

Hilchos Pesach 5777

R' Tzvi Yaakov Stein

ערב פסח

- Stop eating chametz by end of fourth hour into the day
- Burn and be mevatel chametz before end of fifth hour into the day
- Shaving/haircuts/cut nails before chatzos
- No melacha after chatzos (like chol hamoed)
- No matzah is allowed to be eaten
- Set table before Yom tov
- Start the seder as soon as possible
- The simanim of the Seder should be said before each siman.
Ex. "Kadesh" before Kadesh

קדש

- If possible, someone should pour the wine for the leader of the seder
- Before kiddush everyone should be reminded that there are three mitzvos being done during kiddush.
 1. Kiddush (sanctifying the day)
 2. Saying over the story of mitzrayim
 3. The Mitzva derabanan of drinking the first cup.
- Also that at least a cheekful of wine should be consumed
- Measurements for the four cups:
 - Best is 5.2 oz.
 - Good is 3.3 oz.
 - If necessary 2.9 oz.
- Preferred order of drinking:
 - Entire cup, no matter the size
 - Most of the cup, no matter the size
 - A riviis (measurements above)
 - Most of a riviis (a cheekful)
- Preferred to drink the amounts above at one time. Otherwise within 2 minutes. Within 9 minutes is acceptable
- The above amounts should be consumed without talking
- Wine with minimum 4% alcohol is preferred but grape juice is perfectly fine
- Red non mevushal wine is preferred (but not required)
- Leaning (to the left) is required for men – (If it wasn't done, it's fine)
- Women don't have to lean
- The leaning has to be on something (just leaning the body into the air is meaningless)
- It's a mitzva to give out nuts (candy) to the children
- If there's water on the table or if you had the water in mind when making Kiddush, then it can be consumed in between the cups of wine

ורחץ

- We wash the hands before dipping the karpas because that's the Halacha even though the minhag is not to do it during the year
- No bracha is made

כרפס

- Less than a kezayis of vegetable should be eaten
- When making borei pri hoadama have in mind the maror
- Leaning is not required but is allowed

יחץ

- Break the middle matzah and put the larger piece away for afikoman
- Make sure that there's at least a kezayis in each piece of matzah
- The larger piece should be wrapped up or placed in a bag

מגיד

- One should have in mind that we're doing the mitzva deoyraysa of saying over the story of mitzrayim
- The seder plate should be lifted up when saying **הא לחמא עניא**
- The new cup should be poured even though we won't be drinking it until much later
- The cups don't need to be washed out from the first drinking. If there's leftover wine in the cup it can be used for next cup
- Once the cup is poured, it's preferable that there shouldn't be any drinking
- The matzoh should be uncovered during the seder
- No other matzah should be on the table until the Seuda
- The matzos should be covered whenever we lift up the cup of wine
- Younger children should say **מה נשתנה** before older children
- Although boys and girls are equal in the mitzva of the hagada, boys should say **מה נשתנה** before girls
- The Hagada should be said and/or translated so that everyone could understand what's being said (this includes women and children)
- The Hagada is not said while leaning. It should be said with fear and awe
- When saying **והיא שעמדה** the cup should be lifted but make sure to uncover the matzos afterwards
- One who's disgusted by putting the finger into the wine when saying the ten makkos can spill out the wine instead
- When saying "Matzah" and "Maror" the middle matzah and maror should be lifted up or pointed to
- When saying "Pesach" - the shankbone should NOT be lifted up or pointed to, it should just be looked at
- From **לפיכך** until the Bracha of borei pri hagafen, the cup should be lifted up and the matzos covered
- One can be yotzei the mitzvah of haggadah by listening to someone read the haggadah, so long as the reader has them in mind

רחצה

- Even if the hands are clean from the earlier washing, they still need to be washed now and with a Bracha
- If one knows that the hands are definitely clean then it's best to touch shoes in order to definitely require a Bracha

מוציא מצה

- Have in mind that we're doing the Mitzvah Deoraysa of eating matzah
- All three matzos should be held during the Bracha of hamotzi and then the bottom matzah should be put down for the Bracha of achilas matzah
- The top matzah and the broken matzah should be broken at the same time and a kezayis should be eaten from each one.

