

# ATorahMinute.com



By the Hakham  
Rabbi Ya'aqob Menashe, 'a"h

A PROJECT OF MIDRASH BEN ISH HAI (MIDRASH.ORG)

5783/2023 Parashath Wayiqra

5783 פֶּרֶשֶׁת וַיִּקְרָא

## When to Say "Weyitten Lekha" after Shabbath

The verses of "Weyitten Lekha" should be said on Moṣei Shabbath. Rabbenu the Ari, z"l, used to say them at the time that he recited Habdalah, with a cup of wine, in his home. However, the prevalent custom is to recite them after Habdalah.

Those who recite Habdalah in Synagogue, say the verses as soon as they return home. Some Ashkenazim have the custom of reciting them in the Synagogue.

When Moṣei Shabbath falls out on Yom Tob, the verses are not recited. The reason is that the essential point of the blessing is for success in one's livelihood and no business is transacted on Yom Tob. Nevertheless, when Mosei Shabbath falls on Ḥol HaMo'ed (the intermediate days of a Festival), Weyitten Lekha is recited.

(See Meqabshiel, 2nd year, Wayyeṣei, Oth 62)



## Wayiqra: Turtle Doves, Not Chickens

וְאִם מִן־הָעוֹף עֲלָה קָרְבְּנוֹ לַיהוָה וְהִקְרִיב מִן־הַתְּרִים אוֹ  
"If one's offering to G-d is an elevation offering of fowl, he shall bring his offering from turtle doves or from young pigeons" (Wayiqra 1:14). The turtle doves could only be used when they had matured. The pigeons could only be brought while they were young. What is the reason?

Turtle doves and their mates are very closely attached to each other. If the female loses her partner, she will never attach herself to another one, ever again. This is how it is with the Jewish people who cleave to G-d at all times, and will never replace Him. That is why they may only be brought as an offering once they have reached the stage of having a partner, because they symbolize the two halves of a commitment.

Pigeons, on the other hand, can only be used while they are small, because they are very jealous of each other in matters of relationships. This causes separation between them. That is why they are brought while they are small, because they are at a stage before relationships and jealousies set in.

Chickens may not be brought at all, because chickens are indiscriminate in their relationships and are not loyal to their partners.

(See Rabbenu Baḥya, Parashath Wayiqra)



מדרש בן איש חי  
Midrash BEN ISH HAI

Sponsorships Available.  
Please contact Midrash BEN ISH HAI  
(516) 487 6676/www.midrash.org

## Medication Made with Ḥamess on Pesah

If medication consists of real Ḥamess, that's not Nifsal LeAkhilath Adam (i.e. it is in a state in which a person would ordinarily consume it, like food), then only a person who is critically ill (חולה שיש בו סכנה) may consume it on Pesah (Passover). Obviously if there is a non Ḥamess medication that has the same effect, it should be used instead.

If this particular medication must be used, however, then if it is a pill, it is preferable to wrap it in paper and swallow it. If it is in liquid form, it should be mixed with something bitter, before consuming it. Additionally, one should not have a Kezayith (1 oz.) or a Rebi'ith (3 fluid ozs.) at one time.

One should make the medication ownerless before Pesah, or give it to a non Jew. Then each time some is needed, one should take a little from him. In all cases one should have the clear intent not to take ownership of it.

(See Ner Şion, 8:29, quoting the Ohr LeŞion)

## Even if One Never Studied any Torah...

In the Gemara of of 'Abodah Zarah (17a), there is a story about El'azar Ben Dordiya who led an inappropriate lifestyle. One day he realized the seriousness of his transgressions and called out to the hills and mountains, the sun and the moon, and Heaven and earth, for assistance, but they were unable to help.

In his desperation, he sat with his head between his knees and cried out loud till his soul left him. At that moment, a Bath Qol (voice from Heaven) proclaimed, "Rabbi El'azar Ben Dordiya has been accepted for life in the world to come". Ribbi (Yehudah HaNasi) cried and said, "There are those who take years to acquire the world to come and others acquire it in an hour", He added, "Not only are those who repent accepted, but they call them 'Rabbi'".

The Shebeṭ Muşşar comments that we see from this that a Ba'al Teshubah (one who repents and returns to the right path), even if he never studied any Torah in his life, is greater than one who is completely righteous. The thoughts that the Ba'al Teshubah has, of embarrassment and regret at not having followed G-d's will or studied Torah, are considered by G-d as if he had.

(See Shebeṭ Muşşar, 41:19)

## Women's Corner - by Rabbanith Ruth Menashe 'a"h

### Holiday of Freedom, or Slaves to the Housework?

One of the names of the holiday of Pesah (Passover), is חג החרות (Ḥagh HaḤeruth), which means the Holiday of Freedom. I know that many women jokingly say: "That's the holiday when we really feel that we have become slaves! We're slaves to cleaning the house and the children are off. The only ones that are free are the teachers and the schools. And we, not only do we have to clean the houses, but we also have to make sure we entertain our children at the same time".

It's interesting to note that when Hashem tells Moshe Rabbeinu, 'a"ḥ, "Go to Pharaoh and tell him to send the Jewish people out of Egypt", he says, שלח את עמי ויעבדוני "Send My nation and let them serve Me". This sounds like some kind of a contradiction; we were one type of servant in Egypt and now G-d wants to take us out of Egypt in order to become servants in a different sense of the word.

The truth is that there's a very interesting phrase in פרקי אבות (Ethics of the Fathers), which speaks about the לוחות הברית (Tablets of Stone) that Moshe Rabbeinu, 'a"ḥ, brought down from Heaven with the Ten Commandments. It says, והלוחות מעשי אלוקים המה "And the tablets were the work of G-d". Those tablets of stones were done by G-d and written by G-d. In fact, they weren't written in the literal sense, but were engraved in the stone. In Hebrew the word engraved is חרות (Ḥaruth). The Mishna says: "Don't read it חרות (Haruth - engraved), instead read it חרות (Ḥeruth), which means "freedom".