



A Queer Jewitch Haggadah



By Azra Silverstein

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Welcome queers, transfolk, allies, witches, Jews by birth, Jews by choice, non-Jewish friends, partners, lovers and all those who are Jewitch-curious!

As we prepare to leave the Narrow Place and journey into a land of freedom, let's take a moment to remember and acknowledge the Indigenous Peoples whose land we are on, both here and in Palestine/Israel, and the impact of our arrival on the freedom of the Peoples who were here before us.

Or Shalom is located on the unceded, stolen and occupied homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples.

2. *Kavanah* - Intention

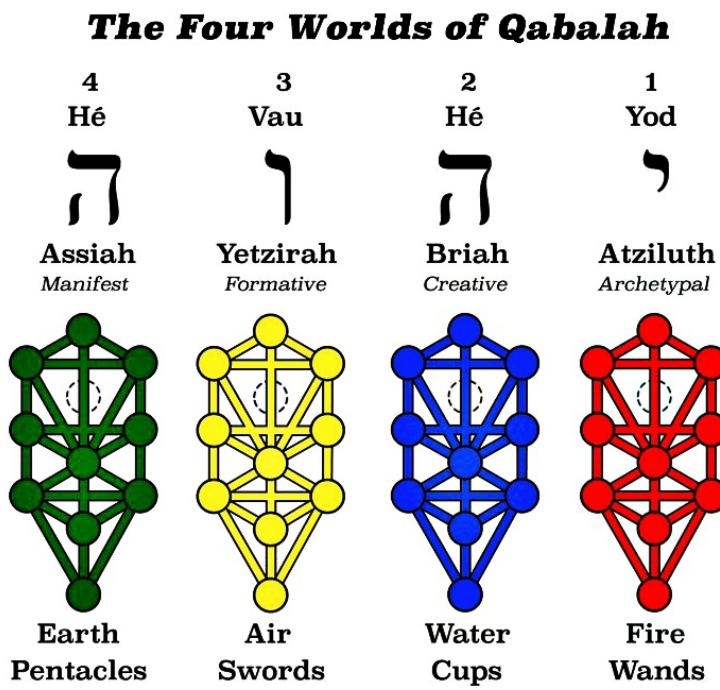
Take a moment to set your intention for the journey tonight.

3. Casting a Circle and Invoking the Elements

What is a magical circle? A temporary space with clearly defined energetic boundaries that provides a known space for ritual, magic, or similar controlled change.

There are many times we see circles used in Judaism:

- Joshua encircling Jericho seven times
- Protective circles around birthing beds
- Circles drawn around a wound or area of illness
- Circling graves with thread to use as wicks and candles to be lit for ill people



<https://mysticmachmir.tumblr.com/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_Worlds

4. *Havdalah* – Separation between Shabbat and the Week

Blessing over Wine

Brucha at, Shekhinah Eloteinu, Ruach haolam, borei p'ri hagafen.
Blessed are You, Divine Presence, Spirit of the World, creator of the fruit of the vine.

Blessing over Spices

Brucha at, Shekhinah Eloteinu, Ruach haolam, borei minei v'samim.
Blessed are You, Divine Presence, Spirit of the World, creator of varied spices.

Blessing over Fire

Brucha at, Shekhinah Eloteinu, Ruach haolam, borei m'orei ha-esh.
Blessed are you, Divine Presence, Spirit of the World, creator of the lights of fire.

Blessing of Separation

Brucha at, Shekhinah Eloteinu, Ruach haolam, hamavdil bein kodesh l'chol.
Blessed are you, Divine Presence, Spirit of the World, who distinguishes between the sacred and the ordinary.

5. Candle Lighting

ברוכה אתה יה אֱלֹהֵינוּ רוח הָעוֹלָם,
אשר קדשנו במצוותיה וצונו להדליק נר של (שבת ושְׁלֵה) יומ טוב

**B'ruchah At Yah Elateynu Ruach Ha'olam,
asher kidshatnu bi-mitzvotaha v'tzivatnu l'hadlik ner shel (Shabbat v'shel) yom tov.**

You are blessed, Yah, Spirit of the World, who makes us holy with Her commandments and commands us to light candles for (the Sabbath and) this festival.

ברוכה אתה יה עין הַחַיִם,
אשר קדשנו במצוותיה וצונו להדליק נר של (שבת ושְׁלֵה) יומ טוב

**B'rucheh Ateh Yah Eyn HeChayim,
asher kidshenu b'mitzvoteyheh v'tzivenu l'hadlik ner shel (Shabbat v'shel) yom tov.**

You are blessed, O Spring of Life, who makes us holy with Their commandments and commands us to light candles for (the Sabbath and) this festival.

