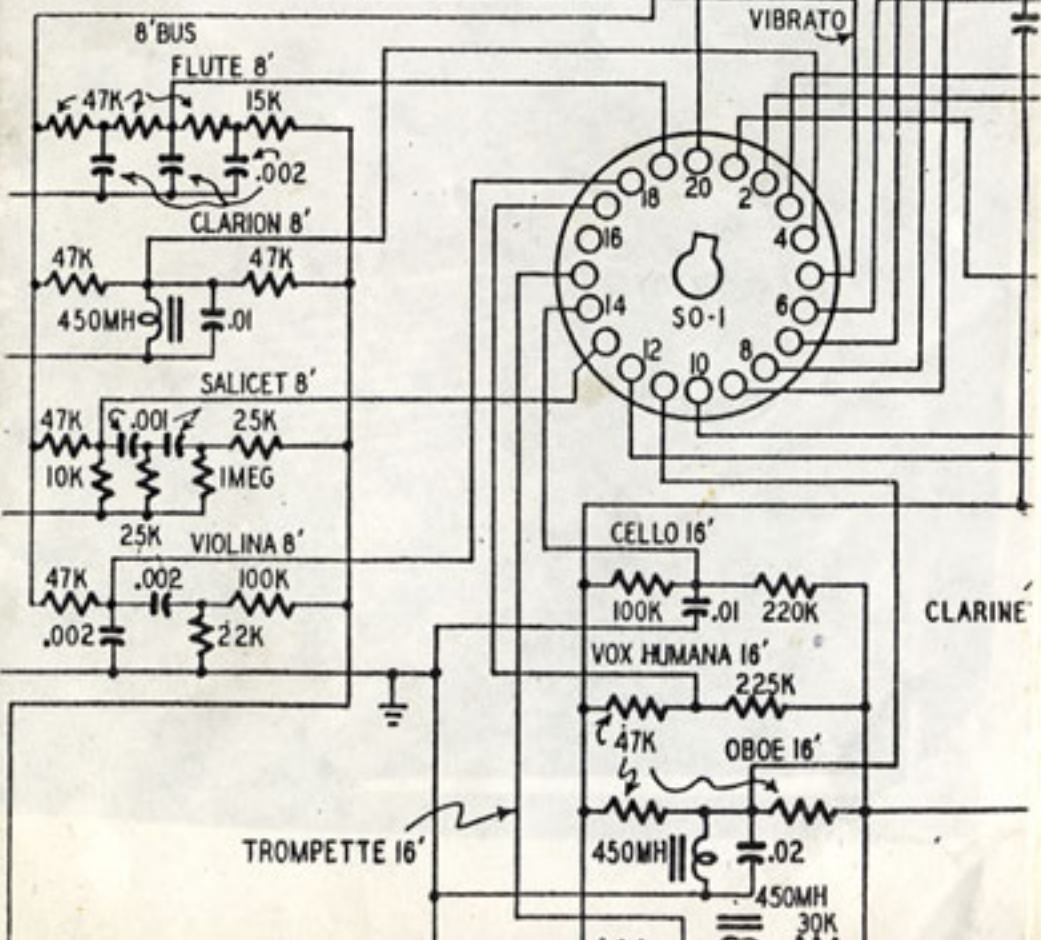


THE PASSOVER SEDER

MAIN TUNING

VIBRATO





this enchanted realm you'll recognize at once as the home of your favorite childhood fantasies.

THE PASSEOVER SEDER

a superhighway of psychotherapy.

HUZZAH!

IN PREPARATION FOR THE PASSEOVER SEDER:

BEFORE THE SEDER GENERALLY DO WHAT YOU WOULD OTHERWISE DO WERE THERE NOT GOING TO BE A SEDER. REMEMBER THAT IN OTHER LANDS PEOPLE BELIEVE IN GOD, AND HAVE ALL SORTS OF COMPLICATED SYSTEMS AND SYMPTOMS. IF IT IS POSSIBLE, WATCH "NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC" ON THE TELEVISION. TRY TO PREPARE FOODS FOR THE PASSEOVER IN LESS THAN FIFTEEN MINUTES, AS IF THEY WERE *COMING FOR YOU* AND YOU HAD TO GET AWAY FAST. IF YOU CANNOT PREPARE YOUR FOOD QUICKLY, AT LEAST YANK IT OFF OF THE STOVE AND PUT IT IN SOME SORT OF SACHEL AND DASH OUT OF YOUR HOUSE.

