

# BRINGING SEDER to CHAOS



## Freedom in Quarantine

### DAY 4 - KARPAS



*"Italians and Jews, very similar. People say, same corporation, different division. We get along. There is an obvious thing with the religion. I went to my first Passover dinner...the food they start bringing out, oh God, terrible. Jews have no idea what they are doing in the kitchen. These people have no cuisine. Celery, crackers, jam. I'm like what is this, we're losing people!"*

- Sebastian Maniscalco (watch the whole clip [here](#))

**Everyone enjoys a good appetizer. On Seder night, we have a vegetable dipped in salt water. Is that the best we could come up with?!**

The Talmud (Pesachim 114b) explains we eat this vegetable appetizer so the children will ask. This is a continuous theme throughout the night. But what do we want them to ask? And why this--surely there are stranger things to do than having a vegetable in saltwater. If they want children to ask, why not just wear a silly hat?

This isn't any appetizer--it's a reenactment. Rabbi Shmuel Binyamin Sofer, known as the Ksav Sofer, suggests that we eat a vegetable at the beginning of the seder because we are reliving our experience as slaves. When we were slaves in Egypt we were only able to eat vegetables and did not have meat and other delicacies. Therefore, we begin the seder remembering the food we ate in Egypt as slaves.

We have many reminders of slavery throughout the Haggadah. Perhaps this is a little different. The karpas is not just a reminder of slavery, it is **a taste of nostalgia**. It is clear in the Torah that the Jewish people looked back nostalgically on the vegetables they ate in Egypt (see [Bamidbar 11:5](#)). When we are in stressful situations, eating can often serve as a form of comfort. Therefore, we begin the seder by nostalgically remembering the foods that gave us a sense of hope while in slavery. **Karpas is our seder night comfort food.**



Me opening my fridge and realizing I ate all of my quarantine food



---

Join the Conversation

**What is your quarantine comfort food?**

**Submit Your Answers**

Email: [sedertochoas@ncsy.org](mailto:sedertochoas@ncsy.org) | Twitter/ FB: #sedertochoas

[Click here to join the WhatsApp Group \(2\)!](#)