

# Echad Mi Yodea

**Echad Mi Yodea** (Yiddish: ווער קעב זאָגן ווער קעב רעדן *ver ken zogn ver ken redn*) (Ladino: "ken supyese i entendyese") (Hebrew: אחד מי יודע *ekháđ mi yodeá*) (Bukhori: *Yakumin ki medonad?*) (Who Knows One?) is a traditional cumulative song sung on Passover and found in the haggadah. It enumerates common Jewish motifs and teachings. It is meant to be fun and humorous, while still imparting important lessons to the children present.

Recitation varies from family to family. The song, first has versions in Yiddish and Hebrew, and many other vernacular languages. Sometimes it is played as a memory game, recited without looking. Sometimes the goal is to recite the entire verse in one breath.<sup>[1]</sup>

0:00
MENU

Echad Mi Yodea, recorded in Tel Aviv in 1966

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## Meaning

Although it can appear to be simply a juvenile children's song, an important message is being imparted to those present at the Passover table. The main theme of Passover, and particularly of the Seder, is not only the physical freedom of a nation of slaves. More importantly, it is the spiritual and mental freeing of this people, to become a nation unto God, His Chosen People. As His people, the Jewish Nation is expected to be wholly at one with God, and to relate everything in their lives to Him. It is sometimes thought that word association reveals the unconscious mind. Thus, it is at this point in the Seder that the Jews sing this cumulative song. After relating God's wonders and kindness, and the events of the Exodus, the song demonstrates how everything can and should relate to God: "If I say 'One', you think 'God!', if I say 'Five', you think 'Books of Moses!'"

# History

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According to the Encyclopaedia Judaica, this song is first found in Ashkenazi Haggadot of the 16th century. It is believed to have originated in Germany in the 15th century, possibly based on a German folk song "Guter freund ich frage dich", which means "Good friend, I ask you".

## Structure and text

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"Echad Mi Yodea" is a cumulative song, meaning that each verse is built on top of the previous verses. There are thirteen verses.

*The first verse runs:*

Who knows one?  
 I know one.  
**One is our God, in heaven and on earth.**

*The second verse:*

Who knows two?  
 I know two.  
**Two are the tablets of the covenant;**  
 One is our God, in heaven and on earth.

*...and so forth. The last verse is:*

Who knows thirteen?  
 I know thirteen.  
**Thirteen are God's principles;**  
 Twelve are the tribes of Israel;  
 Eleven are the stars of Joseph's dream;  
 Ten are the Commandments;  
 Nine are the months of childbirth;  
 Eight are the days before circumcision;  
 Seven are the days of the week;  
 Six are the sections of the Mishnah;  
 Five are the books of the Torah;  
 Four are the Matriarchs;  
 Three are the Patriarchs;  
 Two are the tablets of the covenant;  
 One is our God, in heaven and on earth.

Popular version					
English		Hebrew		Yiddish	
1.	One is our God, in heaven and on earth	אחד אלוהינו שבשמיים ובארץ	א.	איינער איז הקדוש ברוך הוא אויף דער ערד און הימעל איינער ביסטו	א.
2.	Two are the tablets of the covenant;	שני לוחות הברית	ב.	צוויי לוחות פון ספיר שטיין געשריבען האָט זיי דער אייבערשטער אליין	ב.
3.	Three are the Fathers	שלושה אבות	ג.	דריי אבות זענען ביי אונז דאָ אברהם, יצחק, יעקב, זכרונם לברכה	ג.
4.	Four are the Mothers	ארבע אימהות	ד.	פיר אימהות זענען ביי אונז דאָ שרה, רבקה, רחל און !לאה	ד.
5.	Five are the books of the Torah	חמישה חומשי תורה	ה.	די תורה איז צוטיילט אויף פינף ספרים בראשית, שמות, ויקרא, במדבר, דברים	ה.
6.	Six are the books of the Mishnah	שישה סידרי משנה	ו.	זעקס חלקים, עפען אויף און זע ווערט צוטיילט די תורה שבעל פה	ו.
7.	Seven are the days of the week	שיבעה ימי שבתא	ז.	א גאנצע וואָך גרייט מען זיך צו דער זיבעטער טאָג שבת, שטעלט זיך אָפּ אין רו	ז.
8.	Eight are the days of the circumcision	שמונה ימי מילה	ח.	אכט טעג ווען א קיד איז אלט מאכט מען איהם א ברית, און ער ווערט געמילט	ח.
9.	Nine are the months of the pregnant	תישעה ירחי לידה	ט.	ניין מאנאטען ווערט איינגעשטעלט אייעדער א קינד קומט אויף דער וועלט	ט.
10.	Ten are the Commandments	עשרה דיבריא	י.	אויף באַרג סיני האָט אונזער גאָט אונז געגעבען די !צען געבאָט	י.
11.	Eleven are the stars of the Joseph's dream	אחד עשר כוכביא	יא.	אחד עשר לאָזט אונז הערען יוסף'ס חלום און די עלף שטערען	יא.
12.	Twelve are the tribes of Israel	שנים עשר שיבטיא	יב.	יעקב'ס קינדער פון דור צו דור די צוועלף שבטים, און ראובן איז דער בכור	יב.
13.	Thirteen are the attributes of God	שלושה עשר מידיא	יג.	א גאָט פון רחמנות איז אונזער בורא דרייצען מידות לערנט אונז די תורה	יג.