ORDER OF THE PASSEOVER

1. THE FIRST CUP
2. WASHING THE HANDS
3. EAT A GREEN
4. THE SECOND CUP
5. BREAK THE MIDDLE MATZAH
6. THE PASSEOVER STORY
7. THE THIRD CUP
8. MATZAH AND HERB
9. THE FESTIVAL MEAL



THE FIRST CUP

ALL READ.

THANK YOU (GOD), FOR PROVIDING US THIS CANNABIS . WITH IT WE CAN FORGET THINGS THAT WE NEED TO FORGET. WITH IT, THE PINBALL MACHINES ARE JUST SO MUCH PRETTIER. WITH IT, FOR THAT MATTER, *EVERYTHING IS SO MUCH PRETTIER*. WITH IT, WE MAKE PRETTIER THINGS, AND THINK THAT THEY ARE EVEN PRETTIER THAN THEY ACTUALLY ARE.

WE WILL TRY NOT TO SMOKE IT ALL THE TIME AND, HENCE, FORGET ABOUT YOU, BUT YOU HAVE GIVEN US A THING TO MAKE EVERYTHING PRETTIER, AND FOR THAT YOU HAVE FALLEN BY THE WAYSIDE. YOU SHOULD HAVE HAD THE FORESIGHT TO MAKE POT ACT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MAKE YOU PRETTIER ALSO. THOUGH THERE ARE SOME THAT FEEL IT DOES. AND LET US SAY, "HENCE THE IRONY."

LEANING ON THE LEFT SIDE, SMOKE THE JOINT.

WASHING THE HANDS

WASH YOUR HANDS BUT DO NOT SAY THE BLESSING. NOW YOU ARE CLEAN.

EAT A GREEN

THE "MASTER" OF THE HOUSE TAKES A BIT OF PARSLEY AND DIPS IT IN SOME SALT WATER, AND DISTRIBUTES IT TO EVERYONE AT THE TABLE. BEFORE EATING THE PARSLEY, SAY THIS PRAYER:

THANK YOU, (GOD), FOR PROVIDING US THIS VEGETABLE. SORRY ABOUT FUCKING UP THE EARTH SO BADLY, BUT WE HAD THINGS TO DO. BUT LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW, AND LET US SAY, "HENCE THE IRONY."

THE SECOND CUP

THANK YOU, (GOD), FOR PROVIDING US THIS (BOOZE). WITH IT, WE CAN CREATE SOLIDARITY BY REDUCING THE COLLECTIVE INHIBITIONS OF THOSE WHO CONSUME IT TOGETHER.. WITH IT, WE CAN SPEAK RELATIVELY UNSELFCONSCIOUSLY, AND SAY THINGS WHICH WE ORDINARILY WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO SAY. WITH IT, WE CAN DO THINGS WHICH WE WOULD ORDINARILY HAVE FAR TOO MUCH SELF-RESPECT TO DO. WITH IT, WE CAN SAY AND DO THESE THINGS AND NOT REGRET IT UNTIL THE NEXT MORNING, IF WE ARE UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO REMEMBER THEM AT ALL. AND LET US SAY, "HENCE THE IRONY."

BREAK THE MIDDLE MATZAH

THE "MASTER" OF THE "HOUSE" BREAKS THE MIDDLE MATZAH IN THE PLATE. HE LEAVES HALF OF IT THERE AND EXCUSES HIMSELF TO THE BATHROOM, AT WHICH TIME HE HIDES THE OTHER HALF OF THE MATZAH. WHOEVER FINDS THIS MATZAH AFTER DINNER GETS A SPECIAL PRIZE.

THE PASSOVER STORY

A BOOK SAYS THAT IN (INSERT ROUGH BIBLICAL YEAR), THE JEWS WERE SLAVES IN EGYPT. WHETHER THIS BOOK CAN CONSTITUTE "HISTORY" IS DEBATABLE. WHETHER HISTORY CAN CONSTITUTE A KNOWLEDGE OF THE PAST IS ALSO DEBATABLE.. ARGUING ABOUT THAT, HOWEVER, IS NOT OUR BUSINESS TONIGHT WE ACCEPT THE HISTORY OF THE BOOK TONIGHT FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING THIS RITUAL. TONIGHT OUR BUSINESS IS TO READ A DIFFERENT BOOK ON THE SAME SUBJECT. WE ALSO PERFORM A RITUAL AS DICTATED BY THE BOOK. TONIGHT'S BOOK, CALLED THE HAGGADAH, IS A TRANSLATION OF THE ORIGINAL STORY, CALLED EXODUS IN THE BIBLE, OR THE TORAH AS THE JEWS WOULD HAVE IT. IT TURNS THE RECITATION OF THE STORY OF EXODUS INTO A RITUAL. IT INCLUDES DIRECTIONS FOR PRE-RITUAL PREPARATION, AND

