

מַה נִּשְׁתַּנָּה

Ma Nishtanah – Four Questions

We say these questions during the Passover seder.

Ma Nishtanah means what are the differences.

It has become tradition for the children at the seder to lead everyone in reciting or singing these questions. By pausing the seder to recognize the ways in which this night is special, we bring more meaning to the holiday.

מַה נִּשְׁתַּנָּה הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה מִכָּל הַלַּיְלוֹת

Ma nishtanah halailah hazeh mikol haleilot?

How is this night different from all other nights?

שֶׁבְּכָל הַלַּיְלוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין חֲמֵץ וּמַצָּה הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה
כִּלּוֹ מַצָּה

Sheb'chol haleilot anu ochlin chametz u'matzah, halailah hazeh, kulo matzah.

On all other nights, we eat all kinds of bread and matzah. Why on this night, only matzah?

שֶׁבְּכָל הַלַּיְלוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין שְׂאֵר יְרָקוֹת הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה
מָרוֹר

Sheb'chol haleilot anu ochlin sh'ar y'rakot, halailah hazeh, maror.

On all other nights, we eat all vegetables. Why, on this night, maror?

שְׁבֹכַל הַלַּיְלוֹת אֵין אָנוּ מִטְבִּילִין אֶפְּיִלוּ פַּעַם אַחַת
הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה שְׁתֵּי פְעָמִים

Sheb'chol haleilot ein anu matbilin afilu pa'am echat; halailah hazeh, sh'tei f'ameem.

On all other nights, we don't dip even once. Why on this night do we dip twice?

שְׁבֹכַל הַלַּיְלוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין בֵּין יוֹשְׁבִין וּבֵין מְסֻבִּין
הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה כָּלָנוּ מְסֻבִּין

Sheb'chol haleilot anu ochlin bein yoshvin uvein m'subin; halailah hazeh, kulanu m'subin.

On all other nights, we eat either sitting upright or reclining. Why on this night do we all recline?