

# DRIVER ROLL UP THE PARTITION PLEASE



# BEYONCEDER

A celebration of Passover and Beyoncé

**SFHillel**  
University of California  
San Francisco

**SFHillel**

# WHAT IS PASSOVER?

Passover, one of the most widely practiced Jewish holidays, commemorates the Israelites' liberation from slavery in Egypt.

Every year, we come together to retell the Passover story and celebrate our freedom and also to remind ourselves of those who are still awaiting liberation.



# WHO IS BEYONCÉ?

Beyoncé, one of the most widely recognized and celebrated celebrities, is a singer/songwriter/actress/Queen who shares her narrative through her music.

Every new album, we come together to retell the Beyoncé story and celebrate her music and also to remind ourselves of all that Beyoncé teaches us.

# THE SEDER PLATÉ

**KARPAS**--A spring vegetable, often parsley or celery, symbolizing the coming of spring. During the seder we dip the greens in salt water to represent the tears of slavery



**MAROR**--Bitter herbs, usually horseradish, symbolizing the bitterness of slavery in Egypt and that, unfortunately, it is still a reality for some people today.

**BEITZA**--An egg, symbolizing spring and rebirth

**Z'ROAH**--A lamb shankbone, symbolizing the sacrifice ancient Israelites brought to the Temple during Passover. In the Passover story, we are reminded that the Israelites sacrificed lambs and used their blood to mark the doorposts of their dwellings, so that the Angel of Death would “pass-over” their homes and spare their children.

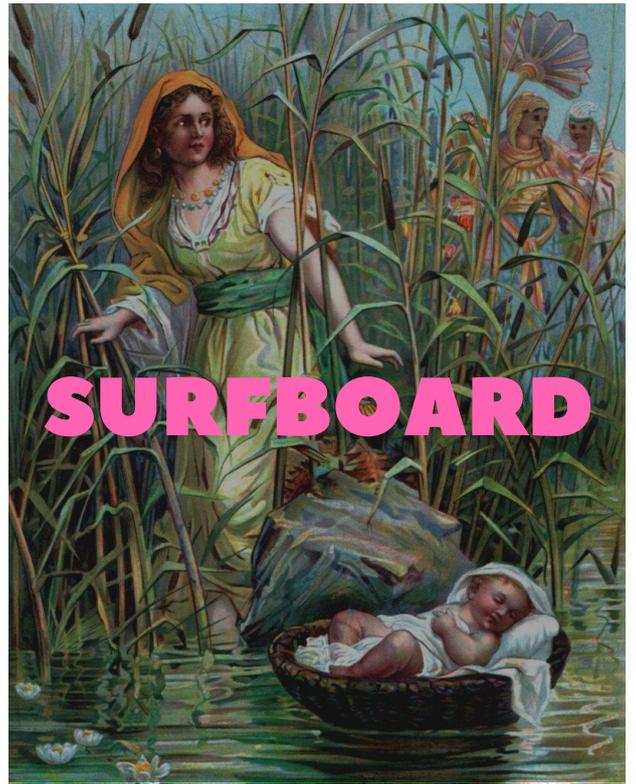
**CHAROSET**--A mixture of chopped fruits and nuts, representing the bricks and mortar used by Israelite slaves when building Egyptian cities and monuments

**MATZAH**--The bread of affliction, reminding us of the flight from bondage, when the Israelites left Egypt in such a hurry that there was no time for the bread to rise

Sometimes an orange will be added to the seder plate in recognition of the role of Miriam and other women in Judaism. Others will put an olive on their seder plate, to symbolize a hope for peace in the Middle East.

# THE STORY OF PASSOVER

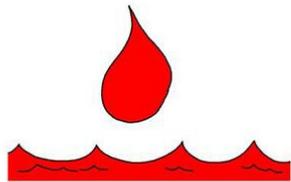
The Passover story begins when the Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, starts worrying that the Jews living in Egypt will outnumber his own people. His response: forcing them into slavery, and decreeing that every son born to the Israelites should be drowned in the Nile. One baby, named Moses, is saved and adopted by Pharaoh's own daughter.