Rhyming version			
English		Hebrew	
1.	One is Hashem, one is Hashem, one is Hashem! In the Heaven and the Earth	אחד אלוהינו שבשמיים ובארץ	.א.
2.	Two are the tablets that <u>Moshe</u> brought;	שני לוחות הברית	.ב.
3.	Three are the Fathers	שלושה אבות	.ג.
4.	Four are the Mothers	ארבע אימהות	.ד.
5.	Five are the books of the Torah	חמישה חומשי תורה	.ה.
6.	Six are the books of the <u>Mishnah</u>	שישה סידרי משנה	.ו.
7.	Seven are the days of the week ooh-ah	שיבעה ימי שבתא	.ז.
8.	Eight are the days til the <u>Brit Milah</u>	שמונה ימי מילה	.ח.
9.	Nine are the months til the baby's born	תשעה ירחי לידה	.ט.
10.	Ten are the ten Commandments	עשרה דיבריא	.י.
11.	Eleven are the stars in Joseph's dream	אחד עשר כוכביא	.יא.
12.	Twelve are the tribes of Israel	שנים עשר שיבטיא	.יב.
13.	Thirteen are the attributes of Hashem	שלושה עשר מידיא	.יג.

Yiddish singing version (sometimes known as Mu Asapru)			
	English	Yiddish transliteration	Yiddish
Chorus:	<i>Hebrew</i> What can I say? What can I tell? <i>back to Yiddish</i> Hey! Hey! Ya da da da da! Who can say, who can tell, what is the meaning of ___?	Mu asapru, mu adabru, oyscha! oyscha! Ya da da da da, ver ken zogn, ver ken redn, vos di ___ batayt?	מה אספרה, מה אדברה, אויסקא! אויסקא! יא דא דא דא דא... ווער קען זאגן, ווער קען רעדן, וואס די ___ באטייט?
1.	One is God, and God is one, and there is no other.	Eyner is Got, und Got is eyner, un vayte keyner.	איינער איז גאט, און גאט איז איינער, און ווייטע קיינער
2.	Two are the tablets	Tzvey zenen di lukhes	צוויי זענען די לוחות
3.	Three are the Fathers	Dray zenen di Oves	דריי זענען די אבות
4.	Four are the Mothers	Fir zenen di lmes	פיר זענען די אימהות
5.	Five are the fifths of the Torah	Finf zenen di Khamushim	פינף זענען די חמושים
6.	Six are the books of the Mishnah	Zekst zenen di Mishnayes	זעקסט זענען די משניות
7.	Seven are the weekdays	Zibn zenen di Vokhnteg	זיבן זענען די וואָכנטעג
8.	Eight days till the bris	Akht teg iz der bris	אַכט טעג איז דער ברית
9.	Nine months you're carried (in the womb)	Nayn khedoshim trogt men	ניין חודשים טראָגט מען
10.	Ten are the Commandments	Tzen zenen di gebot	צען זענען די געבאָט
11.	Eleven are the stars (in Joseph's dream)	Elf zenen di shtern	עלף זענען די שטערן
12.	Twelve are the tribes (of Israel)	Tzvelv zenen di shvotim	צוועלף זענען די שבֿוטים
13.	Thirteen is a <u>bar mitzvah</u>	Draytzn iz men bar mitzvah	דרייצן איז מען בר מצווה
Complete verse.	Thirteen is a bar mitzvah, twelve are the tribes, eleven are the stars, ten are the Commandments, nine months you're carried, eight days till the bris, seven are the weekdays, six are the books of the Mishnah, five are the fifths of the Torah, four are the Mothers, three are the Fathers, two are the tablets, and one is God, and God is one, and there is no other. Hey!	Draytzn iz men bar mitzvah, tzvelv zenen di shvotim, elf zenen di shtern, tzen zenen di gebot, nayn khedoshim trogt men, akht teg iz der bris, zibn zenen di vokhnteg, zekst zenen di Mishnayes, finf zenen di Khamushim, fir zenen di lmes, dray zenen di Oves, tzvey zenen di lukhes, un einer is Got, un Got is einer, un vayte keyner. Oy!	דרייצן איז מען בר מצווה, צוועלף זענען די שבֿוטים, עלף זענען די שטערן, צען זענען די געבאָט, ניין חודשים טראָגט מען, אַכט טעג איז דער ברית, זיבן זענען די וואָכנטעג, זעקסט זענען די משניות, פינף זענען די חמושים, פיר זענען די אימהות, דריי זענען די אבות, צוויי זענען די לוחות, און איינער איז גאט, און גאט איז איינער, און ווייטע קיינער. אוי!

