



# Laws and Customs: Yom Kippur

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# **KAPPAROS**

Kapparos is performed during the last third of the night. If this is not possible, one may perform Kapparos any time during Aseres Y'mei Teshuvah, as close to Erev Yom Kippur as possible.

Kapparos is performed with white chickens. [Nevertheless, one should not noticeably go out of his way to obtain specifically white.]

Kapparos should not be shared unless there is no other alternative. A male uses a male chicken, and a female uses a female chicken.

A pregnant woman (at least forty days after conception) uses one male and two female chickens, and recites: *Eilu chalifaseinu*, *eilu t'muraseinu*, *eilu kapparaseinu*, *eilu hatarnegolim yeilchu l'misah*, *va'anachnu neiliech l'chayim tovim aruchim ul'shalom*.

It is preferable to be present when the chicken is *shechted*. If the chicken was not *shechted* properly, *Kapparos* is performed again. If it was *shechted* properly but the chicken was a *Treifah*, *Kapparos* need not be repeated.

One should cover the blood, but only with the *Shoichet's* consent. The Brocho ends "Al Kissui Dom BeOfor" [קָם בֶּעָפָּר]. The blood should be fully covered.

One should not think that *Kapparos* itself atones for one's sins. Rather, the intention is that a sinner deserves what is being done to the chicken. These thoughts arouse one to *Teshuvah*.

Kapparos chickens or their value should be donated to a Tzedakah cause.

*Ma'aser* money may not be used for one's own (or dependent's) *Kapparos*.

In the absence of a chicken, another animal should be substituted, and in the absence of that, one can use live fish. [Although all the objectives of *Kapparos* are achieved only when using a chicken, at least some of its aims are attained when using other livestock.] After *Kapparos*, these should not go to waste, but be used for human consumption.

As a last resort, *Kapparos* can be performed with money. [Many sources substitute the words "Zeh Hakesef Yelech Litzdakah." However, a publication produced by Kehos in 1944 contains the

words "Eilu Hama'os Teilachna Litzdakah".]

# **EREV YOM KIPPUR MORNING**

One goes to *Mikvah* three times throughout the day: before *Shacharis*, before *Mincha*, and after the *Seudah Hamafsekes*.

Tachnun is not said from the morning of Erev Yom Kippur until after Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan.

Shacharis is not davened at length.

Mizmor Lesodah is not recited during Shacharis.

Avinu Malkeinu is not recited during Shacharis and Mincha.

Yom Kippur does not atone for wrongs committed against others unless one first obtains their forgiveness. Therefore, Erev Yom Kippur is an appropriate time for one to resolutely forgive all who wronged him in the past.

It is customary to ask for *lekach* (honey cake) from another person, and to eat it.

It is a *Mitzvah* to eat and drink on *Erev Yom Kippur*. Ideally, one eats an amount equivalent to two days' worth of food. [Needless to say, it is forbidden to fast.] This applies even to one exempt from fasting on *Yom Kippur*.

A *Bris* should be conducted earlier in the morning, so that the *Seudah* will not interfere with the two meals that are eaten later in the day.

For both meals, it is customary to set the table and serve a meal on par with *Shabbos* and *Yom Tov*. The meals begin with round *Challah* (dipped in honey), but there is no need for *Lechem Mishneh*.

The first meal takes place sometime before *Mincha*. One only eats foods that are easily digested, such as chicken and fish, as opposed to meat. Sesame seeds should not be eaten, and men should not eat garlic and eggs.

It is customary to eat Kreplach today.

# **MIKVAH AND MINCHA**

Malkus is administered with a leather belt (preferably made from a calf's hide). The person receiving Malkus leans in a kneeling position to the north. Thirty-nine lashes are administered lightly: one on the right shoulder, one on the left

shoulder, and one lower between the shoulders. This sequence is then repeated. Both the one giving and receiving *Malkus* say "Vehu Rachum" three times, one word per lash.

After *Malkus*, one immerses in the *Mikvah*, dipping (at least) three times.

It is our custom to drop many coins into *Tzedakah* boxes as one makes his way to *Mincha*. The Baal Shem Tov says that the clanging of the coins scatters the *Kelippos*.

