

## Important Reminders and Instructions for Pesah

By Rabbi Frank Varon

### **Bedikat Hametz – Noche de Kal Hamira / Searching for Hametz:**

The Torah prohibits possession of any Hametz during Pesah. As such, it is proper and appropriate for one to check their home and rid themselves of all such Hametz products, and to do so well before the traditional Bedikat Hametz (which we refer to as “Noche de Kal Hamira”). Even though the home may already be pristine clean from the seasonal cleaning and free of any Hametz, one still needs to do Bedikat Hametz in their home (and, places of business, vehicles, and any other homes one may own) where Hametz might be found. This year, since the first night of Pesah occurs on a Saturday night, we perform the Bedika on Thursday night, April 10<sup>th</sup> after dark (8:12 pm).

Prior to starting the search, the one conducting the Bedika recites the following blessing:

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה אֱ-לֹהֵי-יְנוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ  
עַל בִּיעוּר חֵמֶץ.**

### **Baruch Ata Adonai Elohenu Melech Ha’Olam, Asher Kideshanu BeMitzvotav VeTzivau ‘al Be’ur Hametz.**

The search is conducted at night to more easily discover unaddressed Hametz with a light that is contrasted against a background of darkness. Although traditionally a candle has been used, it is recommended for safety reasons, as well as efficiencies for highlighting any remaining Hametz in the premises, to use a flashlight.

Upon completing the search the one performing the search should then recite a “renunciation and annulment” of any Hametz of which they are unaware. It is very important for one to understand this proclamation that they’re reciting. Please note that the following recitation only covers Hametz unbeknownst to the individual; it does not apply to Hametz that one is intentionally setting aside for later consumption prior to Pesah, i.e., for this year, since Pesah falls out on a Saturday night, one will still need to consume Hametz and leavened products for Friday night and Shabbat morning, etc. (see further details below).

The one completing the Bedika recites the following:

כָּל חֲמִירָא דְאִפְא בְרִשְׁוֹתַי, דְּלֹא חֲזִיתִיהּ, וּדְלֹא בְעֵרְתִּיהּ, לְהוּי בְטֵל  
וְחָשִׁיב כְּעֶפְרָא דְאַרְעָא.

Kal Hamira de Eeka Birshuti, de La Haziteh, Ud-la Bi-'arteh, LeHeveh Batel  
VeHasheev Ke'Ar'ah.

**Translation:** Any Hametz that is in my possession, that I have not seen, and that I have not destroyed shall be nullified and ownerless and shall be considered like the dust of the earth.

Hametz that was collected as a result of the search, and any Hametz thereafter found, except for the Hametz intentionally designated for later consumption prior to Pesah, shall be gathered and set aside for burning/destroying the next morning, Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> by 11:50 am.

## שבת דדוס פאניס / Shabbath de Dos Panes

### The Sabbath of Two Breads

Such is the designation in Ladino that aptly and uniquely defines the disposition of the Shabbat that occurs when the first night of Pesah falls out on a Saturday night. Shabbath de Dos Panes, the Sabbath of Two Breads, so named, because on this Shabbat the only breads remaining in the home are the last two breads before Pesah begins that are preserved in order to say the Hamotzi (blessing over the bread) on Shabbat morning following Tefila. And even then, the “two breads” referring to the two Challot (Challa breads) needed for the Shabbat morning meal, if not eaten, must be destroyed early in the day in order to comply with the requirement of ridding ourselves of all Hametz on the day before Pesah. Thus, it became known as the Shabbath de Dos Panes, fittingly, with a kind of drama like no other Shabbat of the year, in which we are anticipating the great celebration of Passover, while keenly aware of the strict adherence to purging our homes, offices, vehicles, etc., of any leavened product whatsoever. Who would have thought, three or four simple words could conjure up such observations and sentiments within each of us—the power and impact of the national Jewish memory.

## Other special instructions for Pesah 5785 / Passover 2025:

Since Pesah occurs on Saturday night, the traditional burning/destroying of the Hametz must be done on Friday, as noted above, since burning is forbidden on Shabbat.