THE TEXT OF THE RITUAL ITSELF. THIS TEXT IS A TRANSLATION OF A HAGGADAH PREPARED BY KTAV PUBLISHING HOUSE IN NEW YORK CITY IN 1949. THAT HAGGADAH IS A TRANSLATION OF A HEBREW HAGGADAH, ITSELF A TRANSLATION OF EXODUS. WHAT WITH ALL THIS TRANSLATION, THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE THE RITUAL "AUTHENTIC" AGAIN IS PROBABLY TO REWRITE IT AND MAKE IT SOMEWHAT CONTEMPORARY, SO THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE DONE.

LIKE MOST OTHER RITUALS IN THE JEWISH TRADITION, THE PASSOVER RITUAL IS CONCERNED WITH THE SURVIVAL OF THE JEWS. UNLIKE MANY, IT IS A TIME TO KICK BACK AND RECLINE AND GET DRUNK. IT IS ALSO A TIME TO QUESTION AND THEN CELEBRATE ONE'S HERITAGE. THE LANGUAGE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CEREMONY REMINDS THE JEWS TO REMEMBER THEIR STATE OF SLAVERY, BUT THROUGH THE STORY'S RECIATIONL THE JEWS ARE ONCE AGAIN LIBERATED. . THIS RECITATION OF THE PASSOVER STORY IS INVOKED BY RECITING A SERIES OF QUESTIONS.

THE THIRD CUP OF WINE IS FILLED.



THE FOUR QUESTIONS

1. ON ALL OTHER NIGHTS, WE DRINK, SMOKE POT, WRITE OUR THESISSES OR RECOVER FROM A LONG DAY AT WORK. TONIGHT, WE SIT AROUND A TABLE WITH A BUNCH OF PEOPLE WE DO AND DON'T KNOW, ENACTING A RITUAL WHICH MOST OF US HAVE NEVER PARTICIPATED IN BEFORE. WHY DO WE HAVE TO READ ALL THIS RITUAL TEXT TOGETHER BEFORE WE GET TO EAT?

2. ON ALL OTHER NIGHTS, WE CAN EAT BREAD IF WE WANT TO. TONIGHT, WE CAN STILL EAT BREAD IF WE WANT TO, BUT IF WE FEEL LIKE BELIEVING IN THE TERMS OF THIS RITUAL WE HAVE TO EAT MATZAH INSTEAD. 'SUP WIT DAT?

3. ON ALL OTHER NIGHTS, A GOOD PERCENTAGE OF US WOULD NOT EAT ANY BITTER HERBS. THE REST OF US WHO DO CONSUME BITTER HERBS WOULD DO SO, BUT NOT STOP TO THINK OF THEM AS BITTER, OR MAYBE EVEN AS HERBS AT ALL. YET TONIGHT, IF WE HAPPEN TO BE READING ALOUD FROM THIS BOOK, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE WE'RE GOING TO EAT BITTER HERBS AT LEAST ONCE, PERHAPS A COUPLE OF TIMES, AND LABEL THEM AS SUCH. HOW COME?

4. ON ALL OTHER NIGHTS, A GOOD PERCENTAGE OF US TEND TO SLOUCH. BUT TONIGHT, WE ARE SUPPOSED TO RECLINE EVEN IF OUR CHAIRS AREN'T PARTICULARLY COMFORTABLE. HOW DID THIS GOD GUY DECIDE TO MAKE SLOUCHING SACRED ON THIS NIGHT IN PARTICULAR?

THE ANSWER

WE READ THIS STORY TONIGHT BECAUSE THE JEWS ARE PRETTY GOOD AT SURVIVING WHENEVER SOMEONE TRIES TO KILL THEM, AND THEY DON'T WANT TO FORGET IT. AFTER THE STORY IS READ WE GET TO CONSUME OUR MEAL. WE END THE RITUAL BY WISHING WE COULD BE IN JERUSALEM NEXT YEAR. WE HAVE TO TELL THE STORY BECAUSE "GOD" "BROUGHT US OUT OF SLAVERY" AND WE WANT TO SHOW "THANKS". BESIDES, ALL THE RABBIS SIT AROUND AND TELL THE STORY, ESPECIALLY RABBI JOSE OF GALILIEA. (AND DON'T YOU WANT TO HAVE A NAME LIKE RABBI JOSE OF GALILIEA?) THERE WAS IN FACT MUCH ARGUMENT IN BIBLICAL TIMES ABOUT WHEN TO TELL THE STORY. REGARDLESS, TO HELP US WITH THE TASK OF PASSING DOWN THE STORY THERE ARE FOUR SONS, EACH OF WHOM ASKS A QUESTION ABOUT THE STORY IN A DIFFERENT WAY.