6. Introductions

Introduce your name, pronouns and ancestry.

This year is *shmita*, a Sabbatical year, where we return to natural rhythms, let the land lie fallow, release debts, and rest. While we journey through the tightness of Mitzrayim, the Narrow Place, we are required to let some things go so we can make room for our whole selves and for others.

What are you releasing, so you can move through the narrow place?

7. The Fool's Journey - Visual Divination

How to do Visual Divination:

1. Set an intention or think of a question.
2. Draw a card and gaze at the image. What stands out to you? What do you first notice? It could be a symbol, a colour, a word, or a theme. What does this remind you of? In a Tarot reading, anything goes!
3. Apply what comes up to the intention or question. Don't think too hard, trust your intuition.

Find The Fool in the Tarot deck on your table and gaze at the image. Pass it around.

Visually divine an answer to this question: **What do we need to keep in mind for this journey out of the Narrow Place?**

Your answer could be for yourself personally in relation to a Narrow Place in your life that you are moving through, it could be for all of us as we move through a Narrow Place together.

Share your answer with everyone at the table.

8. Order of the Seder

Kadesh – First Cup of Wine

Urchatz – Cleansing the Hands

Karpas – Blessing for a Spring Vegetable

Yachatz – Breaking the Middle Matzah

Maggid – The Passover Story

Rachtzah – Cleansing the Hands with Blessing

Motzi-Matzah – Blessing for Matzah

Maror – Blessing for Bitter Herbs

Korech – Sandwich of Bittersweetness

Shulchan Orech – Festive Meal

Tzafun – Finding the Afikomen

Bareich – Blessing After the Meal

Hallel – Praising Presence

Nirtzah – Closing the Circle

9. *Kadesh* - First Cup of Wine

Find the Ace of Cups in the Tarot deck on your table and pass it around. Think of a new emotional journey you are on. Look at the card for a hidden blessing for your journey.

Blessed are You, Divine Presence, Spirit of the World, who creates fruit from the vine.

Brucha at Ya, Shekhinah, eloteinu ruach ha'olam, borei peri ha'gafen.

10. *Uрchatz* - Cleansing the Hands

Prepare for the journey by meditating on the work of your hands. Cleanse or wash your hands without saying a blessing.



Earth Hands

Organized, practical, hardworking, reliable, dependable, stubborn, rigid.

Air Hands

Intellectual, witty, prefers few but close friends, veers away from emotions.

Fire Hands

Charming personality, seeks thrill, pushes hard, unaware of boundaries, burnout, self-pity.

Water Hands

Emotions guide decisions, intuitive, creative, sensitive, handling stress is a challenge.

11. *Karpas* - Blessing for a Spring Vegetable

The green vegetable reminds us of springtime, the earth, and the environment. The salt water reminds of the tears of slavery, or perspiration from toiling.

Who or what are we shedding tears for this Passover? Who is toiling under difficult conditions?

Dip the green vegetable in the salt water and say the blessing.

Blessed are You, Divine Presence, Spirit of the World, who creates fruit from the earth.

Brucha at Ya, Shekhinah, eloteinu ruach ha'olam, borei peri ha'adamah.

12. *Yachatz* - Breaking the Middle Matzah

There are three matzot on the table. What could the three levels represent?

The top piece of Matzah symbolizes the Heavens, the middle the earth and humanity, and the bottom piece symbolizes the oceans and deep dark places. In our lives, much often seems broken and beyond our control to fix. But is this too a story we tell ourselves? What if we transformed ourselves to be the hero of our story – searching for the hidden, broken pieces to make ourselves, our tribe, and our world whole?

(Kohenet Ketzirah HaMa'agelet, Aggadah Haggadah)

Draw a Tarot card but do not look at the image. Put it face down on the table.

As we break the middle matzah, close your eyes and listen to the sound of the breaking.

Hold this question in your mind: **What are some insights to heal brokenness?**

Flip over the Tarot card and divine an answer.

Wrap the broken piece of matzah and put it aside for the *afikomen*.

13. *Maggid* - The Passover Story

Four Questions

מה-נשְׁתַּנְהַ פְּלִילָה בָּזָה מִכָּלְ-הַלִּילּוֹת?

Mah nishtanah halailah hazeh mikol haleilot?

How is this night different from all other nights?

שְׁבָכָלְ-הַלִּילּוֹת, אָנוּ אָכְלִין חַמֵּץ וּמַצָּה; פְּלִילָה בָּזָה, כָּלָה מַצָּה.

