

EREV PESACH WHICH FALLS OUT ON SHABBOS 5781

THURSDAY

1) **TAANIS BECHOR-SIYUM:** Halacha requires that all first born males fast on Erev Pesach. Even “Ketanim” under the age of Bar Mitzvah are included in this and it is customary for the father (who is not a Bechor) to fast in place of his son. However, it is customary for them to participate in a Siyum of a Masechta, usually done in Shul, and be allowed to partake in the Seudas Mitzva. Ideally one should try and make a Siyum himself.

2) Bedikas Chometz, with a Beracha preceding it and Kol Chamira following it.

When saying Kol Chamira it is best to know what each word means. If one knows the general idea of what is being said without knowing each individual word, the Bittul is acceptable but only B’dieved Not knowing at all what it means renders the Bittul completely invalid and pointless. It is perfectly acceptable to say the Bittul in English.

FRIDAY

In other years, one should shave, get a haircut, cut nails and do laundry before Chatzos. **THIS YEAR, HOWEVER, ALL WORK IS PERMITTED ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON.THEREFORE, ONE MAY TAKE A HAIRCUT, SHAVE, CUT NAILS AND DO LAUNDRY ALL DAY FRIDAY.**

Even this year, the burning of the Chametz is done on Friday morning since it cannot be done on Erev Pesach (Shabbos). To be consistent and avoid confusion on other years, the Biur should ideally be done on Friday morning before the end of the fifth Halachic hour (approximately 11:47am – Monsey time). If one was unable to burn the Chametz before that time, it may be burned the rest of the day on Friday. **The second Kol Chamira is NOT said at this time. It is to be said on Shabbos after the disposal of all remaining Chametz. If Kol Chamira was accidentally said on Friday at the Biur, it must be repeated on Shabbos morning.**

One should ensure that all Chametz that is being sold, should be put away before the Zman of Bi’ur Chametz as the sale will be happening by then.

Any Kashering should preferably be done by this time as well. B’dieved, Kashering can be done until Shabbos.

Prepare a three-day candle.

- 1) **SEDER PREPARATIONS:** No preparations may be done on Shabbos for the Seder whatsoever. Therefore, it is best that they all be completed before Shabbos begins. In the event that one forgot to prepare the Seder foods until after Yom Tov began, these instructions should be followed:

(HAVDALAH MUST BE MADE i.e. by saying “Baruch Hamavdil Bein Kodesh L’kodesh”)

- A. **ZRO’AH/EGG** - may be roasted but **MUST BE EATEN** on the **FIRST DAY OF YOM TOV**. Another Zro’ah and egg must be prepared on the second day of Yom Tov, to likewise be consumed on the second day.
- B. **CHAROSES** - nuts may be grated on Yom Tov **WITH A SHINUI**, by either holding the grater on an unusual angle or grating directly onto the tablecloth and not into a K’ailey (pot). Only the amount needed for the first Seder may be prepared. One may add wine and mix it together on Yom Tov in the usual manner.

- C. **LEAFY (LETTUCE) MARRORS** - should be selected and examined before Shabbos. One may not leave them soaking the entire Shabbos (or any 24-hour period) as that would disqualify those leaves for use.
- D. **SALT WATER** - may be prepared on Yom Tov regularly.

SHABBOS MEAL PREPARATIONS:

Both men and women are required to eat three meals” on every Shabbos. The first two meals require “bread” in the volume of slightly more than a Beitzah (or at least a K’zayis). The minority opinion allows only the third meal to be fulfilled with foods other than “bread” such as cake, fruit, meat, or fish. The majority opinion requires bread for the third meal as well. The problems this presents us with this year, are obvious. While there is no perfect solution, the following are the options we can choose from:

Plan A - Using Chametz Breads:

Friday night presents no problem, other than restricting the Chametz (crumbs etc.) to an area where it can be swept up and disposed of. There are two possible ways to accomplish this:

