

# Bookmark/Blessing

Contributed by [Society for Humanistic Judaism](#)

Source:

## Passover Haggadah Bookmark

### A Fifth Question for Your *Passover Seder*

*On all other nights, we seek a  
truthful understanding of our world.  
Why, on this night,  
do we claim myth as history?*

Many Jews would agree that the Passover story could not have happened as described in the Book of Exodus. Yet even secular Jews retell the story, not because we believe it is history, but because of its history. It's a foundational story. It represents the forging of a people who have endured to this day against seemingly insurmountable odds. It connects us to our family and ancestors who have told the same story for three thousand years. And it raises challenging questions that help us evolve as thoughtful and compassionate people.

Our "remembered" suffering makes us more sensitive to the suffering of others. We "welcome the stranger because we were once strangers in the land of Egypt."

#### A Story of Meaning for All People

The journey from slavery to freedom is a universal message and we thank those who travel with us. In the Torah's mythical narrative, a "mixed multitude" joined the Israelites at Mount Sinai. Moses' wife Zipporah was not an Israelite and her father Jethro, a Midianite priest, provided such wise counsel that a portion of Exodus is named in his honor. Let's learn from Moses' intermarried family that love is more powerful than hate and all are welcome at our Passover Seder.



## A Secular Humanistic *Passover Blessing*

*This can be recited as we light the  
candles to begin the Passover Seder  
and to celebrate the arrival of spring:*

*Blessed is the light in the world.  
Blessed is the light within humanity.  
Blessed is the light of Passover.*

*Barukh ha-or ba-olam.      ברוך האור בעולם*  
*Barukh ha-or ba-adam.      ברוך האור באדם*  
*Barukh ha-or ba-Pesakh.      ברוך האור בפסח*

*If this blessing is different or new to you:  
Judaism is a constantly evolving  
conversation, practice, and identity.*

*This text has been used by tens of  
thousands of Jews over the past fifty years.*

Secular Humanistic Judaism celebrates Jewish history, culture, holidays, and lifecycle events through a human-centered philosophy of life. Learn more at [www.SHJ.org](http://www.SHJ.org).

### Society for Humanistic Judaism



For more information or to get involved, please contact:

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