Mincha is davened at length and with feelings of Teshuvah. It is scheduled early enough to leave ample time for the Seudah Hamafsekes.

The full *Vidui* is recited right after the first *Yihyu L'ratzon* at the end of *Shmoneh Esrei*. *Vidui* is not recited in the *Chazzan's* repetition of *Mincha*.

#### **W** HALACHOS OF VIDUI

During *Vidui*, one stands without leaning on anything, and bows forward slightly (similar to *Modim*).

One beats his chest with his fist at each word of *Ashamnu*, at each *Al Cheit* (and *Al Chatoim*), and at the words *Slach Lonu*, *Mechol Lonu*, *Kapper Lonu*.

[The word אֱלוֹהֵ is pronounced with the 'ה sounded after the last vowel, i.e. *Eloi-ah*.]

When reciting Vidui in the quiet Shmoneh Esrei, one responds as he normally would in Elokai Netzor. [I.e. If the Chazzan recites Kedushah, one responds Kodosh, Boruch and Yimloch. When the Chazzan says Hamelech Hakodosh and Shomea Tefillah, one answers Omein. When the Chazzan says Modim, one answers the three words Modim Anachnu Loch. When the Chazzan recites Kaddish, one answers Omein Y'hei Shmei etc, and Omein to d'amiran b'olmo. One also answers Omein when the Brochos are recited before and after an Aliyah or Haftorah.]

If one forgot *Vidui* in *Shmoneh Esrei*, he should recite it afterwards.

One who is not *davening* with a *Minyan*, or at all (due to illness), should nevertheless recite *Vidui* throughout *Yom Kippur* the same number of times it is said in *Shule*. This applies to women as well.

One may not speak when the congregation recites *Vidui* during *Chazaras Hashatz*.

# **S**EUDAH HAMAFSEKES

The meal begins with round *Challah* (dipped in honey). Aside from the food mentioned earlier, one avoids dairy foods, salty and spicy foods, and alcoholic beverages.

Before bentching, one should verbally stipulate that he might still eat or drink again before the fast begins. [If one neglected to do so, it is still permissible to eat and drink before the fast.]

# **YOM KIPPUR PREPARATIONS**

One goes to *Mikvah* after the *Seudah Hamafsekes*, making sure to finish well before *Yom Kippur* begins.

One ensures that the house is prepared for *Yom Kippur* as before every *Shabbos* and *Yom Tov*. The table should be covered with a tablecloth, the beds should be made, and the floor swept.

One wears *Shabbos* clothing. [Some are accustomed to change before *Mincha*, or already from the morning.] Women should minimize their jewellery.

One should not set up an urn of hot water (or put up any other hot foods in a pot or crockpot) solely for *Motzei Yom Kippur*.

### **LATE AFTERNOON & CANDLE-LIGHTING**

One dons his *Kittel* and *Tallis* before sunset (6:24pm). The *Brocho* on the *Tallis* is recited (unless the sun has already set).

A *Chosson* in the first year of his marriage does not wear a *Kittel* on *Yom Kippur*.

The *Kittel* may not be worn in the bathroom, similar to a *Tallis* and *Gartel*.

After donning the *Tallis* and *Kittel*, one performs *Birchas Habonim*. One places his hands on the head of each child and recites the entire *Birchas Kohanim* from *Vayedaber* until *Va'ani Avorachem*. (One may add any *Brocho* of his own.)

Each married man lights (preferably in Shule) a "Lebbedige Licht" that burns for 26 hours. A 26-hour "Ner Neshama" is also lit for one's departed parents. Havdalah requires a pre-existing flame, so one should be prepared at home.

Married couples should keep a light on in the bedroom.

Candle-lighting time is 6:06pm.

The first *Brocho* is *L'Hadlik Ner Shel Yom Hakippurim*. [If one concluded the *Brocho* incorrectly but realized within the time frame it takes to say three words, she corrects her mistake. Otherwise, she must repeat the correct *Brocho* if she initially said *Shel Shabbos Kodesh*, but not if she said *Shel Yom Tov*.]

The second *Brocho* is *Shehecheyanu*. [If it was forgotten, she should recite it at the conclusion of *Kol Nidrei*, or as soon as she remembers after that.]

