

# The Afikoman

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Source:

The first reference to the Afikoman is the talmudic warning not to serve fancy desserts or go partying after partaking in the Passover meal (Epikomos). Afikoman was what you *were not* supposed to do - go from party to party carousing. Eventually, however, afikoman became something you *had to have*- a piece of matzah that would be the final thing you ate at the completion of the meal. Originally, a piece of the Passover lamb was the last thing eaten. Over time, matzah came to represent the Paschal lamb and the Afikomen became a small piece of matzah. So matzah, which began the meal as The *Bread of Affliction*, is transformed by our recreation of the Exodus, into the *Bread of Redemption*.