- 1) Have the table set Pesachdik (it is safer and simpler to use plastics), with all the food Pesachdik (this avoids the problem of washing any Chametz remnants from dishes or utensils) but providing all adults and responsible children with a challah roll - many prefer bagels or pitas because they tend to make less crumbs - which is eaten away from the table over a napkin. The napkin is then flushed, along with whatever crumbs that may have fallen.
- 2) A variation of the above, which has advantages for many reasons, is to make Kiddush in a room adjacent to the backyard or porch (where the yard or porch are clearly visible) and having in mind that one will eat the bread outside, at the time Kiddush is made. The bread can then be eaten outside, satisfying the required Kiddush B’makom Seudah. One can Bentch inside, where the Pesachdik food was eaten, even though no bread was consumed inside. One need not be concerned with any miniscule crumbs that may have fallen in the yard or on the porch.

All Chametz must be eaten by approximately 10:33 A.M. (Monsey time – check local listings)

The Kol Chamira, usually said after burning should be said before approximately 11:47 A.M. (Monsey time – check local listings)

Plan B - Using Egg Matzah:

The Rema forbids healthy Ashkenazic adults from eating egg Matzah on Pesach. Many Poskim, however, allow egg Matzah to be eaten on Erev Pesach for as long as Chametz may be eaten. Some Poskim even allow it until the sixth hour.

Following these Poskim, one can substitute egg Matzah for bread at any meal, **BEFORE** the time of eating Chametz will be prohibited. When doing so, one must wash, make Ha’motzie on the egg Matzah and Bentch.

Even if one follows the opinion of the Maharal and the Gr”a, who forbid the eating of egg Matzah on Erev Pesach, one can use this plan for the Friday night meal and use egg matzos.

ALERT: When putting aside any Chametz to be used on Shabbos (crackers, beer, Schnapps) one may not put the leftovers into the pantry with the sold Chametz (Sold early Friday), because the leftovers WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE SALE. One should make sure that nothing is left over or dispose of them in the proper manner.

SEUDAH SHLISHIS:

The preferred time for Seudah Shlishis on any Shabbos is **AFTER** the time of Mincha Gedolah (approximately a half an hour after Chatzos). At that time, one is forbidden to eat bread or Matzah (even egg Matzah according to almost all opinions), therefore, the following two options exist:

1. To split the morning meal into two meals; wash, eat whatever “bread” you’re using at the first course, then immediately Bentsh, walk outside for a short time and then return to wash again, finishing your “bread” before the time Chametz becomes Assur. One can then continue their meal. The concern with this plan is only that the Seuda Shlishis - the “third” meal, took place before Mincha Gedola and therefore one should still see to it to eat some other foods (fish, meat, fruits etc.) later in the afternoon - see below.

2. Some prefer to eat the third meal during the preferred time, after Mincha Gedola, but sacrifice the preferred food - “bread” and are therefore Yotzeh with other foods such as fish, meat, fruits etc.

One may eat Shehakol cakes at this time. Those who eat Gebruks may eat **BOILED** foods containing Matzah Meal (Knaidlach) until the tenth hour of the day (approximately 4:40 P.M.) (Monsey time – check local listings).

One may **NOT** eat **BAKED** Matzah Meal products (cakes, cookies, etc.) at any time during the day.

Special care should be taken not to eat too much in order to allow for the Seder Matzah to be eaten with a hearty appetite.

This year especially, being that Erev Pesach occurs during Daylight Savings Time which creates an extended time for Chametz consumption, one should try and use Plan A which the Mishna Berurah advises.

SLEEPING:

One may not say about oneself or explicitly instruct children to “go to sleep now so you’ll be able to stay up for the Seder.”

CANDLELIGHTING AND SEDER PREPERATIONS

Before lighting candles or preparing for the Seder, one who did not Daven Maariv should say the abbreviated version of Havdala **i.e. by saying “Baruch Hamavdil Bein Kodesh L’kodesh”.**

The Yom Tov candles may be lit any time after Tzeis Hakochavim. On Yom Tov one may only light from an existing flame, so one must draw the flame for Hadlokas Neiros on Motzai Shabbos and Sunday night from a three-day candle that was lit before Shabbos or from another existing flame.

