



AND THEN ANOTHER SHEEP TURNED UP

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Every time this family of sheep gets ready to celebrate their seder, someone else shows up at the door. Can they make more room?

JEWISH CONCEPTS

This book tells the story of the Sheep family's Passover seder (a ritual meal that commemorates the Israelites' exodus from slavery in ancient Egypt). Throughout the evening, many unexpected guests arrive, but the family happily greets each one and makes room at the table, generously practicing the Jewish value of *hachnasat orchim*, welcoming guests.

In the Passover *haggadah*, the written guide used at the seder to retell the story of the Exodus, there is a section near the beginning called *Ha Lachma Anya*, in which guests are invited to the seder. Many years ago, Jews would stand at their open doorways and literally invite people in off the street to join in the Passover meal with their family. This tradition of open hospitality is a hallmark of Judaism, reminiscent of the generosity of Abraham and Sarah, the first Jews. Their story is told in the book of Genesis, the first book of the Torah (the first five books of the Bible).

And Then Another Sheep Turned Up also shows the importance of family in Jewish life. Traditionally, Jewish families have placed great value on intergenerational bonds, treasuring the presence and wisdom of the older members, but also the eager questions of the young, whose special role it is at the seder to recite *Mah Nishtanah*, the Four Questions. There is room for all around the seder table.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

In the *haggadah* we read: "In every generation one must look upon himself or herself as if he or she personally had gone out of Egypt." How can parents help their children feel this personal connection to the Exodus? Try some of the following ideas with your child before and during the seder:

Create place cards for seder guests -- Decorate cards with Egypt/Exodus-themed drawings: pyramids, camels, the splitting of the Red Sea, etc.

Puppet show – Create sock or paper bag puppets of the characters from the Exodus story: Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Pharaoh, etc. Children can put on a puppet show during the seder for the rest of the guests.

Ten Plagues at the table – Visit your local dollar store to find mini-versions of the plagues: small plastic frogs, livestock, and insects, Styrofoam balls or ping pong balls to represent hail, etc. Make these available at the seder table for children to play with.

Countless ideas for ways to enhance your child's seder experience can be found on the Internet. Creativity is an important key to a memorable and enjoyable seder for everyone.