



Jewish  
Women's  
Archive

## WHY ARE THERE MIRRORS ON THIS SEDER TABLE?

Because **mirrors** were vital to the Exodus, as were the women who carried them.

Rashi, the famous eleventh century commentator, teaches us that **mirrors** were the tools that the Israelite women used to defy Pharaoh's efforts to annihilate the Israelite people. When the men returned home from their backbreaking labors, they were exhausted and defeated. The women then took out their **mirrors** and engaged them in a playful game of "who's the fairest of them all." In this way, they lifted their husbands' spirits, aroused their desires, and ensured a future for their people.

The women of the Exodus stared into the face of oppression and refused to bow to it. Their resistance saved the Israelites from extinction.

Ordinary objects  
can be used to  
change the course  
of history.

Can you think of other times when ordinary  
objects have become instruments of protest?

SEE *your* SELF IN THE *stories* WE TELL

HAPPY PASSOVER  
from the Board and Staff of JWA