

## Revenge of Dinah: Urchatz

Contributed by [JUF Chicago / DePaul - Research Training Internship](#)

**Source:** Revenge of Dinah: A Feminist Seder on Rape Culture in the Jewish Community

**Leader:** Women in biblical times to modern day have been subject to harsh standards, subordination, and violence. Yet it is in the waters that Miriam and Batya find empowerment, the ability to purify their minds of old pains and memories. Tonight, not only do we clean our hands, but we also cleanse our spirits, following the steps left by these two women. In facing the dark truth of dismissed oppressions, Urchatz is a chance to take a mental pause in order to refresh before delving into a reality of discomfort and tragedy.

***We read together:** Water flows.*

**Leader:** It is the current of the Nile, carrying a young Moses from the hands of his sister Miriam to those of Batya, Pharaoh's daughter. The two face opposite directions—one the enslaved and the other the enslaver—yet they stand together, connected by this omnipresent stream.

***Together:** Water cleanses.*

**Leader:** The wounds of labor and fear, expectation and hardship are washed away in the Nile. Miriam is no longer only a sister; Batya is no longer simply a daughter. They are women of action, transgressing the decrees of patriarchy.

***Together:** Water revives.*

**Leader:** Immersed in the essential simplicity of clear water, we, too, emerge with strength and renewal. From our palms and through our fingertips over the waters of ancient Egypt; we are reminded that a world of equality cannot yet be held. It will take the hands of many to sustain.

***Together:** One day, the sacred waters of our ancestors—powerful, brave, pulsing—will wash over the oppressions of the world.*

*Pass a pitcher and a bowl of water around the table, offering to wash the hands of a guest next to you. Remember to ask for consent. In Aramaic, the sister language of Hebrew, "urchatz" translates to "trust." Establishing trust through consent is an integral part of creating a stronger community.*