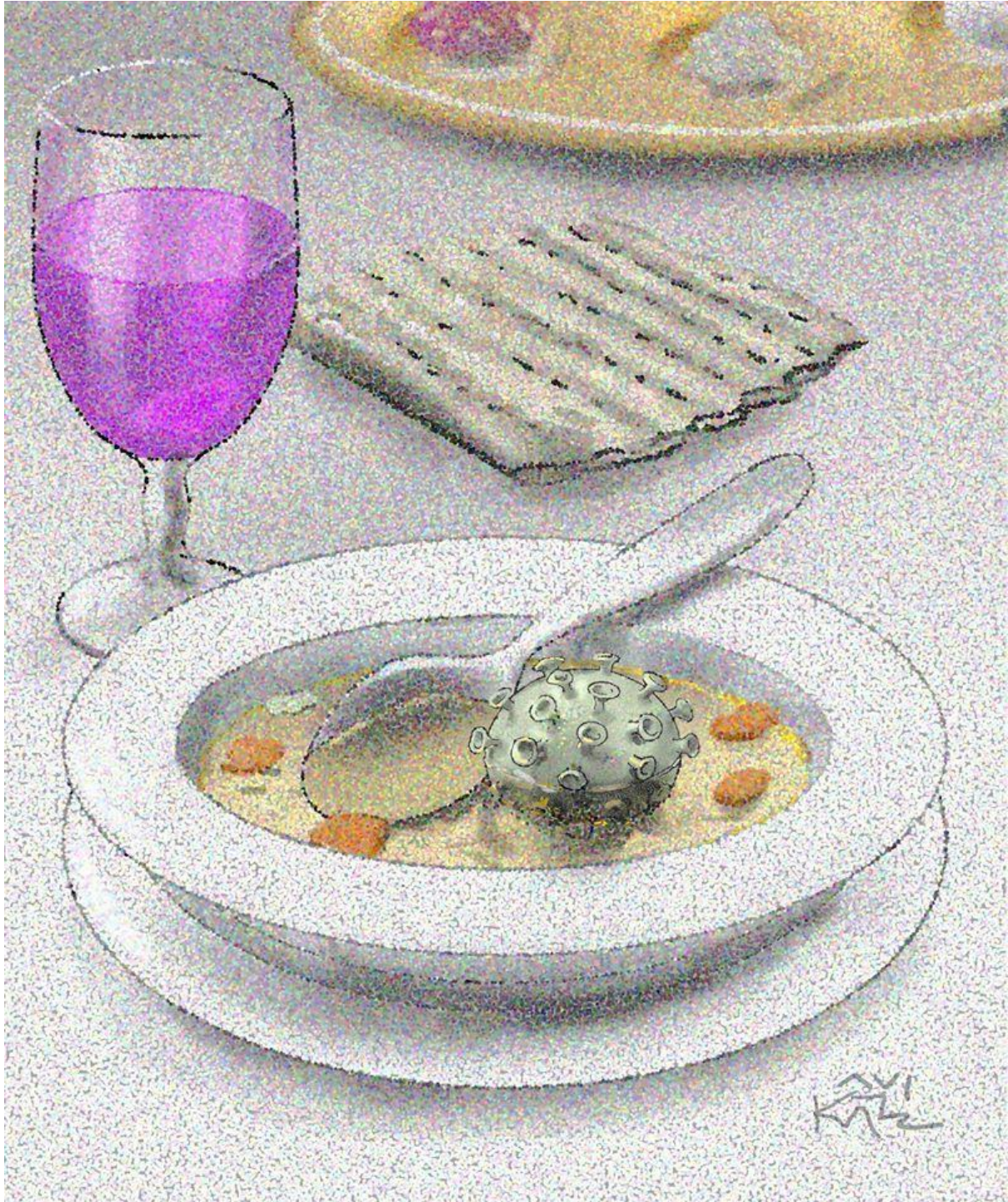


What are the most fitting questions to ask at a Corona Seder?

By Ittay Flescher

Every year at my Seder, I put a bowl of questions on the table and invite every guest to pick one to ask before Ma Nishtana. In 2020, there were more sederim that any other pesach night in Jewish history, as families that usually gathered together, had multiple small sederim. These are the questions that were most on my mind as had the smallest seder of my life in Jerusalem



- * What innovations to Jewish life that have occurred during this pandemic do you wish to see remain, once it's safe to congregate in your community again?
- * If the fight against the coronavirus is a war, it's the first one where all of humanity is on the same side. Has the past month brought you closer or further apart to people in other countries?
- * If you had to spend one Seder with a representative of an ideology that you disagree with, who would you choose?
- * From the Haredim in Israel to the Chinese in Australia, the coronavirus has given licence to people with existing prejudices against certain groups to amplify their animosity. On a night when we are called to "remember the stranger for you were once strangers in Egypt," what can you do to combat stereotypes and hatred in your community?
- * Many Jews are suffering tonight, being forced to have a seder alone, or without their most beloved family members for the first time in their lives. How will you support these Jews after the chat?
- * If you are doing this seder alone, what do you want others to know about your experience?
- * Numerous surveys have shown that the Seder is more practised by Jews than any other ritual. How do you explain the popularity of Pesach over other festivals?
- * What's more important, History (what actually happened) or Memory (how we interpret the event today)?
- * Pesach is one of the few festivals where Sephardim and Ashkenazim practice the rituals in different ways. How does where you came from influence your Jewish practice today?
- * If you could only choose one option, would you rather Israel be a Jewish or democratic state?
- * Would people be more generous to each other with or without religion?
- * If you were given a million dollars to promote freedom which you had to spend in one week, what would be your plan?
- * If Eliyahu HaNavi shows up outside our door without a face mask, should we let him in?
- * How long do you think it will take before the word "corona" returns to just being the name for another Mexican beer that is forbidden on Pesach?

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Cartoon by Avi Katz