

Speech

Why Passover is my favourite holiday - by Prielle Laniado

Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen, honorable judges, family and friends. My name is Prielle Laniado and I am from Vancouver Talmud Torah. This evening I will be talking about Pesach. I'll tell you why I think it is the most important Jewish holiday and also why it is my favorite.

1.

Let's start by agreeing, that Passover is THE **first** Jewish holiday, so, that means that if G-D and Moses would have not lead us out of Egypt, we would not have Passover to celebrate. More importantly, we would probably not have any other Jewish holidays!

Passover is all about **freedom** and it begins with the Jews turning from slaves to a free nation — ***am hofshi***.

We WERE slaves, then we left Egypt, and became a NATION!

That makes Passover the oldest continuously celebrated Jewish festival.

2.

Now, imagine for a moment, that you and everyone you know have been slaves for **over 400 years**! You don't have enough food to eat, water to drink, you can't decide anything for yourself AND, you're working really, really hard with no breaks!

And then, come G-D and Moses to set you free - after a series of **unbelievable** miracles! Wouldn't you have the best celebrations of your life becoming free??

Pesach for **me** is all about **freedom**!

3.

Speaking of **miracles**, on almost all Jewish holidays we celebrate miracles, but on Pesach, we celebrate the most **awesome** miracles of all times and the **greatest miracles of all the holidays**.

A staff turning into a snake? Ten unbelievable plagues? And, The most amazing miracle of all: The splitting of the Red Sea just before b'nei Israel crossed it, and more than that, the whole Egyptian Army drowned when they tried to chase after them.

4.

And then, there is The **Seder**! What do we do at the Seder??

We **eat** of course!!! The **food**, oh, the **food**! Because we do not eat bread or wheat on Pesach, my mother makes delicious **Sephardic** dishes that we only get to eat on this special holiday.

Now, do we only eat?? No! We tell the story of Pesach, and retell the story of **yeziat mitzraim**, and even the youngest kids get to participate and stay up late like everyone else !

Not to mention, the Affikoman is so much fun and sometimes, I was the lucky one to find it and got some pretty cool prizes.

OK. By now you all know why I am so excited about Pesach, right?? It is the **First** Jewish holiday, we are free from slavery, **unbelievable miracles** happened, the **Seder**, which I love, and **the best food** of all year round. What's not to like?

I hope that every year you will remember the special meaning of Pesach I talked about in my speech and get to love it as much as I do.

Thank you very much for your attention and for listening to my speech!
Good night.