

Breaking the Middle Matzah

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Source:

8. *YAHATZ-Breaking the middle matzah*

The smaller portion becomes our symbolic Lechem Oe-nee (bread of oppression) and the larger portion is wrapped in a napkin and becomes our AFIKOMAN (dessert). It will be hidden and hopefully found and returned after the meal and shared with everyone.

The Afikoman reminds us that long ago the special gifts brought to the Temple in Jerusalem were shared. No matter where people live, sharing bread is a way of saying, "You are my friend." It is also a way of sharing what we have with others who may not have as much.

RECITE: *In haste we went out of Mizrayim (Egypt)*

Commentary:

Why do we break the middle matzah and not the top matzah? We save the top matzah for the blessing we will make over matzah just before the meal.

Why do we save the larger half for later? Poor people and slaves do not necessarily know when they will have their next meal. Thus they eat a small amount and save the rest for later.