

## CHILDREN

# Four Children

Contributed by [Rebecca](#)

Source: unclear

(to the tune of "Clementine")

1. Said the father to his children  
At the seder you will dine  
You will eat your fill of matzah  
You will drink four cups of wine.

2. Now this father had no daughters  
But his sons, they numbered four  
One was wise and one was wicked  
One was simple and a bore.

3. And the fourth was sweet and winsome  
He was young and he was small  
While his brothers asked the questions  
He could scarcely speak at all.

4. Said the wise son to his father  
"Would you please explain the laws  
Or the customs of the Seder  
Will you please explain the cause?"

5. And the father proudly answered,  
"As our fathers ate in speed,  
Ate the Paschal lamb 'ere midnight  
And from slavery were freed."

6. "So we follow their example  
And 'ere midnight must complete  
All the Seder; and we should not  
After twelve remain to eat."

7. Then did sneer the son so wicked  
"What does all this mean to you?"  
And the father's voice was bitter  
As his grief and anger grew.

8. If yourself you don't consider  
As a son of Israel  
Then for you this has no meaning  
You could be a slave as well."

9. Then the simple son said softly,  
"What is this?" and quietly

The good father told his offspring  
"We were freed from slavery."

10. But the youngest son was silent  
For he could not ask at all.  
And his eyes were bright with wonder  
As his father told him all.

11. Now dear children, heed the lesson  
And remember ever more  
What the father told his children  
Told his sons who numbered four.