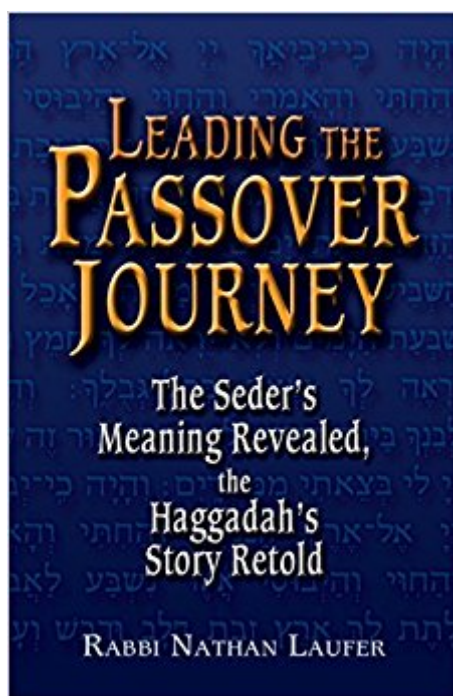


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# Leading The Passover Journey: The Seder's Meaning Revealed, The Haggadah's Story Retold



## Synopsis

Enrich Your Passover Seder with Renewed Meaning and Significance Whether you are planning to participate in, contribute to, or lead a Passover Seder, *Leading the Passover Journey* will help you relive the Jewish People's legacy of survival, hope and redemption, and reconnect with the rich heritage celebrated in this special event. Reclaim the hidden meaning of the Passover Seder. Connect the pieces of the Haggadah narrative into one meaningful, cohesive story. From preparing for Passover to understanding the order of the Seder, from eating the meal of freedom in the house of slavery to reenacting the saga at the sea, this fascinating exploration of the texts and traditions surrounding the most celebrated event in the Jewish calendar will awaken latent knowledge and provide new understanding. It will empower you to fully understand and identify with the complete story of the Jewish People's journey of liberation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

From the opening pages, in which Rabbi Laufer shares a bit of his family's own history of enslavement and eventual liberation during the Holocaust, this book captures the emotional resonance of the Passover festival with its themes of exile, triumph and freedom. Laufer, who lectures widely in North America and Israel, suggests that readers take up the book thirty days before Passover as a way of gaining entry into the seder's traditions and understanding the spiritual issues behind them. Short chapters address "chametz" (the leavened bread that observant Jews eschew during the holiday), the order of the meal, sacred time and space, the symbolism of the various food items on the seder table, the nature of freedom and enslavement, and other issues. At

the heart of the book is a long and thought-provoking chapter on the oral nature of seder storytelling, with Laufer walking readers through the Four Questions and the other parts of the "Maggid," or verbal narrative. This book is for anyone who wants to understand the seder in a more spiritual way, or to connect the diverse pieces of the ritual into "a single, meaningful, cohesive story." Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"A superb guide to the journey of the Passover Seder. Taking the reader step-by-step through the experience, Rabbi Laufer offers both novice and experienced Seder participants a road map filled with delicious details, exemplary explanations and intellectual insights to enhance their Seder celebration. A highly recommended, terrific resource!" -- Dr. Ron Wolfson, author, *Passover: The Family Guide to Spiritual Celebration*; vice president, University of Judaism, Los Angeles "A profoundly insightful, lovingly crafted and eminently useful guide to the Passover Seder that unlocks the Haggadah's deepest layers of meaning. Indispensable for all Seder leaders. Guaranteed to enrich any Passover Seder." -- David Arnow, PhD, author, *Creating Lively Passover Seders: A Sourcebook of Engaging Tales, Texts & Activities* -- "More than an invaluable resource for everyone who leads a Seder, this book uses the Passover Haggadah as a prism through which to examine the story of the Jewish People. It makes us think about the past even as it challenges us to reflect upon our own Jewish lives today." -- Deborah E. Lipstadt, PhD, director, Rabbi Donald Tam Institute for Jewish Studies, Emory University

As a Jewish Day School teacher of 18 years, I have yet to find a book more useful than this one in teaching the hidden meaning of the Haggadah. I never have to recommend this book to teachers or seder leaders I encounter; I simply share an insight or two revealed in its text and people beg me to share where I learned such brilliant interpretations. The Haggadah is intended to be a "telling" of the tale recounted in Shmot (Exodus), yet Moses is all but missing from the text of the Haggadah. How can you retell the story of the Exodus without mentioning Moses? Well it turns out Moses is cleverly hidden throughout the steps of the seder. It turns out the ENTIRE tale of the Exodus as told in Shmot is encoded in the steps of the seder. If the seemingly disparate parts of the Haggadah never appeared to have a coherent narrative seder (order) in your mind before, read this book and all will become clear!

I found the author's story very insightful and compelling. It was presented as the only interpretation,

though. I think it would have promoted a richer experience if different interpretations had been presented alongside each other.

Some very interesting ideas. The relationship between Joseph's economic policies and the later enslavement of the Israelites was great food for thought.

I found this book so fascinating that I couldn't put it down! I will incorporate the book's teachings into my family's Seders this year. Rabbi Laufer takes the reader step-by-step through the Seder and offers many interesting insights along the way. A must read!

Rabbi Nathan Laufer presents *Leading The Passover Journey: The Seder's Meaning Revealed, The Haggadah's Story Retold*, brings the fifteen pieces of the traditional Seder into plain-terms, contemporary rendition of the Passover story. Combining scholarly insight with an uplifting conviction in the power and meaning of the Passover journey to reinforce one's Jewish identity and relationship with God, *Leading The Passover Journey* transforms the experience and the history behind it into a message readily accessible to readers of all backgrounds and levels of familiarity with Jewish tradition. Highly recommended particularly as an introductory to lay readers and novice scholars striving to better understand the Seder and the Haggadah's story.

Put an end to boring Seders. This is a great Haggadah, the best in years, perfect for anyone who wants to have intelligent comments to make at their Seder. Even for those who are familiar with the text of the Haggadah, there are many, many original thoughts that seem so obvious that you wonder why you didn't think of them yourself. The layout of the book makes it easy for those who use a non-traditional text at their Seder to find the texts relevant to their Seder and to use them.

This book is one of the best I've read. You can tell by the complete detail of the amazing information unfolded in this book that the author not only took great care in researching the topic but that he is also passionate about the profound meaning found in Passover. I have been touched greatly by this book. I thank the author greatly for writing this book and forever changing the meaning of Passover for me and my family and many families alike. You have to buy this book!

Rabbi Laufer shows his talent as a master-teacher. He explores the traditional Hagaddah giving it a fresh meaning and relevance to our lives, while linking it even more closely to the biblical text in a

unique and coherent manner. This book will surely become a classic work.

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