Peszach Haggada - Illumination of the Exodus





This illumination on parchment, by an unknown Spanish miniaturist who was likely working in Spain during the 14th century, is known as the *Peszach Haggada*.

It depicts the story of "The Exodus," when the Jews left the land of Egypt.

Measuring 185 by 220 mm (7.28 x 8.66 inches), the manuscript is currently maintained at the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, in Budapest.

The Web Gallery of Art <u>describes this medieval-era work</u> for us:

The Haggada is one of the richly decorated Hebrew manuscripts of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The picture shows its only page with figural initial illustrating the Exodus (Second Book of Moses).

The miniature represents a group of wandering Jews headed by Moses. They wear Oriental robes and characteristic hats.

The *Haggada* is a book which observant Jews read on the first night of their Passover celebration. The word *Haggada* means "telling." The word *Peszach* (also written as *Pesach*) means "Passover."

Hence, the illumination featured here is a pictorial telling of the Jewish Passover as seen through the eyes of a 14th-century artist.

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Image, described above, online via the Web Gallery of Art.

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