

Karpas

Contributed by [Joseph Slifka Center](#)

Source: The Journey Continues: The Ma'yan Passover Haggadah

Long before the struggle upward begins, there is tremor in the seed. Self-protection cracks, roots reach down and grab hold. The seed swells, and tender shoots push up toward light. This is karpas: spring awakening growth. A force so tough it can break stone.

And why do we dip *karpas* into salt water?

To remember the sweat and tears of our ancestors in bondage.

To taste the bitter tears of our earth, unable to fully renew itself this spring because of our waste, neglect, and greed.

To feel the sting of society's refusal to celebrate the blossoming of women's bodies and the full range of our capacity for love.

To remind us that tears stop. Spring comes. And with it the potential for change.

~~~

*Dip the karpas into the salt water.*

~~~

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָאֲדָמָה

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam, borei p'ri ha'adamah.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who creates the fruit of the earth.