A Remarkable Seder

translated as well as humanly possible by
Anthony Kaiser

Marin sat back proudly, surveying the Seder table. It was the biggest gathering there had been for many years, what with the recent pandemic and new arrivals in the family. He smiled fondly at his wife, son, daughter and [untranslatable]. Even though Grandma had forgotten her glasses so she could not read the Haggadah and cousin Sogin was still petulant because he had been sat away from his cousin to stop them making mischief together, there was general harmony. And they had already got as far as Manishtana!

This year, his own son, Wkreek, was the youngest, and sang the questions almost perfectly (with a bit of encouragement), rewarded by a sweetie. Before moving on, Marin asked him, "Do you know why there are five questions? And for that matter, five cups of wine?"

"Is it because we have five digits on our five limbs, Dad?"

"It's because of the five phases of the moon!" shouted Sogin.

"No, it's from the five passages in Torah where our redemption from the Amplimbons are mentioned" asserted Nixtl, who always fancied herself the Torah authority, and a feminist to boot. "And it fits with the five sons, the wise, the rebellious, the simple, the infant and the yecker."

Marin marshalled the service back to order, and before long they were eating their boiled eggs and delicious chicken. "Now the food is cleared away, I think you can let the pets back in" Marin suggested to his wife, and two straight-haired humans ran in. Sogin found the afikomen, and the mood turned philosophical as they munched it. "Do you think there could be Jews on other planets, Daddy?" asked Wkreek.

"That's preposterous, son! We were created in Hashem's image. Do you think intelligent, five-limbed arthropods could have arisen anywhere else? And do you suppose there could have been Amplimbons on other planets? Next you will be telling me that pets could have religious thoughts! Shema! Yisrael! Come over here and sit! There's good boys!" "Omain!" the two pets responded.