



APN Haggadah Insert- Pesach 2024

“As we sit at our seder tables this year and think about what next year in Jerusalem might really look like, please know that, no matter what, it will include our work here at APN to ensure peace and justice for all. We put together this Haggadah insert to provide a framework for some of the questions you may encounter and the discussions you may want to raise at your seder tables this year. Chag sameach– we hope you have a meaningful celebration.” – Hadar Susskind

Four Cups of Wine, Four Additional Questions

1st Cup: Sanctity- Passover creates a spiritual space, and also an opportunity to bring people together from multiple generations– grandparents, parents, friends, children. Many of the questions, arguments, and debates around Israel and Zionism are split across generational lines. How do learned history and lived experiences shape the way we process information and emotions when we talk about Israel and Palestine? How can we work intergenerationally to create a safer, more secure, and just world for future generations?

2nd Cup: Freedom and Deliverance- We cannot address the questions of freedom and liberation raised by the text of a Haggadah without also addressing the plight of the people taken and held hostage by Hamas. How can we honor the hostages -- in our thoughts, actions, and work -- as we wait for their release?

3rd Cup: Redemption- It is difficult to conceptualize redemption or the peace that comes with it right now. Families are torn apart across generational divides, friendships are torn apart by political camps, and communities are breaking at their seams. But hope is a central tenet of Jewish life and practice, and also of peacebuilding, so we must ask: what can we do to bring hope to our table?

4th Cup: Our People- We say several times throughout the seder, “next year in Jerusalem.” What is the real Jerusalem experiencing right now, and what do we picture, in a practical sense, when we talk about Jerusalem and what it will look like this time next year?

On the Seder Plate

Matzah- we refer to matzah as the “bread of affliction.” Meanwhile, thousands of people– innocent men, women, and children– are either on the brink of or are experiencing famine in Gaza. While the pages of the Haggadah and the words of the seder dwell on what it was like to starve, we consume a veritable feast. The matzah on our tables symbolizes not



only the historical suffering of our own people but also the current crisis of hunger experienced by people in Gaza.

Karpas- The greens we dip in salt represent the new life of springtime, while the salt water represents the bitter tears of captivity. People in Gaza are subsisting on a combination of grain and kbobeza (a local green that grows wild in the region) as the risk of famine grows. The greens on our plate represent the sorrow of our own captivity, but also the resilience that growth and survival require.

Maror- On all other nights, we eat all vegetables, and on this night only bitter herbs. In many places, horseradish is known for its healing properties. Right now, so much healing is needed. May the bitterness of the herbs on our tables remind us to repair the cracks in the foundations of our communities and friendships.

Paschal Lamb - The lamb was sacrificed the night before the Israelites left Egypt; its blood was smeared on doorposts to protect the Jewish firstborns within. But thousands of Egyptian babies were sacrificed to an angry God. How do we reconcile our fierce identity as a people who have survived so much and so long with the need to care for others outside our community – even our enemies?