



1. Donald Sheff, Letter to the New York Times, Jan. 12, 1988

Isidor I. Rabi, the Nobel laureate in physics who died Jan. 11, was once asked, "Why did you become a scientist, rather than a doctor or lawyer or businessman, like the other immigrant kids in your neighborhood?"

His answer has served as an inspiration for me as an educator, as a credo for my son during his schooling and should be framed on the walls of all the pedagogues, power brokers and politicians who purport to run our society.

The question was posed to Dr. Rabi by his friend and mine, Arthur Sackler, himself a multitalented genius, who, sadly, also passed away recently. Dr. Rabi's answer, as reported by Dr. Sackler, was profound: "My mother made me a scientist without ever intending it. Every other Jewish mother in Brooklyn would ask her child after school: 'So? Did you learn anything today?' But not my mother. She always asked me a different question. 'Lizzy,' she would say, 'did you ask a good question today?' That difference - asking good questions - made me become a scientist!"

### The Questions of the Haggadah

2. Devarim 6:20; Shemot 12:26-27; Shemot 13:14; Shemot 13:8

- כִּי־יִשְׁאַלְךָ בְּנֶךְךָ מָחָר לֵאמֹר מָה הָעֲדוֹת וְהַחֻקִּים וְהַמִּשְׁפָּטִים אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה ד' אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֲתָכֶם:
- וְהָיָה כִּי־יֹאמְרוּ אֲלֵיכֶם בְּנֵיכֶם מָה הָעֲבֹדָה הַזֹּאת לָכֶם: וְאָמַרְתֶּם זְבַח־פֶּסַח הוּא לַד' אֲשֶׁר פָּסַח עַל־בְּתֵי בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמִצְרַיִם בְּנִגְפוֹ אֶת־מִצְרַיִם וְאֶת־בְּתֵינֵנוּ הִצִּיל וַיִּקַּד הָעַם וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּ:
- וְהָיָה כִּי־יִשְׁאַלְךָ בְּנֶךְךָ לֵאמֹר מָה־זֹּאת וְאָמַרְתָּ אֵלָיו בְּחֹזֶק יָד הוֹצִיאָנוּ ד' מִמִּצְרַיִם מִבֵּית עַבְדִּים:
- וְהִגַּדְתָּ לְבְּנֶךָ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לֵאמֹר בְּעִבּוּר זֶה עָשָׂה ד' לִי בְּצֵאתִי מִמִּצְרַיִם

- When your child asks you tomorrow, saying, "What are the testimonies, statutes and laws which HaShem, our Gd has commanded you?" And you shall tell your child, "We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, and Gd took us out..."
- And it will be, when your children will say to you, "What is this service to you?" And you will say, "It is a Pesach offering for Gd..."
- And it will be, when your child will ask you tomorrow, saying, "What is this?" And you will say to him, "With a mighty hand, Gd took us out from Egypt, from the house of slaves."
- And you shall tell your child on that day, saying, "Because of this [ritual], Gd acted for me when I left Egypt."

3. Talmud, Pesachim 108b-109a

תנו רבנן: הכל חייבין בארבעה כוסות הללו, אחד אנשים ואחד נשים, ואחד תינוקות. אמר רבי יהודה: וכי מה תועלת יש לתינוקות ביינן? אלא, מחלקין להן קליות ואגוזין בערב פסח, כדי שלא ישנו, וישאלו.

Our sages taught: Everyone is obligated in the four cups of wine – men, women and children. Rabbi Yehudah said: Of what benefit is wine for children?! Rather, we distribute dried grain and nuts to them before Passover, so that they will not sleep and they will ask questions.

4. Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chaim 473:6-7

ואז יצוה להסירם מעל השלחן ולהניחם בסוף השלחן כאלו כבר אכלו, כדי שיראו התינוקות וישאלו. מוזגין לו מיד כוס שני, כדי שישאלו התינוקות למה שותים כוס שני קודם סעודה.

The leader should then instruct them to remove the matzah from the table and leave it at the end of the table as though they had finished eating, so that the children will see it and ask. They pour a second cup of wine immediately, so that the children will ask why we drink a second cup before the meal.

