

The Four Questions ... *Ma Nishtanah* ... מה נשתנה

“When your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’
then tell them.” (Exodus 12:26)

Traditionally, the youngest child or children present at the seder, will ask the Four Questions:

*Ma nishtanah halailah hazeh
mikol haleylot?*

*Shebekhol haleylot anu okhlin khameytz
umatzah. Halailah hazeh kulo matzah?*

*Shebekhol haleylot anu okhlin she'ar
yerakot. Halailah hazeh kulo maror?*

*Shebekhol haleylot eyn anu matbilin
afilu pa'am ekhat.*

Halailah hazeh shtey f'amim?

*Shebekhol haleylot anu okhlin,
beyn yoshevin, uveyn mesubin,
Halailah hazeh kulanu mesubin?*

מה נשתנה הלילה הזה
מכל הלילות?

שבכל הלילות אנו אוכלין חמץ
ומצה, הלילה הזה כולו מצה.

שבכל הלילות אנו אוכלין שאר
ירקות, הלילה הזה [כולו] מרור.

שבכל הלילות אין אנו מטבילין,
אפילו פעם אחת,

הלילה הזה שתי פעמים.

שבכל הלילות אנו אוכלין
בין יושבין, ובין מסבין,
הלילה הזה כלנו מסבין.

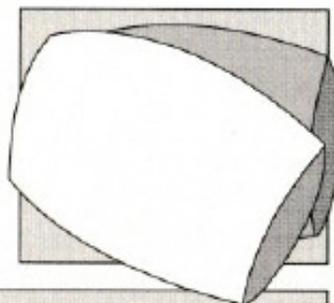
Why is this night different from all other nights?

- 1) On all other nights we eat either leavened bread or unleavened *matzah*.
On this night why do we eat only *matzah*?
- 2) On all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables.
On this night why do we eat only bitter herbs?
- 3) On all other nights we do not dip our vegetables even once.
On this night why do we dip them twice?
- 4) On all other nights we eat our meals sitting or reclining.
On this night why do we eat only reclining?

Leader

It is our responsibility, privilege, and duty to answer these questions at Passover, and to retell the story of God's redemptive faithfulness and of His mighty acts. All of these questions, and more, will be answered as we proceed through the order of our *Seder*.

Why Do We Recline? On all other nights we eat either sitting or reclining, but this night we eat reclining. The first Passover was celebrated by our people when they were still slaves. Back then, they ate the Passover in haste, while anticipating their imminent departure from the bondage of Egyptian slavery. Now, as free people, we can recline at our *Seder* — *Once we were slaves, but now we are free!*



At Messiah's Seder, Yeshua and His disciples also reclined during their *Seder*, according to the Passover custom and tradition:

‘The *talmidim* did as Yeshua directed and prepared the *Seder*. When evening came, Yeshua reclined with the twelve *talmidim*; and...they were eating.’

— see Matt. 26:19-20, CJB