

False Start

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Source: <http://www.ritualwell.org/ritual/urchatz-%E2%80%94-dip-hands>

The beginning of the *seder* seems strange. We start with *kiddush* as we normally would when we begin any festive meal. Then we wash, but without a blessing, and break bread without eating it.

What's going on here?

It seems that the beginning of the *seder* is kind of a false start. We act as if we are going to begin the meal but then we realize that we can't – we can't really eat this meal until we understand it, until we tell the story of the exodus from Egypt. So we interrupt our meal preparations with *maggid* (telling the story). Only once we have told the story do we make *kiddush* again, wash our hands again (this time with a blessing) and break bread and eat it! In order to savor this meal, in order to appreciate the sweet taste of Passover, we must first understand it.