ZRO’AH/EGG - may be roasted but **MUST BE EATEN** on the **FIRST DAY OF YOM TOV.**

Another Zro’ah and egg must be prepared on the second day of Yom Tov, to likewise be consumed on the second day.

CHAROSES - nuts may be grated on Yom Tov **WITH A SHINUI**, by either holding the grater on an unusual angle or grating directly onto the tablecloth and not into a K’ailey (pot). Only the amount needed for the first Seder may be prepared. One may add wine and mix it together on Yom Tov in the usual manner.

LEAFY (LETTUCE) MARRORS - should be selected and examined before Shabbos. One may not leave them soaking the entire Shabbos (or any 24-hour period) as that would disqualify those leaves for use.

SALT WATER - may be prepared on Yom Tov regularly.

HAVDALLAH IN KIDDUSH:

Havdallah from Shabbos is said during Kiddush, known as Yaknihaz, because of the order of the Berachos. The proper order can be found in the Haggadah.

Even though women normally avoid saying Havdallah on their own, women may say Kiddush on Yom Tov that has Havdallah in it.

The flame for Havdallah should be two flames held in close proximity of each other. (Some refrain from this practice on Yom Tov.)

MISTAKES IN HAVDALLAH

If one accidentally said “Hamavdil Bein Kodesh L’chol” instead of “Hamavdil Bein Kodesh L’kodesh”, he did not fulfill his obligation and he must repeat saying Havdallah.

If one forgot to say Havdallah altogether during Kiddush, the Halacha would depend on when he remembers -

Remembered While Drinking - If he remembers while drinking the first Kos, he should refill the cup immediately and make Havdallah then. This Havdallah would consist of the “Borei Mi’orei Ha’eish” and “Baruch Hamavdil” Berachos, but not “Borei Pri Hagafen.”

Remembered After Kiddush - If he only remembers after completing Kiddush, then he should save Havdallah to be said along with the Beracha on the second Kos at the end of Maggid. In this scenario, Karpas may be eaten even though Havdallah was not said yet.

Remembered After Second Kos - If he remembers after drinking the second Kos, then Havdallah should be said immediately because the Seudah may not be eaten without saying Havdallah first. This Havdallah would consist of the “Borei Mi’orei Ha’eish” and “Baruch Hamavdil” Berachos, but not “Borei Pri Hagafen.”

Remembered After the Seudah - If he remembers after completing the Seudah, Havdallah should be said along with the third Kos at the end of Bentching. (Based on Shemiras Shabbos K’Hilchaso 62:21 and Kovetz Halachos (Rav Shmuel Kaminetzky) 22:16.)

GENERAL HALACHIC REMINDERS:

ELECTRIC OVENS:

There can be numerous problems for Yom Tor use in regard to the following issues:

- A) Some ovens will not remain on for longer than a 24-hour period.
- B) Adjusting the temperature, even when the electric current is on, presents a seriously complicated Sh’eailah.
- C) Even gas ovens or burners which have electronic ignition devices are forbidden to be used on Yom Tov. The reason for these issues is based on the idea, that even though the transferring of one fire to another in order to cook on Yom Tov is allowed, it is forbidden to complete an electrical circuit on Yom Tov.

These problems are further complicated by the fact that innovations in technology- which can change the Halacha - are regularly implemented and Sh’ealos must be asked.

One such problem - which is a year round problem and not related specifically to Pesach - is with free-standing electric ranges which no longer ventilate hot steam from the oven through the back of the appliance. They ventilate hot steam through one of the rear cook-top burners, which can create a problem if Fleishig food is cooking in the oven and a Milchig pot is standing on that rear burner. Check your ovens to see if this is relevant and accordingly keep the rear burner clean while oven is in use.

חג כשר ושמח!