

The Story of Passover

Contributed by [Old Forgotten Art Found](#)

Source:

Our story starts in ancient times, with Abraham, the first person to have the idea that maybe all those little statues his contemporaries worshiped as gods were just statues. The idea of one G-d, invisible and all-powerful, inspired him to leave his family and begin a new people in Canaan, the land that would one day bear his grandson Jacob's adopted name, Israel.

G-d had made a promise to Abraham that his family would become a great nation, but this promise came with a frightening vision of the troubles along the way: "Your descendants will dwell for a time in a land that is not their own, and they will be enslaved and afflicted for four hundred years; however, I will punish the nation that enslaved them, and afterwards they shall leave with great wealth."

Raise the glass of wine and say:

וְהִיא שֶׁ־אָמְדָה לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ וְלָנוּ

V'hi she-amda l'avoteinu v'lanu.

This promise has sustained our ancestors and us.

For not only one enemy has risen against us to annihilate us, but in every generation there are those who rise against us. But G-d saves us from those who seek to harm us.

The glass of wine is put down.

In the years of life in Egypt, our numbers grew, and soon the family of Jacob became the People of Israel. Pharaoh and the leaders of Egypt grew alarmed by this great nation growing within their borders, so they chose to enslave. Hard labor was demanded, perhaps even building pyramids. The Egyptians feared that even as slaves, the Israelites might grow strong and rebel. So Pharaoh decreed that Israelite baby boys should be drowned, to prevent the Israelites from overthrowing those who had enslaved them.

But G-d heard the cries of the Israelites. And G-d brought them out of Egypt with a strong hand and outstretched arm, with great awe, miraculous signs and wonders. G-d brought them out not by angel or messenger, but through G-d's own intervention.