

# The Four Children - Every child should be taught in his way (Proverbs)

Contributed by [Michael Ruckenstein](#)

Source:

**BLESSED** be God

Blessed be He

Blessed be the Giver of the Torah to the people Israel

Blessed be He.

**THE TORAH** alludes to Four Children:

One Wise, One Wicked, One Simple,

One Who Does Not Know How to Ask.



### What does the wise child say?

"What are the testimonies, the statutes, and the laws which the Lord your God has commanded you?" (*Deut. 6:20*).

You must tell this child some of the laws of Pesach (from the Mishna):

"We do not proceed to any *afikoman* (dessert or after dinner celebrations) after eating the Pesach lamb" (*Pesachim X*).

### What does the wicked child say?

"Whatever does this service mean to you?" (*Exodus 12:26*).

This child emphasizes the meaning of the seder to "you" and not to the child's own self! Since the child excludes himself or herself from the community and rejects a major principle of faith, you should "set that child's teeth on edge" and say:

"It is because of this, that the Lord did for me when I went free from Egypt" (*Exodus 13:8*).

"Me" and not *that child*! Had *that child* been there, he or she would not have been redeemed.

### What does the simple child ask?

"What is this?" (*Exodus 13:14*).

And you shall say to that child:

"By a mighty hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

As for the child who does not know how to ask, you should prompt that child, as it is said: "You shall tell your child on that day, saying:"

"It is because of this, that the Lord did for me when I went free from Egypt" (*Ex 13:8*).



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**בְּרוּךְ הַמָּקוֹם.**

**בְּרוּךְ הוּא.**

**בְּרוּךְ שֶׁנָּתַן תּוֹרָה לְעַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל.**

**בְּרוּךְ הוּא.**

**פִּנְגָד אַרְבַּעַה בְּנִים דְּבִרְהַ תּוֹרָה.**

**אֶחָד חָכָם, וְאֶחָד רָשָׁע, וְאֶחָד תָּם,**

**וְאֶחָד שְׂאִינוּ יוֹדֵעַ לְשְׂאוֹל.**

### חָכָם מַה הוּא אוֹמֵר?

"מַה הָעֵדוּת וְהַחֻקִּים וְהַמִּשְׁפָּטִים, אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֲתָכֶם?" (דְּבָרִים ו, כ)

וְאִף אֶתָּה אָמַרְ-לוֹ כְּהַלְכוֹת הַפֶּסַח: אִין מִפְּטִירִין אַחַר הַפֶּסַח אֲפִיקוֹמֶן. (מִשְׁנָה, פֶּסַחִים פֶּרֶק י')

### רָשָׁע מַה הוּא אוֹמֵר?

"מַה הָעֲבֹדָה הַזֹּאת לָכֶם?" (שְׁמוֹת יב, כו)  
 "לָכֶם" וְלֹא "לוֹ"!

וְלִפִּי שְׁהוֹצִיא אֶת עַצְמוֹ מִן הַקָּלָל, וְכִפַּר בְּעֶקֶר, אִף אֶתָּה הִקְהֵה אֶת שְׁנֵיו, וְאָמַר לוֹ: "בְּעֶבְרִית זֶה, עֲשֵׂה יי לִי, בְּצִאתִי מִמִּצְרַיִם" (שְׁמוֹת יג, ח).

"לִי" וְלֹא "לוֹ". אֱלוֹ הִיָּה שָׁם, לֹא הִיָּה נִגְאָל.

### תָּם מַה הוּא אוֹמֵר?

"מַה זֹאת?" (שְׁמוֹת יג, יד)

וְאָמַרְתָּ אֵלָיו:

בְּחֹזֶק יָד הוֹצִיאָנוּ יי מִמִּצְרַיִם מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים."

### וְשְׂאִינוּ יוֹדֵעַ לְשְׂאוֹל?

אֶת פֶּתַח לוֹ. שְׁנֵאֲמַר: "וְהִגַּדְתָּ לְבִנְךָ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לֵאמֹר:

'בְּעֶבְרִית זֶה עֲשֵׂה יי לִי, בְּצִאתִי מִמִּצְרַיִם.'" (שְׁמוֹת יג, ח)