

Yachatz

Contributed by [Progressive Jewish Alliance](#)

Source:

Breaking the matzah

There are three pieces of matzah stacked on the table. We now break the middle matzah into two pieces. The host should wrap up the larger of the pieces and, at some point between now and the end of dinner, hide it. This piece is called the afikomen, literally "dessert." After dinner, the guests will have to hunt for the afikomen.

Reader 1: Ha lachma anya—this is the bread of affliction.At the seder we begin as slaves. We eat matzah, the bread of affliction, which leaves us hungry and longing for redemption. It reminds us of a time when we couldn't control what food was available to us, but ate what we could out of necessity. The matzah enables us to taste slavery— to imagine what it means to be denied our right to live free and healthy lives.

Let us declare:

Kol dichfin yeitei v'yeichol—let all who are hungry, come and eat.As we sit at our seder and contemplate our people's transition from slavery to freedom, let us hope for a time when all who are hungry will eat as free people.

Hashata avdei—this year we are still slaves. Leshanah haba'ah b'nei chorin—next year we will be free people.