

# Maggid

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Source: <http://www.angelfire.com/pa2/passover>, <http://kosher4passover.com/4questions.htm>

**Leader:** We cannot eat the Seder meal until the story of Passover is told. This next section is called 'Maggid', which means 'Narrator', or 'Preacher'. In it we explore the reasons for the Passover holiday, culminating in a retelling of the story of the Exodus from Egypt. We begin with a question:

**Reader:** Why is this night different from all other nights?

**Reader:** Why is it that on all other nights during the year we eat either bread or matzoh, but on this night we eat only matzoh?

**Leader:** Matzoh reminds us that when the Jews were fleeing slavery in Egypt, they had no time to wait for their bread to rise, and so took them out of their ovens while they were still flat.

**Reader:** Why is it that on all other nights we eat all kinds of herbs, but on this night we eat only bitter herbs?

**Leader:** We eat only Maror, a bitter herb, to remind us of the bitterness of slavery that our ancestors endured while in Egypt.

**Reader:** Why is it that on all other nights we do not dip our herbs even once, but on this night we dip them twice?

**Leader:** We dip twice - Karpas in salt water, and Maror in Charoset. The first dip, green vegetables in salt water, symbolizes the replacing of tears with gratefulness, and the second dip, Maror in Charoset, symbolizes sweetening the burden of bitterness and suffering to lessen its pain.

**Reader:** Why is it that on all other nights we eat either sitting or reclining, but on this night we eat in a reclining position?

**Leader:** We recline at the Seder table because in ancient times, a person who reclined at a meal symbolized a free person, free from slavery, and so we recline in our chairs at the Passover Seder table to remind ourselves of the glory of freedom.