## Spanish version

Showing the last complete paragraph, as an example. First and Last verses would be sung in Hebrew.

Shloshá Asar, Mi Yodea?  
Shloshá Asar, Ani Yodea!

Trece años del Bar Mitzvá  
 Doce Tribus de Israel  
 Once Estrellas de Iaakov  
 Diez Mandamientos Son  
 Nueve Meses de la preñada  
 Ocho Días del Milá  
 Siete Días de la Semana  
 Seis Libros de la Mishná  
 Cinco Libros de la Torá  
 Cuatro Madres de Israel  
 Tres Nuestros Padres Son  
 Dos Tablas de La Ley  
 Uno es el Creador

Eloheinu, Eloheinu,  
 Eloheinu, Eloheinu,  
 She-bashamaim uva'aretz

## Judaeo-Ladino version

Ken supyese y entenyese alavar al Dio kreyense?

Kuale es el uno?

Uno es el Kriador, Baruch Hu Baruch shemo

Kuales son loz dos?

Dos Moshe y Aron

Kuales son los tres?

Trez padrez nuestros son, [Avram, Itzhak y Yaakov]

Kuales son los quatro?

Kuatro madrez muestras son, [Sara, Rivka, Leah, Rahel]

Kuales son los sinko?

Sinko livroz de la Ley

Kuales son los seish?

Seish diaz de la semana

Kuales son los syete?

Syete dias con Shabbat

Kuales son loz ocho?

Ocho diaz de la mila

Kuales son loz nueve?

Nueve mezes de la prenyada

Kuales son los diesh?

Diez mandamientoz de la Ley

Kuales son loz onze?  
Onze trivoz in Yisrael

Kuales son loz doze?  
Dosay trivos kon Yosef

## **Judaeo-Tajik or Bokharian version**

Yakumin kie medonad? Yakumin man' medonam! Yakumin: Khudoyi pabun olamin.

Duyumin kie medonad? Duyumin man' medonam! Duyumin: du'u lavchie gavkhar. Yakumin: Khudoyi pabun olamin.

Seyumin kie medonad? Seyumin man' medonam! Seyumin: se'e padaron. Duyumin: du'u lavchie gavkhar. Yakumin: Khudoyi pabun olamin.

Chorumin kie medonad? Chorumin man' medonam! Chorumin: chor' modaron. Seyumin: se'e padaron. Duyumin: du'u lavchie gavkhar. Yakumin: Khudoyi pabun olamin.

Panjumin kie medonad? Panjumin man' medonam! Panjumin: panj sifrey Toro. Chorumin: chor' modaron. Seyumin: se'e padaron. Duyumin: du'u lavchie gavkhar. Yakumin: Khudoyi pabun olamin.

Shashtumin kie medonad? Shashtumin man' medonam! Shishtumin: shash sidrey mishno. Panjumin: panj sifrey Toro. Chorumin: chor' modaron. Seyumin: se'e padaron. Duyumin: du'u lavchie gavkhar. Yakumin: Khudoyi pabun olamin.

