribution, he set out across the desert alone on a spirit quest in the Sinai.

He came upon a burning bush, which though it flamed was not consumed. A voice called him to lead his people to freedom. Moses argued, pleading inadequacy and difficulty speaking in public. The voice prevailed; sometimes our responsibilities choose us, like Spiderman.

Moses returned to Egypt and went to Pharaoh to argue against the injustice of slavery and for the freedom of his people. When refused, he warned that terrible things would happen, and ten plagues were unleashed upon the Egyptians. We spill a drop of our wine from our cup for each plague, to remind ourselves of the effect on the Egyptian people, and that their suffering diminishes our celebration.

*Blood, Frogs, Lice, Insects, Cattle plague, Boils, Hail, Locusts, Darkness, Death of the Firstborn*

A first born himself, Pharaoh acquiesced as the last plague began. The Hebrews fled, not waiting for their bread to rise. A “mixed multitude” of other slaves fled with them, reminding us that liberation is not for us alone, but for all the nations of the earth.

After the slaves fled, the plagues stopped. Pharaoh sent his army after them, to the edge of the Sea of Reeds. The freed people entered the water, having faith that they would escape their pursuers. The sea parted, pushed by an entirely rationally explainable wind. After they crossed to the other side, the wind stopped, and the army and chariots were swept beneath the waves.

We mourn even now that Pharaoh’s army drowned: our liberation is bittersweet because people died in pursuit. To this day we relive our liberation, that we may not become complacent, that we may always rejoice in the spread of freedom.

*Drink another cup of wine.*

**Step 5) Dayenu - It would have been enough**

A simple song in a round, to teach us not to take any single act of compassion for granted.



The image shows a musical score for the song "Dayenu". At the top, the word "DAYEINU" is written in a stylized font, flanked by two decorative flourishes. Below this, there are four staves of music in 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has the lyrics "I - lu ho-tzi ho - tzi - a - nu, ho - tzi a - nu mi - mitz - ra - yim,". The second staff has "ho - tzi - a - nu mi - mitz - ra - yim da - yei - nu." The third staff has "(Chorus) Da - da - yei - nu, da - da - yei - nu, da - da - yei - nu, da -". The fourth staff has "yei - nu da - yei - nu da - yei - nu. yei - nu da - yei - nu." There are first and second endings marked "1, 2" and a third ending marked "3.".

Had we been freed from the Egyptians without them suffering, it would have been enough!

*Drink another cup of wine.*

**Step 6) Eat and drink more wine.**