

JEWISH  
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WATCH

A companion for the  
Passover Seder Plate  
dedicated to the victims  
and survivors of the  
genocide in Darfur.

# What's on your plate?

It's Passover 5768...

fold here

# remember

The six powerful symbols of the Seder plate embody the Passover story of suffering, liberation and renewal. These symbols resonate in the context of the genocide in Darfur, now in its sixth year. Since 2003, hundreds of thousands of Darfurians have been killed by the Sudanese government and their proxy, the *Janjaweed* militia. This Passover, in memory of those who have perished, and in honor of those still fighting to survive, we return to the desert.

We remember our time of captivity in Egypt, the horrors of the Shoah and the victims of Darfur. We hope and pray for their liberation from bondage and for a renewal of freedom. And, we ask all gathered around this table tonight to join us in the struggle towards that goal.

DETO

This vegetable represents  
springtime and new growth.  
It is dipped in salt water,  
which is a reminder of the  
tears shed in slavery.

# karpas

We cry with the mothers of Darfur who have buried their husbands and children. Our Passover tradition obligates us to tell the story of *our* suffering to imbue within our people a deep sensitivity to injustice and the suffering of *others*. In 2008, we American Jews enjoy unparalleled freedom and opportunity. As we dip the karpas in salt water, we remember the tears shed in Egypt... and in Darfur.

## karpas question

In today's often sanitized and material culture, how do we teach empathy, outrage, sensitivity and compassion?

# z'roa

ז'רוה

The word "z'roa" means "arm." The roasted lamb shankbone both represents the outstretched arm of God and reminds us of the Passover sacrifice. In this way, we are reminded to make sacrifices by reaching out and extending ourselves to others.

fold here

Sometimes, we may feel like our reach is not long enough or strong enough to help people in need. In the case of Darfur, the situation looks so grim that we might think, "What difference will my actions make?" But when we work with others, arm in arm, joining our voices and combining our resources, our reach is extended exponentially.

## z'roa question

Oftentimes, reaching out means making sacrifices in terms of time, energy and money. What are you willing to sacrifice to make a difference?

# maror

מרור

These bitter herbs represent the bitterness of slavery, oppression and hatred. We do not just swallow the bitter herbs whole; they have to be chewed, tasted and experienced. After all, knowing about oppression is only the beginning. To fight it, we ourselves have to feel its bitterness.

Take a stand. We decry the bitter hatred, racial strife and persecution that continue to victimize the people of Darfur. Their suffering is our suffering. Let us not say "they are the other" and therefore not our problem. It is through acknowledging and protesting the world's other genocides that we give honor to the victims and survivors of our own.

## maror question

How does your identity as a Jew affect your response to injustice?

# charoset

מריחה

Although this mixture of chopped fruits and nuts represents the mortar of the bricks made in captivity, the sweetness reminds us that even in despair, there is hope. That is why we dip the bitter herbs in the charoset. Where we see injustice, pain and suffering, we must also look for hope, for a remedy, for a solution.

# chazeret

חזרת

This second bitter herb represents the bitterness of abandonment. The Jews enslaved in Egypt were not only oppressed, they endured the added pain of feeling alone. Many who have survived genocides say that the idea that no one is coming to help can be more devastating than the oppression itself. That is why hope is so powerful. People need to know, "We are not alone."

fold here

Be the light. As long as the Darfurians are driven from their homes, persecuted, raped and slaughtered, we will shine a light so the world cannot be indifferent and turn away. We pray with the refugees of Darfur for the day when they can safely return to their land and rebuild their lives. We continue to work on all fronts for their safety, even when hope seems elusive. We are buoyed by the fact that even in these darkest times, they have not lost hope.

charoset  
question

What is it that enables one to find hope in the midst of despair?

Darfur is a world away. The refugees are, in many ways, nameless, faceless "strangers," so it might seem easy to ignore their plight. But, when we turn our backs on people who are suffering, we are culpable as bystanders, enabling the oppressors. As Jews, we have frequently been the strangers, feeling isolated and forgotten by the world. Because we know how it feels, we cannot abandon Darfur.

chazeret  
question

Have you ever stood by when someone was mistreated, humiliated, teased or ostracized? Upon reflection, would you act differently?

beitzah

ביצה

The egg symbolizes the continuity of life. It can also represent the rebirth that comes after mourning. It reminds us that even amid devastation, we can overcome tragedy, turn our lives around, and start anew — stronger than before.

fold here

When we hear about the genocide in Darfur, our hearts break and we are tempted to throw our hands up in despair. But, we must turn our mourning into action. Our mission is to educate, advocate and provide refugee relief. We eagerly look for the day when the people of Darfur can rebuild their lives with renewed strength, hope and joy.

## beitzah question

In the face of injustice, what is the tipping point that takes our apathy, anger, despair or compassion and moves us to activism?

## Six Elements. Six questions.

We pose six questions to stir thought and discussion. Asking questions is such a vital part of the Seder, perhaps because people who are enslaved are not allowed to ask questions. While we are free, we cherish the obligation not only to question, but to act. We embrace the opportunity to be the ones who help bring about liberation. Because if not us, then who? If not now, when?

## Add this to your plate...

Passover is a time to take action. Go to [www.JewishWorldWatch.org](http://www.JewishWorldWatch.org) for your **Passover Action Packet**. ✓ Send postcards to the UN Secretary General. ✓ Write a letter to the Chinese Ambassador. ✓ Participate in a monthly vigil at the Chinese Consulate. ✓ Form a team for the June 1 Walk for Darfur. ✓ Encourage youth at your Seder to bring a JWW Darfur activist club to their schools.

**Above all, Do Not Stand Idly By!**



[www.JewishWorldWatch.org](http://www.JewishWorldWatch.org)  
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