The one who lights candles may no longer perform *Melacha*. Arrangements should be made for that person's *Machzor* to be carried to *Shule*. [If a woman will need to drive to *Shule* after candle-lighting, she should consult a *Rav* for the most appropriate option in her circumstances.]

Both men and women should not eat after candle-lighting time. [One should take all medications beforehand.]

If one accepts *Yom Kippur* any time after *Plag Hamincha*, he may no longer eat or perform *Melacha*, and all the other restrictions of *Yom Kippur* apply — the exception being that leather shoes may still be worn.

The Shule should be well lit in honour of *Yom Kippur*.

# **FASTING**

All must fast, including *Baalei Habris* (i.e. the *Mohel*, the *Sandek*, and the father of the baby). Pregnant and nursing mothers **are** required to fast.

Fasting is the most important aspect of *Yom Kippur* and takes precedence over going to *Shule* and reciting the *Tefillos*. One who might not be able to complete the fast if they go to *Shule* should stay at home. [If necessary, a husband should facilitate his wife's fasting by going home during the break to help out with the children. If necessary, he should do so even during *davening*, or arrange help.]

The ill/elderly, a woman who recently gave birth, or a pregnant or nursing woman who feels excessive weakness, should consult a *Rav*. A *Rav* should also be consulted regarding medicines.

One who is exempt from fasting does not make *Kiddush* or eat *Lechem Mishneh*. [It is convenient to avoid bread, as there are many particulars regarding washing for bread and *bentching* on *Yom Kippur*.]

One may touch food, but may not engage in its preparation, in case he forgets and eats it. Therefore, one should not prepare food for children and those exempt from fasting unless they cannot do so themselves. One who normally washes his hands before handling food may do so on *Yom Kippur*.

When a *Bris* occurs on *Yom Kippur*, the *Seudah* takes place at night, after the fast. [The actual *Bris* takes place before *Musaf*. Since no one can drink the wine, a drop is given to the baby who is having the *Bris*.]

# **OTHER RESTRICTIONS OF Y"K**

- It is prohibited to wear leather footwear. It is appropriate to avoid wooden clogs. One may wear all nonleather footwear, including crocs. Although not a requirement, it is ideal to avoid standing barefoot on leather pillows or couches etc.
- It is prohibited to go to Mikvah, bathe or wash any part of the body – even in cold water. One may not even wipe himself with a cloth that is damp enough to moisten what it touches. One may rinse if necessary for medical therapeutic or pain-relief purposes. One may also rinse soiled areas, but only as necessary. Similarly, one may wash his hands up to the knuckles after exiting the restroom or touching an area of the body that is normally covered. One may also rinse his hands in the usual manner before and during food preparation. A Kallah who is married for less than thirty days may wash her face if necessary.
- It is prohibited to apply makeup, ointment, lotions, deodorants, perfumes or creams. One may apply an ointment (or sanitizer) for medical, therapeutic or pain-relief purposes (provided it is a type that does not involve the prohibition of smearing, as with thick lotions).
- It is prohibited to brush one's teeth or rinse one's mouth, even if the liquid is completely expelled.

All married couples must keep *Harchakos* (even during the day).

# **CHILDREN**

Anyone below *Bar/Bas Mitzva* need not fast. However, they should not eat excessively.

From the age of nine (or ten if the child has a weak constitution), children are trained to fast at night and for several hours during the day, as per the child's abilities. A child below that age should not skip any meals.

All the other prohibitions of *Yom Kippur* (i.e. leather footwear, bathing and anointing) apply to children of all ages. Therefore, an adult may not encourage or assist a child in any of these activities, or make it accessible to them.

Children who perform any of these activities of their own volition may be left alone if younger than nine. If older than nine, the father is obligated to correct their behaviour and must also prevent them from eating during the hours when they should be fasting.

# **W** KOL NIDREI & MAARIV

Before Kol Nidrei, one recites the entire Vidui individually, followed by nine Kapitlach of Tehillim, as set out in the Machzor. [Many times, the Rebbe would begin the Nigun of Avinu Malkeinu before the nine Kapitlach of Tehillim.]

At least three *Sifrei-Torah* are taken out and held near the *Chazzan*. [If a Shule has only one *Sefer-Torah*, at least two people should still stand near the *Chazzan*.]