THE FIRST SON ASKS WHY GOD HAS GIVEN US THESE CUSTOMS?
GIVE HIM WHAT HE WANTS, BECAUSE HE AFFIRMS THE SYSTEM.
TEACH HIM HOW TO MANIPULATE IT FO RHIS BENEFIT. HE WILL EARN
NIKE SNEAKERS, A WEB DESIGN JOB, A MIATA.

THE SECOND SON ASKS "WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS GOD THING,
AND THESE SILLY RITUALS WHERE WE HAVE TO WAIT SO LONG FOR
THE FOOD?" HE IS NOT PLAYING ALONG NICELY. TELL HIM HE'D HAVE
BEEN WELL FUCKED BACK IN OLD EGYPT WHILE WE WERE SLAVES.
NO AIR JORDANS FOR THE SECOND SON.

THE THIRD SON ASKS "WUZZAT?" HE'S NOT VERY BRIGHT. PAT
HIM ON THE HEAD AND SAY "GOD BROUGHT US OUT OF THE HOUSE OF
BONDAGE. YOU CAN EAT SOON." WIPE THE DRIZZLE OFF HIS CHIN.

THE FOURTH SON CAN'T EVEN ASK A QUESTION. PUT WORDS IN
HIS MOUTH. TRY TO MAKE THEM REALLY GOOD WORDS, EVEN IF YOU
AREN'T A VERY GOOD PERSON.

A FACT THAT WE CAN DISCERN, AMONG ALL THIS QUESTION-
ASKING AND STORYTELLING IS THAT THE JEWS PROBABLY MIGRATED
TO EGYPT BECAUSE THERE WAS A DROUGHT IN WHAT WAS THEN
CALLED CANAAN. APPARENTLY THE JEWS DID WELL ENOUGH IN
EGYPT TO MAKE THE EGYPTIANS ENSLAVE THEM OUT OF FEAR. THE
OTHER THING WE KNOW IS THAT THE JEWS OBVIOUSLY STOPPED BEING
SLAVES AT SOME POINT BECAUSE THEY LIVED TO TELL THEIR STORY
TO THEIR CHILDREN.

FILLING IN THE NARRATIVE GAP IN THIS STORY IS GOD. GOD
LEADS THE JEWS OUT OF EGYPT BY DELIVERING A SERIES OF
PLAGUES ONTO PHAROAH. THERE IS MUCH DISCUSSION IN THE BOOK
OF THE EXACT NUMBER OF PLAGUES VISITED ON THE EGYPTIANS,
DEPENDING ON HOW MANY ATTRIBUTES OF GOD YOU WANT TO MULTI-
PLY BY THE NUMBER OF PLAGUES. IN ANY CASE, THERE WERE TEN
OF THESE PLAGUES, AND EACH WAS WORSE THAN THE LAST ONE.

ALL SAY:

YIKES!

THE TEN PLAGUES

SPILL A DROP OF WINE FOR EACH OF THE TEN PLAGUES.

BLOOD
FROGS
VERMIN
BEASTS
CATTLE DISEASE
BOILS
HAIL
LOCUSTS
DARKNESS
SLAYING OF THE FIRST-BORN

LEISURE FOR LIVING-
THE BEST GIFT FOR
EVERYONE!



SING THE TEN PLAGUES.



IF WE DO BELIEVE IN GOD, WE SHOULD BELIEVE THAT HE/SHE
SURE HAS DONE A BUNCH OF GOOD THINGS FOR US.

HAD HE/SHE BROUGHT US OUT FROM EGYPT

AND NOT DROWNED THE EGYPTIANS HEINOUSLY AT THE RED
SEA (IF THAT REALLY HAPPENED),

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH FOR US!

HAD HE/SHE DROWNED THE EGYPTIANS HEINOUSLY AT THE RED
SEA (IF THAT REALLY HAPPENED),

AND NOT LET US SURVIVE MANY MORE ATTEMPTS AT OUR
EXTINCTION (IF WE, IN FACT, SURVIVED THE LAST ONE),

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH FOR US!

