

## THE AFIKOMAN

### A Light-Hearted Exploration

אפיקומן

By Jon Adam Ross

Finding the afikomen at a family seder is the moment when the kids run amok through the living room while the "adults" grab an extra slice of kosher-for-Passover marble cake. Here are four easy activities to enhance this moment in the seder that work for all ages.

#### **Option 1: Searching for Peace**

There might be political tension at your seder this year. It's exhausting to navigate the complexities of our inherited traumas while living through a new period of fresh fear, angst, anger, and grief. Why would this night be different from any other night? But amidst all the family stress caused by arguments, you might need to take a moment to find some peace. Inner peace. Follow the steps below:

- **1.** Place both feet on the floor.
- **2.** Close your eyes.
- **3.** Concentrate on your breathing for at least three breaths.
- **4.** Find a core memory in your life when you were completely at peace and in the moment, without concern for the past or future. Hold onto that core memory. Identify an object in that core memory that serves as a touchstone for you.
- **5.** Open your eyes. Find something in the room that resonates with the object touchstone you identified.
- 6. That new object is now something that will remind you of your inner peace, every time you look at it.



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#### **Option 2: Searching for Laughs**

As Laura Ingalls Wilder said, "A good laugh overcomes more difficulties and dissipates more dark clouds than any other one thing." It has been a hard year. Laughter might help. In a search for authentic passover-appropriate laughter, go around the table and tell your best Passover joke. The joke that gets the most laughs gets to eat the afikomen! The joke that gets the most groans? An extra serving of gefilte fish.

#### **Option 3: Searching for Freedom**

We're almost finished with the seder and most of what is left is singing! Sing some of your favorite songs about freedom as you wait for the Afikoman to be recovered. Whether they are in Hebrew or English, we all need a little more dreaming about a better time. Who knows? It might become a tradition!

#### **Option 4: Searching for Words**

If you just want to sit and enjoy your after dinner drink before the last two cups, you can also participate in this Passover-themed word search! Can you find the afikomen???



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הגדה אפיקומנ פרעה ישראל מצרימ עשרמכות מרור מרור סדר חדוסת חדגדיא



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WDGUFRRETZDDAKK TSCSPKA BC OMHDESE RTTRADITION OCAMA N Z A H**PHARAOH** GSSDG **MIDRASH** Ε Q S NPRG R Н **DESERT** S YPHAAG **MOSES** N В **HAGGADAH** KSWD R I **MATZAH** AQHN **BITTER** R **SEDER EGYPT** NUKYWGSJ AAUTSTORIESZVRG