5. Talmud, Pesachim 114b

בעינן תרי טיבולי כי היכי דליהוי ביה היכירא לתינוקות.

We require two dippings, so that it will be recognizably different for the children.

6. Rabbi Yechiel Michel Epstein, Aruch haShulchan Orach Chaim 473:18

ואף מי שאינו נזהר בכל השנה בטיבולו במשקה ליטול ידיו בפסח יטול ידיו שהרי כמה שינויים אנו עושין בליל זה  
Even one who is not careful to wash for items that have been dipped in liquid during the year should still wash his hands on Passover [for *karpas*], for we perform various unique actions on this night...

7. Talmud, Pesachim 109a

חוטפין מצות בלילי פסחים, בשביל תינוקות שלא ישנו.

Rabbi Eliezer said: We grab the matzah on the night of Passover, so that the children will not sleep.

8. Talmud, Pesachim 116a

חכם בנו - שואלו, ואם אינו חכם - אשתו שואלתו. ואם לאו - הוא שואל לעצמו. ואפילו שני תלמידי חכמים שיודעין בהלכות הפסח - שואלין זה לזה.

If one's child is wise, the child asks him. If the child is not wise then one's spouse asks him. If not, he asks himself. Even two Torah scholars who know the laws of Passover ask each other.

Why is questioning so important for the Passover Seder? Curiosity / Skepticism / Interrogative

9. Talmud, Pesachim 115b

אמר שמואל: לחם עני - לחם שעונין עליו דברים.

Shemuel taught: '*Lechem oni* (Devarim 16)' means 'Bread upon which we answer (*onin*) many things.'

10. Rabbi Tzvi Elimelech Shapira of Dinov, Derech Pikudecha 21:Chelek haMaaseh 3

הדבר שבא על ידי שאלה בא הענין ברוב הדברים מסודר ומתוק לחיך ונקבע ביותר בנפש. הלא תראה כמה מהמחברים אשר ירצו לחבר איזה ענין רחב ומתייראים פן לא יקובלו הדברים לאוזן העניין ולשכל מחמת קוצר המשיג ועומק המושג באורך וברוחב, אזי לתקן זה חיברו הענין בדרך שואל ומשיב

That which comes via questions can convey many ideas in a manner that is orderly and sweet for the palate, and it will be more established in the soul. You see that many authors, who wished to write of a broad subject and feared that their words might not be accepted by the ear and the mind because of the limitations of the listener as well as the depth, length and breadth of the subject, dealt with this by writing of the subject in the form of questioner and responder...

11. Rabbi Yaakov Krantz of Dubna (Dubna Maggid), Sefer haMidot, Chapter 6

כמו שלא יערב אכילה בלא רעבון הקודמו, כן לא תערב התשובה בלתי אחר הפלגת השאלה:

Just as food will not be sweet without prior hunger, so an answer will not be sweet unless it follows a great question.

12. Avraham's question Bereishit 15:8

13. Moshe's questions Shemot 3:11, 3:13, 4:1, 4:10, 4:13, 5:22-23

14. The nation's questions Shemot 14:11-12, 15:24, 16:3

15. Rambam, Mishneh Torah, Laws of Chametz and Matzah 7:6

בכל דור ודור חייב אדם להראות את עצמו כאילו הוא בעצמו יצא עתה משעבוד מצרים שנאמר +דברים ו'+ ואותנו הוציא משם וגו'...

In every generation, one is obligated to act as though he, personally, had just left Egyptian slavery now, as Devarim 6:23 says, "And He took us from there, etc."

16. The Best Technique In Sales Leads Telemarketing? Start A Conversation

<http://www.business2community.com/sales-management/best-technique-sales-leads-telemarketing-start-conversation-0628335>

[S]tart a conversation. It does not have to be a long one or anything. It just has to be easy and social enough to compel your audience to listen to what you say. And mind you, you are not telling them all the details yet. You just aim to getting a reaction from them at the start

17. The first questions Bereishit 3:1, 3:9

18. The Sparrow – <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U08IAYIdZIE>