Sheb'chol haleilot anu ochlin chametz umatzah, halailah hazeh, kuloh matzah.

On all other nights, we eat *chametz* (leavened foods) and *matzah*. Why on this night, only *matzah*?

שְׁבָכָלְ-הַלִּילּוֹת, אָנוּ אָכְלִין שָׁאָר יְרֻקּוֹת; פְּלִילָה בָּזָה, 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* (bitter herbs)?

שְׁבָכָלְ-הַלִּילּוֹת, אֵין אָנוּ מַטְבִּילִין אַפְּלָו פְּעָם אַחֲת; פְּלִילָה בָּזָה, שְׁתֵּי פְּעָמִים.

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

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

שְׁבָכָלְ-הַלִּילּוֹת, אָנוּ אָכְלִין בֵּין יוֹשְׁבִין וּבֵין מַסְבִּין; פְּלִילָה בָּזָה, כָּלָנוּ מַסְבִּין.

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?

<https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/passover/four-questions>

Four Children

The traditional Seder tells of four children who relate to the Passover story in different ways: 1) the wise child who asks, what does this mean to us?; 2 the wicked child who asks, what does this mean to you?, 3) the simple child who asks, what is all this?, and 4) the silent child who doesn't know how to ask. This reminds us that we need to tell our histories and stories of oppression in different ways so they resonate with different people.

Find the four Pages or “children” in the Tarot deck on the table. These characters represent different people, personalities or aspects of ourselves.

What are four questions that these characters or personalities might ask? Which one resonates with you the most?

Telling Our Story

Shuffle all the cards in the Tarot deck. Pass the deck around and each person chooses three cards.

Pick one card that reminds you of some part of the Passover story or another story of freedom and oppression.

Go around the table and show your card, sharing the part of the story that revealed itself to you.

Ten Plagues

We remember the cost suffering and lives lost at the hand of our freedom.

Spill a drop of wine for each of these plagues.

Ten Ancestral Plagues:

DAM – BLOOD	דָם
TZFARDEYAH – FROGS	צְפַרְדָע
KINIM – LICE	כַּנִּים
AROV - POISONOUS BEASTS	עֲרוֹב
DEVER – PLAGUE	דָבָר
SH'KHIN – BOILS	שְׁחִין
BARAD – HAIL	בָּרָד
ARBEH – LOCUSTS	אַרְבָּה
KHOSHEKH – DARKNESS	חֹשֶׁךְ
MAKAT B'KHOROT –	מִכְתָּבְכָּרוֹת

Ten Plagues of Our Time:

Homelessness
Hunger
Inequality
Greed
Discrimination & Hatred
Silence & Violence
Environmental Destruction
Mental Health Stigma
Mistreatment of Refugees
Powerlessness

(Living Moon Meditation, Haggadah for Witches)

What are some other plagues of our time?

Pour the second cup of wine

Dayenu דָּיְנָנוּ

*Eelu hotzi, hotzi'anu, hotzi'anu miMitzrayim,
hotzi'anu mMitzrayim, Dayenu!*

If the Holy One had only taken us out of Egypt,
It would have been enough!

אלו הוציא - הוציאנו, הוציאנו ממצרים

הוציאנו ממצרים, דָּיְנָנוּ

*Eelu natan, natan lanu, natan lanu et haShabbat,
natan lanu et haShabbat Dayenu!*

If the Holy One had only given us Shabbat,
It would have been enough!

אלו נתנו, נתנו לנו, נתנו לנו את-השבת,

נתנו לנו את-השבת, דָּיְנָנוּ

*Eelu natan, natan lanu, natan lanu et haTorah,
natan lanu et haShabbat Dayenu!*

If the Holy One had only given us the Torah,
It would have been enough!

אלו נתנו, נתנו לנו, נתנו לנו את-התורה,

נתנו לנו את-התורה, דָּיְנָנוּ

Second Cup of Wine

Blessed are You, Divine Presence, Spirit of the World, who creates fruit from the vine.

Baruch at Ya, Shekhinah, eloteinu ruach ha'olam, borei peri ha'gafen.

Symbols on the Seder Plate

Find the Seder plate on the Altar. Point to each ritual item and explain the meaning.

14. Rachtzah - Cleansing the Hands with Blessing

A Blessing for Washing Hands During a Pandemic:

As we wash our hands
We pray,
Blessed is the Soul of the Universe,
Breathing us in and breathing us out.
May our breaths continue
And our health and the health of all
Be preserved
In this time of sickness and fear of sickness.
Holy Wholeness,
We take as much responsibility for this as we can
By observing the obligation to wash our hands
Thoroughly:
For as long as it takes to say this prayer.
Amen

Cleanse your hands with hand sanitizer or
wash your hands, this time saying the
blessing:

Blessed are You, O Divine One, Spirit of
the World, who makes us holy with their
commandments and instructed us on
washing our hands.

