



Tips & Halachos for a Successful Seder

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Tips

- The Pesach Seder is primarily a tool for learning. Everyone must leave the Seder table feeling that it was a positive experience.
- Everyone should be well rested and not overly hungry.
- No matter what happens (spills, etc.), no sharp words should be used on this night. Everything said should be sweet and gentle.
- Important – For those who have children “stealing” the Afikomen, the system should be set up in advance so that every child will get the same prize.

Halachic Issues

- All food and drink containers should be opened before Yom Tov.
- One bottle of each type of wine or grape juice which will be used during the evening should be on the table during Kiddush to avoid questions about needing to say the bracha of הטוב והמטיב.
- Many children end the night without having their 4 questions answered. Therefore, it is advisable that after saying the paragraph עבדים היינו, one should tell the children, “Here is the short answer to your 4 questions.”
 - Why Maror?
To remember the bitter life we had as slaves in Mitzrayim.
 - Why Matzah, leaning and dipping?
To remember that we left in a hasty manner and became free noble people who lean and dip.
- Women are required, at a minimum, to do all of the required eating and drinking and to read the following parts of the Haggadah:
 - The paragraph of עבדים היינו;
 - The 10 Makkos;
 - From Rabban Gamliel to the end of Hallel and Nirtzah
- In the same vein, the Biblical directive of והגדת לבנך applies equally to daughters and to sons.
- If one is very hungry and thinks he will have difficulty concentrating at the Seder, then after Kiddush and before Karpas he may eat a small snack of fruit or fish and say the bracha of בורא נפשות before continuing.
- If a person has a hard time staying awake, he can have in mind during the first bracha of פרי הגפן of Kiddush that he is exempting other drinks until the second כוס. He may then drink coffee or orange juice in the interim.
- Before washing for the Hamotzi, every person should be given the required amount for the mitzvah of Matzah. Then, after the washing and brachos, one should give each person a small piece from both the top and middle Matzos.
- Charoses is not meant to be eaten with the Maror. One dips the Maror into Charoses and then shakes off any Charoses that might have remained on Maror. 🍷