The *Chazzan* recites *Kol Nidrei* three times, each time raising his voice more than the previous time.

Each congregant stands and recites *Kol Nidrei* with the *Chazzan* word by word, quietly but audibly enough so that it may be heard by those nearby.

The *Chazzan* recites *V'nislach* all three times before the congregation does.

One should begin *Shehecheyanu* quietly with the *Chazzan*, but hasten to finish before him in order to answer *Omein*. One who said *Shehecheyanu* when lighting candles does not repeat it here.

One does not kiss the *Tzitzis* of his *Tallis* during *Shema*.

#### **SHMONEH ESREI ON YOM KIPPUR**

On Yom Kippur, the third Brocho of Shmoneh Esrei has a long addition beginning with the words L'Dor V'dor. If one omitted this addition, he may go back to recite it only if he realised before saying Hashem's name at the end of the third Brocho. Otherwise, he continues Shmoneh Esrei without going back, as long as he is sure that he concluded the Brocho with the words Hamelech Hakodosh.

If one recited the unique *Yom Kippur Nusach* of the third *Brocho*, but is unsure whether he concluded the *Brocho* with the words *Hamelech Hakodosh*, he may assume that he did so correctly.

One who did not say Hamelech Hakodosh: If he realized before he began the next Brocho and within the time frame it takes to say three words, he corrects his mistake. Otherwise, he must repeat Shmoneh Esrei. [The same applies if this occurs in Chazaras Hashatz, in which case Kedushah is recited again.]

If one mistakenly omitted any of the other four additions (Zochreinu, Mi Chomocha, u'Chsov, u'Vsefer Chaim), he may recite it at the place he remembers, provided he has not yet said Hashem's name at the end of that Brocho. Otherwise, he continues Shmoneh Esrei and does not go back.

During Chazaras Hashatz, the congregation recites the selections of *u'Chsov* and *u'Vsefer Chaim* aloud before the Chazzan.

#### **END OF MAARIV & KRIAS SHEMA**

Avinu Malkeinu: It is not our custom to recite it verse by verse after the Chazzan. The words Roia Gzar are recited without pausing in between.

L'Dovid Mizmor: It is not our custom to open the Aron Hakodesh, nor to recite it verse by verse after the Chazzan.

It is customary to recite the entire *Tehillim* with a *Minyan* after *Maariv*.

One should be sure to derive benefit from the candles at some point after *Yom Kippur* begins (e.g. when returning from *Shule*).

Krias Shema before bed is recited as on Shabbos and Yom Tov. Boruch Shem is recited aloud. One should remember to recite the nine Kapitlach of Tehillim before Hamapil, as set out in the Machzor.

When going to bed, a man should not cover himself warmly. At the very least, he should leave his feet uncovered.

### **YOM KIPPUR MORNING**

Neggel Vasser is washed only up to the knuckles. [Tip: Prepare the Neggel Vasser in a slightly different way as a reminder not to wash one's hands in the usual manner.] One should not derive enjoyment from washing his hands.

One wipes his eyes with the towel moistened by his hands. One who rinses out the flakes of his eyes every morning may do so on *Yom Kippur* morning too.

After getting dressed, *Neggel Vasser* is performed again – with a *Brocho* –up to the knuckles only. [However, *Kohanim* wash their hands up to the wrist, as usual.]

The *Brocho* of *Sheoso Li Kol Tzorki* is omitted until the following morning.

# **SHACHARIS**

Preferably, when putting on the *Tallis*, one should intend that the *Brocho* also applies to putting on the *Tallis* again after the break, before *Mincha*. [This is assuming that the break does not last more than several hours.]

The *Chazanim* should familiarize themselves in advance with the meaning of all of the *Piyuttim* and *Tefillos* – even if they already did so the previous year. Similarly, one should train his children regarding the correct order of *davening* beforehand, in order to minimize distractions during *davening*.

Shir Hamaalos (after Yishtabach): It is not our custom to open the Aron Hakodesh, nor to recite it verse by verse after the Chazzan.

When the Aron Hakodesh is opened during Chazaras Hashatz, it is not obligatory to stand, since the Sefer Torah is not being moved. Some have the custom to stand. [The Rebbe was not particular to stand, except for Ho'aderes V'hoemunah and L'e-l Orech Din.]