*Baruch at Ya, Shekhinah, eloteinu ruach
ha'olam, asher kidshatnu b'mitzvotaha,
vitzivatnu, al nitilat yadai'im.*

15. *Motzi-Matzah* – Blessing for Matzah

Break off a piece of matzah, hold it up and say the blessings:

**ברוך אתה יהָה שְׁכִינָה רֹוח הָעוֹלָם
הַמּוֹצִיאָה לְפָנֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ**

Blessed are you, Divine Presence, Your Presence fills creation, forming bread from the earth.

Brucha at Ya, Shekhinah, ruach ha'olam, hamotziah lechem min haaretz.

**ברוך אתה יהָה שְׁכִינָה רֹוח הָעוֹלָם
קדשתנו במצוותיה וצוותנו על אכילת מצה**

Brucha at Ya, Shekhinah, ruach ha'olam, asher kidshatnu b'mitzvotaha, vitzivatnu, al achilat maror.

Blessed are you, Divine Presence, Your Presence fills creation, making us holy through the sacred connection of eating matzah.

Eat the matzah.

Reflect on a time when you needed to leave in haste.
What is the blessing of that moment?

16. *Maror* – Blessing for Bitter Herbs

Put some maror (horseradish) on a piece of matzah, say the blessing and then eat.

**ברוך אתה יהָה שְׁכִינָה רֹוח הָעוֹלָם
קדשתנו במצוותיה וצוותנו על אכילת מרור**

Brucha at Ya, Shekhinah, ruach ha'olam, asher kidshatnu b'mitzvotaha, vitzivatnu, al achilat maror.

Blessed are you, Divine Presence, Your Presence fills creation making us holy through the sacred connection of eating this bitter herb.

What is the blessing of bitterness? What does bitterness teach us?

(Kohenet Ketzirah HaMa'agelet, Aggadah Haggadah)

17. *Korech* - Sandwich of Bittersweetness

Make a sandwich of matzah, charoset, and maror. As you eat it, taste the bitterness and sweetness together and reflect on the theme of bittersweetness.

How do we hold experiences of bitterness and sweetness together?

What is the blessing of bittersweetness?

18. *Shulchan Orech* - Festive Meal

19. *Tzafun* - Finding the Afikomen

20. *Bareich* - Blessing After the Meal

Pour the third cup of wine.

B'rach rachamana, malka d'alma, maray, d'hai pitah.

You are the source of life for all that is and your blessings flow through me.

Third Cup of Wine

Blessed are You, Divine Presence, Spirit of the World, who creates fruit from the vine.
Baruch at Ya, Shekhinah, eloteinu ruach ha'olam, borei peri ha'gafen.

Elijah's Cup and Miriam's Cup

Fill Elijah's cup with wine and Miriam's cup with water. Open the doors and invite the spirit of our ancestors to come in, bringing peace and wellness.

Eliyahu hanavi, eliyahu hatishbi, eliyahu, elyahu, eliyahu hagil'adi.
Bimheyra ve'yameynu, yavoh eleinu, im mashiach ben David, im mashiach ben David.

Miriam hanaviah, oz v'zimrah b'yadah. Miriam tirkod itanu l'hadil zimrat olam,
Miram tirkod itanu, l'taken et haolam.
Bimheyra v'yameynu, hi tiv'einu, el mey ha y'shuah, el may ha y'shuah.

21. *Hallel* - Praising Presence

Reflect on your connection to Divine Presence, Goddess, the Universe, Nature, the Elements, your Authentic Self, or some other transcendent force.

Pass around the Tarot deck and draw a card. Look at the card to reveal a blessing in your life that is deserving of your praise right now. Take a personal moment and hold the card to your heart while expressing gratitude for that blessing.

Fourth Cup of Wine

Blessed are You, Divine Presence, Spirit of the World, who creates fruit from the vine.

Baruch at Ya, Shekhinah, eloteinu ruach ha'olam, borei peri ha'gafen.

22. *Nirtzah* - Closing the Circle

Our Passover Seder is complete.

The circle is open but unbroken

May the peace of Shekhinah go in our hearts.

Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again!

Next year may we tell our story in a world that is well, abundant, bending towards justice and at peace!*



*Closing line by Kohenet Ketzirah HaMa'agelet,