**These are the basic halachos, however individual family minhagim may differ
For any specific situations you should ask a Sheila to your Rav**

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Motzei Matzah (cont.)

- Measurements for matza:
 - Best: a little more than a 1/3 of a hand matzah or 2/3 of a machine matza
 - Good: 1/4 of a hand matzah or 1/3 of machine matza
 - If necessary: size of the average palm of a hand
- Because matza is a mitzvah deoyraysa, the above measurements are large double sized kizaysim (which include two small kezaysim). Therefore just one kezayis of matza from the above measurement is required.
- Matza should preferably be eaten within 2 minutes (but up to 9 minutes is allowed)
- Most don't dip the matza into salt on the seder night
- Since there isn't usually enough matza in the seder leaders matza for everyone, each person should get the required amount of matza before washing the hands and then each person should get a small piece from each matza of the leader of the seder
- The matza should be eaten without talking (even if it's related to the meal)
- There should be no talking until after Korech (unless it's related to the meal)
- Reclining is required. If not then it's better to eat another kezayis while leaning

מרור

- Have in mind that we're doing the Mitzvah Drabonon of maror
- Maror should be dipped into charoses and then it should be shaken off
- Measurements for maror: (horseradish or lettuce)
 - Best: enough to fill a 1.69 oz. cup
 - Good: enough to fill a 1.1 oz. cup
 - If necessary: enough to fill a .7 of an oz.
- It should preferably be eaten within 2 minutes but up to 9 minutes is allowed – no talking during this period
- When saying the Bracha of מרור על אכילת מרור have in mind the maror that will be eaten for כורך
- No leaning while eating maror
- The maror has to be chewed and not just swallowed

כורך

- The bottom matza should be used
- Whether or not the maror is dipped into charoses depends on minhag
- Measurements for Korach, matza:
 - A little more than 1/4 of a hand or 1/3 of a machine matza
 - If necessary: size of an average palm of a hand
- Measurements for Korach, maror:
 - Best: enough to fill a 1.1 oz. cup
 - Good: enough to fill a .7 of an oz.
- Korech should preferably be eaten within 2 minutes but up to 9 minutes is allowed
- Korech should be eaten while leaning. If you didn't then it doesn't have to be repeated
- The words זכר למקדש כהלל should be said before eating. However some say it after

שולחן עורך

- it's preferable to eat the meal while leaning
- Many have the custom not to have dips on the seder night
- No excessive eating
- Many have a minhag to eat a hardboiled egg
- No roasted meat or chicken should be eaten, including pot roast

צפון

- Have in mind that according to some opinions, this is the main mitzva of matza
- Should be eaten while leaning
- If it gets lost or damaged, other matza should be substituted
- It should be eaten before chatzos
- It should be eaten while sitting in one place without changing places
- Measurements for afikoman matza:
 - Best: a little more than a 1/3 of a hand or 2/3 of a machine matza
 - Good: 1/4 of a hand or 1/3 of machine matza
 - If necessary: size of an average palm of a hand
- No eating or drinking after the afikoman (If you did eat something after, then you must eat the afikoman again)
- Water and seltzer etc. are allowed. Other drinks depend on the necessity
- On the second night all drinks are allowed

ברך

- If the cups are dirty then they should be washed out
- If there's three men, the head of the household should lead birchas hamazon
- A special cup for Eliyahu hanavi is filled up
- The 5th cup of wine is for Eliyahu HaNavi and is not meant to be consumed at the seder
- The front door is opened
- All say שפך חמתוך

הלל

- Pour the fourth cup
- This is the only hallel of the year that we sit down
- No bracha is said on hallel
- If there's three adults (including women) or even children who understand, then The head of household should say הודו לה' & המפיל out loud and the others repeat after him like in davening
- It's preferable that a full רביעית of wine should be consumed so that you can say the Bracha Achrona על הגפן

נרצה

- One is required to spend the night talking about מצרים until being overcome by sleep
- The entire קריאת שמע על המיטה is not said. Just the first parsha and the Bracha of המפיל
- Doors should not be fully locked (the entire night), unless it's not a safe neighborhood

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