



# THE TRIBE SCRIBE

PESACH: WINE IS THIS NIGHT DIFFERENT?

MA NISHTANA HALAYLA HAZEH...

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THE YOUNGEST PERSON AT THE SEDER STARTS THE ACTION BY ASKING THE FOUR QUESTIONS - MA NISHTANA. BUT I HAVE A QUESTION ON THOSE QUESTIONS...

IN MA NISHTANA WE START THE DISCUSSION OF THE THEMES OF SEDER NIGHT, SLAVERY AND FREEDOM. WE ASK ABOUT THE MATZA RATHER THAN BREAD, WE MENTION THE BITTER HERBS, WE ASK ABOUT DIPPING AND LEANING - ALL THE THINGS THAT WE'RE DOING DIFFERENTLY TONIGHT.

AND THAT'S EXACTLY THE POINT! TO GET THE CONVERSATION GOING ABOUT WHAT IS DIFFERENT AND WHY. THIS HELPS US TALK ABOUT WHY WE ARE DOING ALL THESE WEIRD THINGS AND THE STORY OF OUR ANCESTORS COMING OUT OF EGYPT ON THIS VERY NIGHT.

SO, IF WE ASK ABOUT THE THINGS THAT ARE DIFFERENT, WHY ISN'T THERE A QUESTION ABOUT THE 4 CUPS OF WINE? I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT AS WELL AS NOT LEANING OR EATING BITTER HERBS AT A REGULAR SUPPER, I'M NOT ONE TO HAVE 4 GLASSES OF WINE!

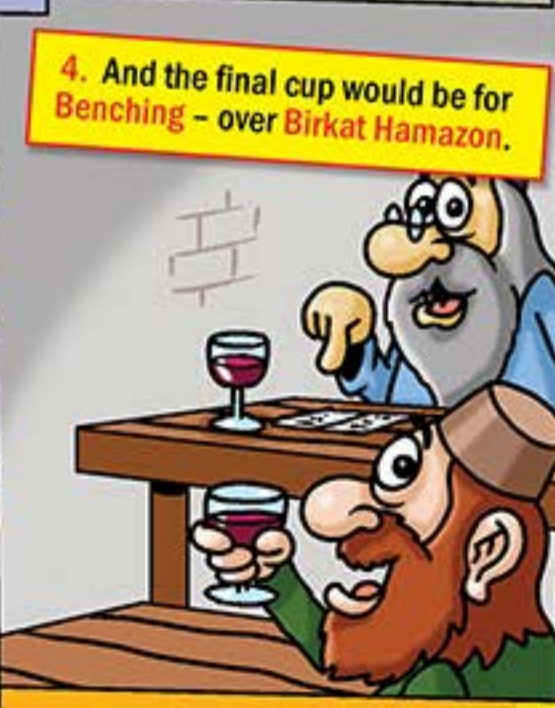
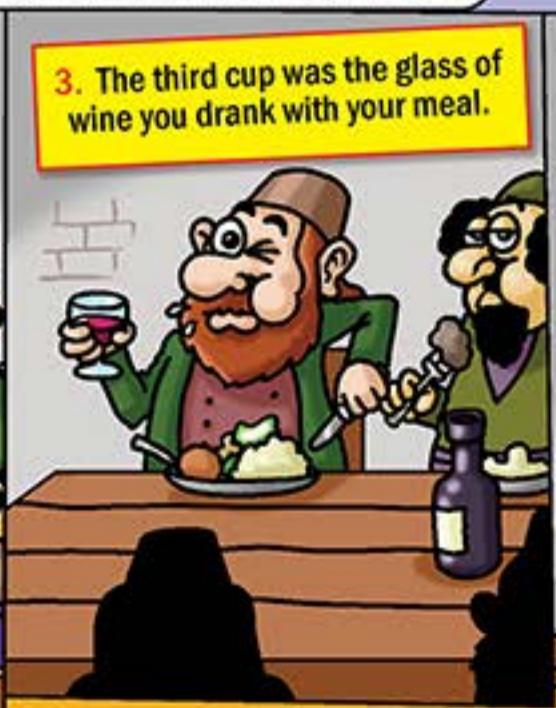
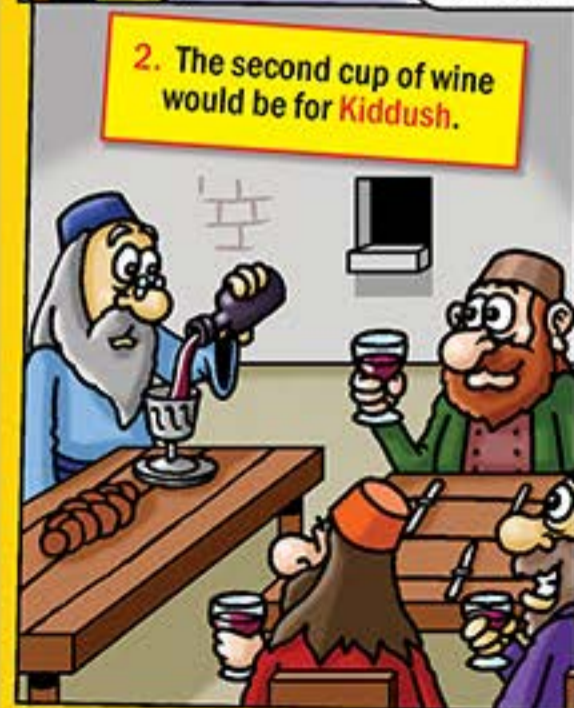
NO NEED TO WHINE DAN, THERE'S A GOOD ANSWER TO THAT. RABBI REUVEN MARGOLIES (1889 - 1971) EXPLAINS THAT 4 GLASSES OF WINE WOULD NOT HAVE APPEARED STRANGE TO ANYONE ATTENDING A FORMAL DINNER WHEN THE HAGGADAH WAS COMPILED DURING THE GAONIC PERIOD (8TH - 9TH CENTURIES CE). LET'S HAVE A LOOK WHY...