IF HE/SHE HAD LET US SURVIVE MANY MORE ATTEMPTS AT OUR
EXTINCTION (IF WE, IN FACT, SURVIVED THE LAST ONE),

AND NOT LET US TAKE A SICK SORT OF PLEASURE IN FEELING
GUILTY ABOUT SURVIVING THESE ATTEMPTS,

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH FOR US!

IF HE/SHE HAD INVENTED THE PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH
MULTIMEDIA EXTENTIONS,

AND NOT GIVEN TORTOISE SOME SORT OF DIVINE INSPIRATION,

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH FOR US!

IF HE/SHE HAD NOT GIVEN TORTOISE SOME SORT OF DIVINE
INSPIRATION,

AND NOT GIVEN MOST OF US THESE FUCKING
THESES TO WRITE,

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH FOR US!

IF HE/SHE HAD GIVEN US THESE FUCKING THESES TO WRITE,

AND NOT GIVEN US THE POWER TO RATIONALIZE OUR
PROCRASTINATION,

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH FOR US!

IF HE/SHE HAD NOT GIVEN US THE POWER TO RATIONALIZE OUR
PROCRASTINATION,

AND NOT SURROUNDED US WITH SIMILARLY STRESSED
PROCRASTINATORS,

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH FOR US!

IF HE/SHE HAD SURROUNDED US WITH SIMILARLY STRESSED
PROCRASTINATORS,

AND NOT MADE THEM FAR MORE INTERESTING THAN OUR
FUCKING THESES,

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FUCKING ENOUGH, OKAY!

IF HE/SHE HAD LET US TAKE A SICK SORT OF PLEASURE IN FEEL-
ING GUILTY ABOUT SURVIVING THESE ATTEMPTS,

AND NOT LET US BECOME EXCEEDINGLY WEALTHY AS BANKERS
AND DOCTORS,

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH FOR US!

IF HE/SHE HAD LET US BECOME EXCEEDINGLY WEALTHY AS BANK-
ERS AND DOCTORS

AND NOT LET US HAVE CABLE TV,

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH FOR US!

IF HE/SHE HAD LET US HAVE CABLE TV,

AND NOT LET US SHOP AT NIKETOWN,

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH FOR US!

IF HE/SHE HAD LET US SHOP AT NIKETOWN,

AND NOT INVENTED THE PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MULTIME-
DIA EXTENTIONS,

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH FOR US!

THE THIRD CUP

THANK YOU, (GOD), FOR GIVING US EVEN MORE BOOZE, BOOZE WHICH LOOKS SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE SOMETHING WHICH WOULD KILL US IF WE DRANK IT. BY DRINKING THIS WE WILL FAKE OUR OWN DEATHS, PRETENDING TO EVADE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR ACTIONS EVEN FURTHER. OUR INSIDES, HOWEVER, WILL BECOME SQUEAKY CLEAN AND MIRROR-REFLECTIVE. AND LET US SAY, "HENCE THE IRONY."

THE THREE IMPORTANT SYMBOLS AT THIS MEAL ARE THUS:

THE PASSEOVER OFFERING

THE MATZAH

THE BITTER HERB

THE PASSEOVER OFFERING REMINDS US THAT THIS GOD CHARACTER GAVE US A CHANCE TO NOT HAVE OUR FIRST-BORN CHILDREN KILLED. WHILE THIS KIND OF GOES AGAINST THE OMNISCIENT/OMNIPOTENT THING THAT ONE WAS ALWAYS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE THAT GOD PASSED OVER (GET IT?) THE HOUSES OF THE JEWS WHICH WERE MARKED WITH BLOOD FROM THE OFFERING.

POINT TO THE MATZAH.

THE MATZAH IS HERE BECAUSE WE HAD TO LEAVE OUR EGYPTIAN HOVELS HELLA FAST BECAUSE PHAROAH WAS TEAR-ASSING HIS ARMY AFTER US. IF WE HAD WAITED AROUND FOR THE BREAD TO RISE, WE ALL WOULD'VE BEEN SLAUGHTERED. THEREFORE, OUR GOD COMMANDS US TO SACRALIZE SILLY BREADS.

POINT TO THE BITTER HERB.

