



DINOSAUR ON PASSOVER

Written by Diane Levin Rauchwenger

Illustrated by Jason Wolff

A young boy celebrates Passover with the help of a very enthusiastic dinosaur that visits his home.

JEWISH CONCEPTS

Recitation of the Ten Plagues

Dino the Dinosaur “dips his pinky in his cup, Let’s drops of wine fall...” Why this seder custom at the enumeration of the ten plagues that befell the Egyptians? While we celebrate the freedom of the Jewish people, we may not forget the Egyptians, also God’s people, who suffered for their Pharaoh’s misdeeds. The anguish of any of God’s children must diminish our joy, so we remove a few drops of sweet wine from our cups.

The Four Questions

Traditionally recited at the seder by the youngest child present, the Four Questions are:

- On all other nights we eat either leavened or unleavened bread. On this night, why do we eat only unleavened (matzoh)? (To remind us of the haste with which our ancestors left Egypt.)
- On all other nights we eat all kinds of herbs. On this night, why only bitter herbs? (To remind us of the bitterness of slavery.)
- On all other nights we do not dip our herbs even once. On this night, why do we dip them twice?

(Some say to remind us of our coming and going from Egypt.)

- On all other nights we eat sometimes sitting and sometimes reclining. On this night, why do we all recline? (To remind us of how free people relax.)

These questions and answers are crucial to understanding Passover’s themes, and the honor of expressing them is given to a child.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

To reinforce the ideas in this story, have your children retell the story of *Dinosaur at Passover* using an animal/ pet of their choosing.