At *Shacharis*, the paragraph of *Misoid* (at the beginning of *Chazaras Hashatz*) and the one that follows is recited by the *Chazzan* and not by the congregation.

One must complete the daily quota of 100 *Brochos*. As there is no eating and drinking on *Yom Kippur*, one must find other ways to meet this quota, such as by concentrating on the *Brochos* that are recited during *Krias Hatorah* and *Haftorah*, or by reciting *Besomim* over fragrant spices. [One may not make a second *Brocho* on fragrant spices unless a sufficient amount of time has elapsed to divert his attention.]

It is customary to grant an *Aliyah* to the *Ba'al Musaf* unless he is being paid. [Payment must be devised in a manner that avoids the prohibition of *S'char Shabbos*.]

### **MUSAF**

Yizkor is recited before Musaf. Those who leave the Shule for Yizkor may recite "Av Harachamim" after Yizkor if they wish to.

Ideally, *Musaf* should begin before *Mincha Gedolah* (12:41pm).

Since the *Chazzan* cannot move out of his place to bow at *Aleinu* and during the *Avodah*, he stands at a distance from the *Shtender*, to allow space to bow.

The paragraph of *Misoid* (beginning of *Chazaras Hashatz*) is recited by the *Chazzan* and not the congregation.

One should stand for *u'Nesane Toikef*.

The Chazzan recites the entire Aleinu out loud. The congregation quietly recites it word for word with him, bowing at V'Anachnu Korim, and continuing until Hu Elokenu Ein Oid. At that point, they begin saying the Pesukim of Atoh Horayso, as printed in the Machzor. The subsequent paragraph (beginning Oichilah) is recited by the Chazzan only.

When one bows, his head should reach all the way to the ground. One may not bow directly on a stone floor, but rather, should prepare mats upon which to bow. [Mats are not needed when bowing on a floorcovering of any other type.]

The *Chazzan* must keep his feet together during *Shmoneh Esrei*. He should therefore be helped up after bowing.

Kohanim wash their hands until the wrist before Duchenen.

One stands during the three (of the four) recitations of *V'hakohanim* that require bowing.

*Musaf* is followed with a break of at least 45 minutes (if possible).

# **№** MINCHA & NEILAH

After the break, one does not make a *Brocho* when putting his *Tallis* on again, unless the break lasted more than several hours

Neilah begins shortly before sunset.

One should be mindful of all the textual changes in *Neilah* (such as *Chosmeinu* instead of *Kosveinu*).

Napoleon's March is sung right before the *Shofar* is sounded.

The *Shofar* is sounded after the fast ends (7:04pm).

### **MOTZEI YOM KIPPUR**

One should extend *Yom Kippur* by at least several minutes. The time during which *Maariv* is *davened* suffices for this purpose. After that, all prohibitions of *Yom Kippur* cease. Even so, one may not eat until after *Havdallah*. [As the fast extends beyond 25 hours, it is effectively considered a 26-hour fast.]

Maariv is davened with a Tallis, but not over the head. Instead, one wears a hat. Havdallah is recited in similar fashion.

Vihi Noam and V'atah Kaddosh are not recited.

Everyone – including Kohanim who already washed their hands before Birchas Kohanim – should wash Netilas Yadayim up to their wrist and rinse their mouth. This should be done as soon as possible after Maariv, and certainly before Kiddush Levanah or breaking the fast.

Kiddush Levanah is recited if the moon is visible. Ideally, one first changes into leather shoes and rinses his face, unless this will negate his participation in a Minyan.

We greet one another with "Gut Yom Tov".

For Havdallah, Besomim is not used. One uses a candle that was burning from before Yom Kippur, together with another candle which he lights from the first. [If one does not have a pre-existing flame from before Yom Kippur, the Brocho is omitted.]

Although we usually don't distribute leftover *Havdallah* wine, this may be done on *Motzei Yom Kippur*.

A man who already heard *Havdallah* may recite it again for another man or for a boy over the age of *Chinuch* if they don't know how to recite it themselves. However, a man should not recite it again for a woman. Therefore, one should not be *Yoitzei* with *Havdallah* in *Shule* if women at home are waiting to hear *Havdallah*.