THESE HERBS ARE HERE BECAUSE BEING IN SLAVERY SUCKS. ASK ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN A SLAVE. THESE HERBS ARE PRETTY DAMN BITTER. THEY'RE NOT QUITE AS BITTER AS SLAVERY, SEEING AS THEY ONLY MAKE YOUR MOUTH PUCKER UP FOR A FEW MINUTES, BUT THEY ARE A SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION, AND THEREFORE NOT NEARLY AS POTENT AS THE REAL THING. YOU DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO BE ENSLAVED, ANYWAYS.

BLESSING OVER THE MATZAH:

THANK YOU, (GOD), FOR SAVING OUR ASS, EVEN IF THE BREAD DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO RISE. AND LET US SAY, "HENCE THE IRONY."

BITTER HERBS:

DIP BITTER HERBS IN CHAROSET AND SAY:

THANK YOU, (GOD), FOR SAVING OUR ASS, AGAIN. WE'RE GOING TO TRY TO REMEMBER HOW MUCH IT SUCKED, BUT TEMPER THE BITTER FOOD WITH SOMETHING SWEET BECAUSE WE DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER THE FEELINGS THAT VIVIDLY, BECAUSE THEY SUCKED. AND LET US SAY, "HENCE THE IRONY."

EAT THE BITTER HERBS AND MATZAH TOGETHER
EAT A SANDWICH OF BITTER HERBS AND MATZAH AND SAY:

IN A BOOK THERE WAS THIS GUY NAMED HILLEL. HE WANTED TO FOLLOW A BOOK REALLY WELL, SO HE MADE A SANDWICH, JUST LIKE THE BOOK SAID. NOBODY ELSE REALLY THOUGHT TO DO THAT. FOR THIS, WE PUT HIM IN OUR BOOK. AND LET US SAY, "HENCE THE IRONY."

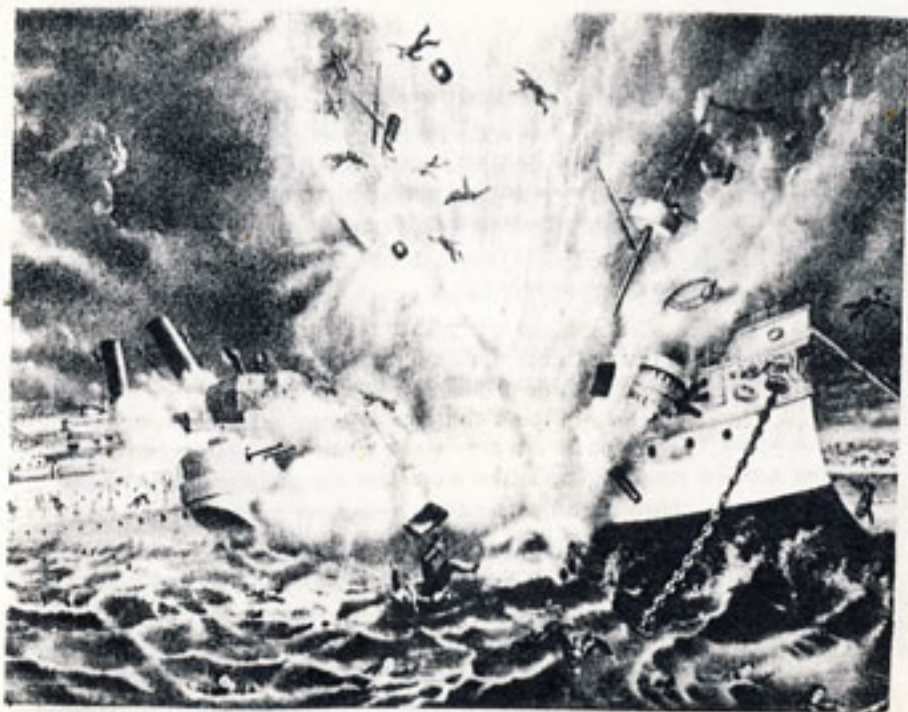
THE FOURTH CUP

BY NOW, WE'RE PRETTY FUCKED UP. THANK YOU, GOD, FOR GIVING US THE MEANS TO GET FUCKED UP, SO WE CAN FORGET THINGS AND HAVE A GOOD TIME. ISN'T IT FUNNY THAT A RITUAL ABOUT REMEMBERING SURVIVAL HAS SO MUCH ALCOHOL IN IT? AND LET US SAY, "HENCE THE IRONY."

THE FESTIVAL MEAL
DIG IN! CONSUME!



"I'M FULL OF FOOD
YET HALF
STARVED!"



What Strange Powers
Did The Ancients Possess?