1. A glass of wine would be offered when you entered, perhaps at the reception.

2. The second cup of wine would be for Kiddush.

3. The third cup was the glass of wine you drank with your meal.

4. And the final cup would be for Benching - over Birkat Hamazon.



Page Editor: Rabbi Nicky Goldmeier Writer: Shira Chaik Cartoonist: Paul Solomons

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PESACH 2: MAKE IT HAPPEN!

WE ALL KNOW THAT PESACH AND ESPECIALLY THE SEDER, IS A TIME WHEN WE REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR ANCESTORS IN EGYPT. BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT THE FIRST EVER SEDER TOOK PLACE WHILE THE JEWS WERE STILL IN EGYPT?



HANG ON A SEC! I THOUGHT THE SEDER WAS A TIME WHEN WE CELEBRATE FREEDOM?! HOW COULD THE JEWS CELEBRATE FREEDOM IN A PLACE OF SLAVERY? HOW DOES THAT MAKE SENSE!?

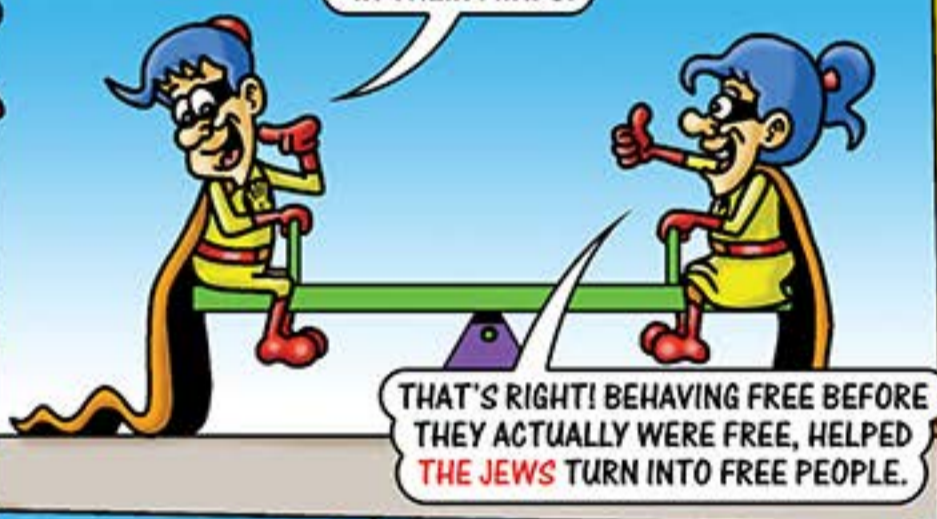


HEAR ME OUT DAN! GOD TOLD THE JEWS TO HAVE THE SEDER THEN, BECAUSE HE WANTED THEM TO EXPERIENCE A TASTE OF FREEDOM BEFORE THEY ACTUALLY BECAME FREE.

THAT NIGHT BEFORE THEY LEFT EGYPT, THE JEWISH PEOPLE DECIDED TO LISTEN TO GOD.



I THINK I'M STARTING TO GET IT... BY MAKING THEIR OWN CHOICES, THE JEWISH PEOPLE STARTED TO FEEL FREE IN THEIR MINDS.



THAT'S RIGHT! BEHAVING FREE BEFORE THEY ACTUALLY WERE FREE, HELPED THE JEWS TURN INTO FREE PEOPLE.

NOT ONLY DID IT WORK FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE 3334 YEARS AGO, BUT IT CAN WORK FOR US TOO, TODAY IN THE 21ST CENTURY. SOMETIMES, INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN TO US, WE CAN START THE PROCESS OURSELVES.



ABSOLUTELY! THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THERE IS OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO TAKE CONTROL AND USE IT TO BECOME THE VERY BEST VERSION OF OURSELVES.



CHAG SAMEACH!



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