

KADEISH: FOUR CUPS OF WINE

KADEISH: MAKING KIDDUSH

Passover Kiddush

Passover, like all Jewish festivals, is differentiated from weekdays by saying kiddush.

Everyone Must Drink at Seder

At the Passover se_{der}, all Jews above the age of bar mitzva or bat mitzva (including women--unlike on other Jewish festivals) must drink wine for kiddush and for the other three times in the se_{der} when the borei pri ha'gafen blessing is said.

NOTE On the other Jewish festivals, only one person needs to drink the wine when kiddush is said, and that will cover and fulfill everyone else's requirement for that kiddush.

NOTE Only children and people who will get sick if they drink alcohol are permitted to drink grape juice at se_{der}.

Alcohol Content of Seder Wine

You may dilute the se_{der} wine to a minimum of 4% alcohol.

Red Wine or White for Seder

If you have equally good red wine and white wine, the red is preferred for the four cups at the se_{der}. If your white wine is better or if you prefer white wine, use that.

Drinking More

You may drink more wine between the first and second cups, between the second and third cups, but not between the third and fourth cups.

KADEISH: FOUR CUPS, FOUR ROLES

Four Cups, Four Roles

Each of the four cups has a different role:

- First Cup: Kiddush to sanctify the holiday.
- Second Cup: Sanctifying the hagada.
- Third Cup: Sanctifying Birkat ha'mazon.
- Fourth Cup: Sanctifying Hallel.

KADEISH: FOUR CUPS, FOUR EXPRESSIONS

Four Cups, Four Expressions

The four cups of wine relate to the four expressions God used when telling what he would do to bring the Israelites out of Egypt:

- V'hotzeiti I will send them out.
- V'hitzalti I will save them.
- V'ga'alti I will redeem them.
- V'lakachti I will take them.

KADEISH: FIFTH CUP

Fifth Cup

The fifth cup of wine at se_{der}, for Eliyahu (Elijah) the prophet, symbolizes v'heiveiti--"I will bring them."

REASON In the future, everyone will drink five cups of se_{der} wine. (Some say the term v'heiveiti is not part of the redemption and some say it is a stage that has not happened yet.)

The cup of Eliyahu (which is not intended to be drunk by Eliyahu) should be used for kiddush the next morning. Various customs dictate when to fill Eliyahu's cup; it may be filled anytime from the beginning of the se_{der}.

KADEISH: HOW MUCH TO FILL AND DRINK

Four Cups: Minimum Quantity To Fulfill Mitzva

Minimum wine to fulfill the se_{der} mitzva:

- Each person must drink four cups of wine at the se_{der};
- Each cup must hold at least 4 fl. oz. (119 ml);
- For each blessing on the wine, you must drink at least 2 fl. oz. (59 ml) within 30 seconds of when you begin to drink each cup.

Majority of the Cup/Rov Kos

The se_{der} is the only time in the year that you must drink most of your cup (rov kos) of kiddush wine. (For kiddush on Shabbat and Jewish festivals, you need drink only 2 fl. oz., or 59 ml). So if you have a cup larger than 4 fl. oz. (119 ml), you may have to drink a lot of wine--more than half of each cup for four cups!

NOTE You may drink other liquids between the first and second cups of wine at the se_{der}, but it is not recommended.

KADEISH: LEANING TO LEFT

Leaning To Left while Drinking Four Cups

Every male at the se_{der} is required to lean to the left side while drinking each cup of wine.