

The Other Side of the Sea:

A Haggadah on Fighting Modern-Day Slavery (2015)



The traditional Haggadah requires participants to imagine themselves as liberated slaves and to thank God for their freedom. Liberation seders call upon participants to abolish modern-day slavery.

Traditional Haggadah

“In every generation one must look upon himself as if he personally had come out from Egypt...”

Therefore, it is our duty to thank and to praise in song and prayer, to glorify and extol Him who performed all these wonders for our forefathers and for us.”

Fighting Modern-Day Slavery

“In every generation a person must see him/herself as if s/he came out of Egypt...”

Therefore we are obligated...

This is the seder’s fulcrum, the turning point that leverages our collective memories of slavery and turns them into collective obligation...

Our own retelling of the narrative of slavery pushes us toward taking public action to end slavery in our time.”

Historical Note: Labor Seders

The Freedom Seder and subsequent social justice seders have their roots in the often overlooked early 20th-century history of secular political seders such as communist “red seders” and union-themed “third seders,” communal gatherings held on the third night of Passover.