

Hillel Sandwich, Wikipedia Entry

Contributed by [Ilana Percher](#)

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hillel_the_Elder#Hillel.27s_sandwich

Hillel's sandwich

During the [Passover Seder](#) (the annual commemoration of the Exodus from Egypt), one re-enacts ancient customs in the [Haggadah](#). In the section of *Korech*, or '[sandwich](#)', participants are instructed to place bitter herbs between two pieces of [matzo](#) and eat them after saying in Hebrew: *This is a remembrance of Hillel in Temple times—This is what Hillel did when the Temple existed: He enwrapped the Paschal lamb, the matzo and the bitter herbs to eat them as one, in fulfillment of the verse, "with matzot and [maror](#) they shall eat it."* (Numbers 9:11) This sandwich apparently refers to traditional soft matzot rather than modern crisp matzot, and so would have borne a striking resemblance to a modern [shawarma](#).^[12] In modern times, when there is no [paschal lamb](#), [Ashkenazi](#) practice is to emulate this by making a matzo, maror, (horseradish or lettuce) sandwich. [Philo](#) has called this sandwich a "moral migration from wickedness to virtue. Repentant sinners at first brood bitterly ([maror](#)) over their past misdeeds. Then [matzah](#), the healing food, brings them to humility and contentment."^[12]