### Shabbat procedures for this year – When Pesah occurs Saturday Night:

1. Two Challot (Challah breads) should be set aside for the Shabbat Friday Night dinner and two Challot Breads should be set aside for the Shabbat day (morning) meal, mindful that no Hametz product spreads to other areas of the home that were prior cleaned and checked for Hametz.
2. Shabbat services, Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> will be at an earlier start time of 7:30 am, and services will conclude approximately, 9:15 am, to provide ample time for the next steps, as noted below.
3. Upon returning home following services, a regular Shabbat day meal should occur, with regular Shabbat day Kiddush, and two Shabbat Challot.
4. By no later than 10:23 am, on Shabbat, no further Hametz may be eaten until after the conclusion of Pesah.
5. Any remaining Hametz in one's possession must be destroyed by no later than 11:47 am, on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, by simply flushing remaining Hametz down the drain or toilet. And of course, no traditional burning of the remaining Hametz is permitted on Shabbat. Thereafter, another Kal Hamira, the nullification of any remaining Hametz shall be recited as follows:

כָּל חֲמִירָא דְאִפְא בְרִשְׁוֹתֵי, דִּי חֲזִיתִיה וּדְלָא חֲזִיתִיה, דְּבַעַרְתִּיה וּדְלָא  
בַּעַרְתִּיה, לְהוּי בְטֵל וְחֲשִׁיב כְּעַפְרָא דְאַרְעָא.

Kal Hamira de Eeka Birshuti, di Haziteh, Ud-la Haziteh, DeBi-'arteh, Ud-la Bi-'arteh, LeHeveh Batel VeHasheev Ke'Afra deAr'ah.

**Translation:** Any Hametz that is in my possession, that I have seen and that I have not seen, and that I have destroyed and that I have not destroyed shall be nullified and ownerless and shall be considered like the dust of the earth.

For the remainder of the day, including for Se'uda Shelisheet (the third meal of Shabbat), one may continue to eat non Hametz food, such as fruits,

vegetables, nuts, etc., being careful not to over-eat in order to enter the holiday with a hearty appetite, eager to engage in the many Haggada rituals and the delectable cuisine that was prepared for the holiday. Also, NO Matza may be consumed during Shabbat prior to the start of Pesah, so that one enters the holiday with an appetite to partake of the biblical commandment of eating Matza on the first night of Pesah during the Seder. (Of course, there is also a Mitzvah to eat Matza on the second night of Pesah during the Seder.)

**Noche de Pesah and The Seder:**

For the first night of Pesah, Minha and Arvit, Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> is scheduled for 7:30 pm, including the reading of the Sefer Torah, as is normally done on Shabbat Minha. Arvit will follow and include the Pesah liturgy with the beautiful community singing of the “Hodu” and the “Hallel” to the same chant of the Haggada – among our time honored traditions.

Since the Hebrew ‘day’ begins at nightfall, Shabbat starts in the evening , as does each day of the year and all holidays of the year, i.e., Pesah, Shavuot, Succot, etc. And, since Passover ushers in the night on which we are obligated to fulfill specific Mitzvot (commandments), such as telling of the Exodus story (Haggada), eating Matza, eating the bitter herbs (Marror), and so forth, we wait for nightfall to occur in order to properly and timely fulfill these Mitzvot. Further, this year we also wait a tad longer for the conclusion of Shabbat to do the same. As such, the Haggada service should commence no earlier than 8:40 pm on the first night, and no earlier than 8:26 pm on the second night.

**Additional Reminders:**

1. Thu, April 10<sup>th</sup>, Tefila, Fast of the First Born, 7:00 am, followed by a Siyum (presentation and brief ceremony upon concluding a Tractate from the Talmud)
2. Thu, April 10<sup>th</sup>, Bedikat Hametz, Search for Hametz, 8:12 pm
3. Tefila Shabbat Morning, April 12<sup>th</sup> special early start, 7:30 am

Pesah Allegre

Mo’adim leSimha, Hagim Uzmanim LeSasson

Wishing all a happy and enjoyable Passover Holiday.