

What's on the Seder Plate?

Although the history of the Seder goes back thousands of years, each item on the Seder Plate still has deep significance to our personal lives today.

EGG

Reminds us to **mourn** that we can no longer offer the **Korban Chagigah** (Holiday sacrifice) since we no longer have the Temple. An egg is a sign of **mourning** because it is round, symbolizing the cycle of life from birth to death.

We yearn for God to **redeem us from our present exile** so that we will be able to serve God in the most optimal way.

LETTUCE

A form of Marror. Lettuce is not always bitter, but **it can become hard and bitter** if left in the ground for too long before being harvested. This hardening process parallels the **transformation in attitude** that the Egyptians had toward the Jews: Just as lettuce starts out soft and ends up hard and bitter, so too, the Egyptians originally welcomed Jacob and the Jewish people to Egypt with open arms, but **later turned their backs on the Jewish people** and subjected them to backbreaking labor.

The lettuce reminds us to remain **loyal and appreciative** toward the people who help us. We should not be like the Egyptians and the lettuce, which are soft at first but later become hard and bitter.

ROASTED BONE

Reminds us of the **Korban Pesach** (Paschal Lamb) that was eaten at the seder in the times of the Temple. Since we no longer have our Temple, we can't offer the Korban Pesach any more, and we don't eat this meat, either.

The Korban Pesach was **roasted** because roasted meat is considered something eaten only by **royals**; poor people are more likely to just boil their meat. The Korban Pesach reminds us to celebrate that God elevated us from a nation of slaves to a **holy nation of royalty**. We are not just regular people, we are **children of the King!**

CHAROSET

A mixture of apples, cinnamon, nuts, and wine. Its appearance reminds us of the **bricks and mortar** the Jews used in Egypt.

We dip the bitter Marror into the Charoset to sweeten the bitterness of the Marror. This is a reminder that we can always find a **spark of goodness** and something to appreciate within every challenge we face in life. Every dark cloud has a silver lining.

KARPAS

A vegetable like celery or a potato. We dip the Karpas into **saltwater** to remind us of the **salty tears** the Jews shed from the backbreaking labor in Egypt.

When God saw the Jews' tears and heard their cries, God's mercy was aroused and He brought the Jews out of Egypt. The **salty tears** therefore remind us of **God's tremendous mercy**, and the **power of prayer** to save us from even the most difficult of circumstances.

We dip the Karpas into saltwater

HORSERADISH

Reminds us of the **bitter enslavement** of our forefathers in Egypt. Many people eat **LETTUCE (see above)** for Marror instead of horseradish.