



Enlighten America™ Passover Reading

(To be read after the Four Questions and the response)

While we are asking questions, let us ask ourselves how we can teach our children and remind ourselves to be grateful for the rights and freedoms we enjoy and make sure that all people enjoy this, no matter their race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, physical or mental challenges or political beliefs.

We recognize that this Seder is the means in which families transmit the traditions of our faith to the next generation. Children ask the four questions, and it is the parents who use the answers to teach our heritage.

The Exodus from Egypt is so critical to the heritage of the Jewish people that every year we retell this story of our liberation so that we are able to visualize ourselves as if we were also slaves in Egypt, enduring the similar hardships.

We remember that there have been other times during history that our people could not live as Jews, yet they held Seders to preserve their traditions and maintain their humanness. At the time of the Spanish Inquisition, Jewish families lived as Christians in public, but held Seders in secret. During the Holocaust, while fellow Jews were dying all around them, our people held Seders in ghettos and concentration camps at the risk of their lives.

As we enjoy freedom to be Jews, and to express ourselves, we must always strive to preserve that freedom for those around us. Recognizing that freedom depends upon mutual respect, I promise the following:

1. I will not engage in stereotyping based on a person's race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or physical or mental challenges.
2. I will refrain from telling jokes or using slang descriptions referring to a person's race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or physical or mental challenges. I recognize that, even though I may mean no disrespect, these words may be offensive to others.
3. If I hear friends engaging in these activities, I will ask them to stop.
4. I will respect equal rights and promote diversity and tolerance for everyone, no matter the person's race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or physical or mental challenges.
5. I will respect the political beliefs of other people and their right to have an opinion that may not be the same as mine.

