

The Questions

Contributed by [Jewish Guy](#)

Source:

[It is traditional for the youngest person at a seder to ask four questions. (It's actually one question with four answers.) We know the question, and we know the answers, but we ask anyway because there is always something to learn. No matter how "wise" we become, we must remember to question.]

[The youngest child chants the Four Questions:]

מה גשמינה הלילה הזה מכל הלילות?

שבכל הלילות אנו אוכלין חמץ ומצה. הלילה הזה קלו מצה:

שבכל הלילות אנו אוכלין שאר ירקות הלילה הזה מרור:

שבכל הלילות אין אנו מטבילין אפילו פעם אחת. הלילה הזה שתי פעמים:

שבכל הלילות אנו אוכלין בין יושבין ובין מסבין. הלילה הזה קלנו מסבין:

Mah nishtanah halaila hazeh mikol halaylot?

Shebakhhol halaylot anu okhleen khamaytz u'matzah, halaila hazeh kulo matzah.

Shebakhhol halaylot anu okhleen sh'ahr y'rakot, halaila hazeh maror.

Shebakhhol halaylot ayn anu matbeeleen afeelu pa'am akhat, halaila hazeh sh'tay f'ameem.

Shebakhhol halaylot anu okh'leen beyn yoshveen u'vayn m'subeen, halaila hazeh kulanu

m'subeen.

Why is tonight different from all other nights?

1.

On all other nights we may eat either leavened bread or matzah; tonight, only matzah, that we may recall the unleavened bread our ancestors baked in haste.

2.

On all other nights we need not taste bitterness; tonight, we eat bitter herbs, that we may recall the suffering of slavery.

3.

On all other nights we needn't dip our food in condiments even once; tonight we dip twice, in saltwater to remember our tears when we were enslaved, and in haroset to remember the mortar and the bricks which we made.

4.

On all other nights we eat sitting up; tonight, we recline, to remind ourselves to savor our

liberation.

...and 5.

In addition to the Four Questions, tonight we ask ourselves a fifth:

We are commanded to celebrate as if each one of us were personally liberated from Egypt. In the next year, how do you hope to bring yourself closer to freedom?