10  
PLAGUES



**BLOOD**



**FROGS**

**GNATS**



**FLIES**

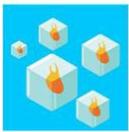
**LIVESTOCK**



**BOILS**



**HAIL**



**LOCUST**



**DARKNESS**



**FIRSTBORN**



When Moses grows up, he's told by God to command Pharaoh to let the Jews go. Pharaoh says no, and God sets out to convince him by way of the Ten Plagues. As the story goes, during the tenth and final plague, God passes through the land of Egypt and strikes down the firstborn of every household. But the Jews have been told to mark their doors with the blood of a lamb they've sacrificed – the Passover offering – and so God "passes over" their homes.

# THE STORY OF PASSOVER

Pharaoh's son is killed during this final plague, and as a result, Pharaoh lets the Jews go free — before changing his mind, as Pharaohs do. The ensuing chase ends up with Moses being trapped in front of the Red Sea, before it's parted by God for the Jews to cross — the act of divine intervention that finally leads them to freedom, and (after forty years in the desert) to the land of Israel.



## PASSOVER THEMES

Freedom    Rebirth    Power

Modern Plagues    Redemption

*What do you think Passover's all about?*

# BEYONCÉ ON FREEDOM

"Freedom! Freedom! I can't move  
Freedom, cut me loose! Freedom! Freedom!  
Where are you? Cause I need freedom too! I  
break chains all by myself. Won't let my  
freedom rot in hell. Hey! I'ma keep running.  
Cause a winner don't quit on themselves"  
--Freedom

*What does freedom look like for Beyoncé?  
Does it look similar or different in the Passover story?*



# BEYONCÉ ON TODAY'S PLAGUES

"Pretty hurts, Shine the light on  
whatever's worse. Perfection is the  
disease of a nation. Pretty hurts, Shine  
the light on whatever's worse. Tryna  
fix something but you can't fix what  
you can't see. It's the soul that needs  
the surgery"  
*--Pretty Hurts*

*What  
would you  
add to the  
list of  
modern-day  
plagues?*

"All these people on the  
planet. Working 9 to 5,  
just to stay alive. The 9  
to 5, just to stay alive.  
All the people on the  
planet. Working 9 to 5  
just to stay alive.  
How come?  
*--Haunted*

# BEYONCÉ ON POWER

*Who has power in the Passover story?  
How is this seen through Beyoncé's lyrics?*

"Stars in her eyes, She fights for the power,  
keeping time. She grinds day and night. She  
grinds from Monday to Friday. Works from  
Friday to Sunday... Oh, stars in her eyes,  
She fights and she sweats those sleepless nights.  
But she don't mind, she loves the grind...  
Too smart to crave material things"

*--6 Inch*

"Super power: A subtle power  
Super power: A tough love  
Super power: Like a shark  
Super power: Like a bear  
A tough love"  
*--Superpower*



"Who run the world?"

# BEYONCÉ ON REDEMPTION

*Who is redeemed in the Passover story? Who does the redeeming? In what ways does power play into redemption? What's Beyoncé have to say about it?*

"Found the truth beneath your lies.  
And true love never has to hide.  
I'll trade your broken wings for mine.  
I've seen your scars and kissed your crime.  
Our love was stronger than your pride.  
Beyond your darkness, I'm your light.  
If you get deep, you touch my mind.  
Baptize your tears and dry your eyes.  
They say true love's the greatest weapon.  
To win the war caused by pain.  
But every diamond has imperfections.  
But my love's too pure to watch it chip away.  
Oh, nothing real can be threatened;  
True love breathes salvation back into me.  
With every tear came redemption;  
And my torturer became a remedy"  
--All Night