

# Two Cups: Elijah and Miriam

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What was the seder table when we only had Elijah's cup?  
Incomplete.

We open the door for Elijah,  
Angry prophet of the world to come.  
And we ask God to pay attention  
To the fire from the sky that was Elijah's gift.  
Regretted necessity.  
Elijah announces the Moshiach  
Who then saves the Jews!  
Elijah, the bringer of justice.  
When you open the door don't just say the prayer  
Read the translation,  
It's a little scary  
So invite that in.  
Bring the anger, bring the plagues  
Sometimes we need them,  
It's part of the story.  
We were slaves in Egypt and it was horrible.  
But  
If there is a child at the table  
Let her open the door for Uncle Elijah  
And hope that there's some wind tonight  
And when it blows  
Tell her that's Elijah as he comes inside  
Visiting each Jewish home on Pesach  
To have his cup of wine.  
And when the child sits back down  
Jiggle the table just a little  
And tell her to watch the wine shake in the cup  
So the kid thinks Elijah is there, taking a sip.  
The anger will wait.  
We lift Miriam's cup,  
Dancing prophet celebrating the world that is now.  
And we tell God we are grateful  
For the water from the earth that was Miriam's gift,  
Welcome necessity,  
On God's behalf.  
Miriam announces joy!  
And teaches us to save ourselves.  
Miriam, the bringer of mercy,  
There's no prayer for her in the haggadah-  
So make one up!  
It's a little scary  
But what the heck.  
Bring up the water, start the party  
Sometimes we need it  
And it's part of the story:  
We were slaves in Egypt and now we are free.  
But  
If there is a child at the table  
Let him take a sip from Miriam's cup,  
If all the talking makes him thirsty,  
And while he drinks  
Tell him about Miriam the artist  
Singing MiChamochah on the Red Sea Shore  
Making sure we have fun at the table.  
And when the child is finished  
Remember that Miriam was a truth teller  
And for that the prophet paid a heavy price

Make sure the kid respects Miriam, and values her water.  
The fun will wait.

So together on the seder table  
Fire and Water,  
Justice and Mercy,  
Tzedek v' Rachameem.  
The cup of wine to stir the flame  
The cup of water to quench it.  
Only with both cups are we complete.  
So for all this,  
Baruch Atah Adonai,  
Brucha At Shechinah  
Elijah and Miriam  
We are blessed this Pesach night.  
Amen.