Khaftumin kie medonad? Khaftumin man' medonam! Khaftumin: khaft rouzi khafta. Shishtumin: shash sidrey mishno. Panjumin: panj sifrey Toro. Chorumin: chor' modaron. Seyumin: se'e padaron. Duyumin: du'u lavchie gavkhar. Yakumin: Khudoyi pabun olamin.

Khashtumin kie medonad? Khashtumin man' medonam! Khashtumin: khasht rouzi millo. Khaftumin: khaft rouzi khafta. Shishtumin: shash sidrey mishno. Panjumin: panj sifrey Toro. Chorumin: chor' modaron. Seyumin: se'e padaron. Duyumin: du'u lavchie gavkhar. Yakumin: Khudoyi pabun olamin.

Nokhumin kie medonad? Nokhumin man' medonam! Nokhumin: noch mochie zanon. Khashtumin: khasht rouzi millo. Khaftumin: khaft rouzi khafta. Shishtumin: shash sidrey mishno. Panjumin: panj sifrey Toro. Chorumin: chor' modaron. Seyumin: se'e padaron. Duyumin: du'u lavchie gavkhar. Yakumin: Khudoyi pabun olamin.

Dakhumin kie medonad? Dakhumin man' medonam! Dakhumin: dakh sukhanon. Nokhumin: noch mochie zanon. Khashtumin: khasht rouzi millo. Khaftumin: khaft rouzi khafta. Shishtumin: shash sidrey mishno. Panjumin: panj sifrey Toro. Chorumin: chor' modaron. Seyumin: se'e padaron. Duyumin: du'u lavchie gavkhar. Yakumin: Khudoyi pabun olamin.

Yozdakhum kie medonad? Yozdakhum man' medonam! Yozdakhum: yozdah sitoracho. Dakhumin: dakh sukhanon. Nokhumin: noch mochie zanon. Khashtumin: khasht rouzi millo. Khaftumin: khaft rouzi khafta. Shishtumin: shash sidrey mishno. Panjumin: panj sifrey Toro. Chorumin: chor' modaron. Seyumin: se'e

padaron. Duyumin: du' u lavchie gavkhar. Yakumin: Khudoyi pabun olamin.

Duvozdakhum kie medonad? Duvozdakhum man medonam! Duvozdakhum: duvozdah shivtocho. Yozdakhum: yozdah sitoracho. Dakhumin: dakh sukhanon. Nokhumin: noch mochie zanon. Khashtumin: khasht rouzi millo. Khaftumin: khaft rouzi khafta. Shishtumin: shash sidrey mishno. Panjumin: panj sifrey Toro. Chorumin: chor' modaron. Seyumin: se'e padaron. Duyumin: du' u lavchie gavkhar. Yakumin: Khudoyi pabun olamin.

Sezdakhum kie medonad? Sezdakhum man' medonam! Sezdakhum: sezdah khislatcho. Duvozdakhum: duvozdah shivtocho. Yozdakhum: yozdah sitoracho. Dakhumin: dakh sukhanon. Nokhumin: noch mochie zanon. Khashtumin: khasht rouzi millo. Khaftumin: khaft rouzi khafta. Shishtumin: shash sidrey mishno. Panjumin: panj sifrey Toro. Chorumin: chor' modaron. Seyumin: se'e padaron. Duyumin: du' u lavchie gavkhar. Yakumin: Khudoyi pabun olamin.

## Popular culture

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The Judaism section of the Stack Exchange Network of question-and-answer websites is named Mi Yodeya after this song.<sup>[2]</sup>

## References

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1. [http://www.jbooks.com/secularculture/Schweitzer/Who\\_Knows.htm](http://www.jbooks.com/secularculture/Schweitzer/Who_Knows.htm)
2. <http://judaism.stackexchange.com/a/12/759/>

## External links

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- [Listen to Echad Mi Yodea online \(http://www.chabad.org/multimedia/media\\_cdo/aid/255529/jewish/Echad-Mi-Yodea.htm\)](http://www.chabad.org/multimedia/media_cdo/aid/255529/jewish/Echad-Mi-Yodea.htm)
- [Listen & watch Echad Mi Yodea video with Hebrew lyrics and English translation \(http://www.babaganewz.com/video/echad-mi-yodea\)](http://www.babaganewz.com/video/echad-mi-yodea)

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