

Nirtzah

Contributed by [Old Forgotten Art Found](#)

Source:

Nirtzah marks the conclusion of the seder. Our bellies are full, we have had several glasses of wine, we have told stories and sung songs, and now it is time for the evening to come to a close. At the end of the seder, we honor the tradition of declaring, "Next year in Jerusalem!"

To some, "Next year in Jerusalem!" is an affirmation of hope and of connectedness with Klal Yisrael, the whole of the Jewish community. Still others perceive in this declaration a yearning for peace in Israel and for all those living in the Diaspora.

Though it comes at the end of the seder, this moment also marks a beginning. We are beginning the next season with a renewed awareness of the freedoms we enjoy and the obstacles we must still confront. We are looking forward to the time that we gather together again. Having retold stories of the Jewish people, recalled historic movements of liberation, and reflected on the struggles people still face for freedom and equality, we are ready to embark on a mission, the rescuing of art stolen from the Jewish people during World War II, that we hope will bring positive change in the world and freedom to people everywhere.

In The Leader's Guide to the Family Participation Haggadah: A Different Night, Rabbi David Hartman writes: "Passover is the night for reckless dreams; for visions about what a human being can be, what society can be, what people can be, what history may become."

What can we do to fulfill our dreams of returning art to the Jewish people? What will be our legacy for future generations?

Our seder is over, according to Jewish tradition and law. As we had the pleasure to gather for a seder this year, we hope to once again have the opportunity in the years to come. We pray that G-d brings health and healing to Israel and all the people of the world, especially those impacted by the Shoah. As we say...

לְשָׁנָה הַבָּאָה בִּירוּשָׁלַיִם

L'shana haba-ah biy'rushalayim

NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!