A woman may make *Havdallah* herself in order to eat.

If the "Lebbedige Licht" was extinguished on Yom Kippur, one should relight it on Motzei Yom Kippur and let it burn until the end. One should also resolve to ensure that the "Lebbedige Licht" burns until the end in all subsequent years.

The table is set, candles are lit, and a full *Yom Tov* meal is eaten, beginning with round *Challah* (dipped in honey). [The *Rebbe Rashab* states that an expansive meal draws down *Gashmiyus* for the whole year.]

On Motzei Yom Kippur, we start building the Sukkah, or at least speak about the Sukkah.

# **PAVENING WITHOUT A MINYAN**

Vidui: One who is not davening with a Minyan must still recite Vidui throughout Yom Kippur the same number of times as in Shule. He will therefore need to recite it during the quiet Shmoneh Esrei, and again afterwards, corresponding to the times it is normally recited in the Chazzan's repetition (or in Selichos during Maariv). This applies to both men and women.

**Kol Nidrei**: Where possible, *Kol Nidrei* should be recited together with at least three men. In the absence of that, *Kol Nidrei* should still be recited individually.

**Selichos**: One who *davens* without a *Minyan* should still recite the *Selichos* and *Tefillos* that appear before and after *Vidui*. In *Maariv*, these appear after *Shmoneh Esrei*. For the rest of the *Tefillos*, these appear in the *Chazzan's* repetition.

**Yud Gimmel Midos** (in *Maariv* and *Neilah*): A person who *davens* without a *Minyan* should omit the *Yud-Gimel Midos-Harachamim*.

**Piyuttim:** When one *davens* without a *Minyan*, there is technically no obligation to recite the *Piyuttim* that appear in the *Chazzan's* repetition, but it is certainly appropriate to do so. They may not be said during one's personal *Shmoneh Esrei*, but may be recited afterwards. Most *Piyuttim* are said in entirety by both the *Chazzan* and congregation, and that is how the individual would recite them as well. [Although parts of *Piyuttim* are

often marked as "Chazzan" and "Kohol" in the Machzor, this is only in order to highlight which parts the Chazzan says aloud.] Exceptions: A non-Chazan does not say the paragraph of Misoid that appears at the beginning of Chazaras Hashatz, nor the paragraph that follows it in Shacharis.

**Krias Hatorah:** When one davens alone because there is no local *Minyan*, it is appropriate to read *Krias Hatorah* in private (ideally between *Shacharis* and *Musaf*).

Daily quota of 100 Brochos: As there is no eating and drinking on *Yom Kippur*, one way to meet this quota is by concentrating on the *Brochos* that are recited during *Krias Hatorah* and *Haftorah*. For those who are not *davening* with a *Minyan*, this is not an option, and one should be extra attentive to find other ways to meet this quota, such as by reciting *Besomim* over fragrant spices. [One may not make a second *Brocho* on fragrant spices unless a sufficient amount of time has elapsed to divert his attention.]

Tallis after the break: Someone who davens without a Minyan is likely to have a longer break than usual. After the break, one does not make a Brocho when putting his Tallis back on, unless the break lasted more than "several hours". While the exact definition of "several hours" is unclear, it is understood to be no less than three hours. It is therefore appropriate to ensure that no more than three hours elapses without wearing a Tallis. If one's break is longer, he can put it on for a few minutes in the middle.

**Shofar at the fast's conclusion**: This is not obligatory, so one who does not have a *Shofar* does not need to go out of his way to hear it.

**Kiddush Levanah:** There is *Halachic* advantage to reciting *Kiddush Levanah* after *Havdallah* and a quick bite. This was not stated earlier because doing so will generally negate one's participation in a *Minyan* for *Kiddush Levanah*, or lead one to forget it entirely. However, someone at home may wish to consider doing so if these concerns do not apply.

# **≪** GOTT'S NOMMEN

The day after *Yom Kippur* is called "B'Shem Hashem" or "Gott's Nommen", and we go to Shule early in the morning for Shacharis.

The days between *Yom Kippur* and *Sukkos* are days of joy, for the *Mizbeach* in the first *Beis Hamikdash* was inaugurated then. Aside from a *Chosson* and *Kallah* on their wedding day, one may not fast.