

Hilchos HaSeder:

Jonathan (Chaim) Seltzer

1) *HaSeyba: Symbolic of the freedom of the night*

How to lean?

- The best way to accomplish this is to be lying down to the left on something such as a bed or long couch. Should be angled in manner that you are not totally flat but, not straight as well.
- Regardless of the bed, one must be leaning on something. (Leaning into midair would not suffice.) To accomplish this in most homes, the best idea is to turn the chair approximately 90 degrees to the left and lean on the back of it. Another chair may be used to accomplish the same picture/idea.
- Everyone, including those that are lefty should lean to the left.

2) *Kadeysh:*

How much must one drink?

- One must always fill the cup the whole way for each of the four cups.
- Depends how big the size of the actual cup is:
 - If the cup is rather large: A majority of the cup must be drunk. (*BeDieved: A majority of a ReViyus will suffice which is equivalent to the amount of the individual's cheek full.*)
 - If the cup is small (Measuring a little more than a ReViyus): The entire cup should be drunk. (*BeDieved: A majority ReViyus will suffice which is equivalent to the amount of the individual's cheek full.*)

How large is a ReViyus?

- About 3.3 fl oz or 3.8 fl oz. (Rav Moshe is quoted as saying both of these Shiurim. The Mishna Berurah has a similar Cheshbon. Rav Willig holds that this number is 2.5 fl oz.)
- There is an opinion of the Chazon Ish measuring closer to 5.1 fl oz. (Generally we don't worry about this opinion since the four cups are all Rabbinic. Rav Willig adds that this is true even if the Seder falls on Friday Night, since the wine for Kiddush is Rabbinic even while the Kiddush itself on Shabbos is Min HaTorah.)

How fast to drink the Shiur for each of the cups?

- One must drink the Shiur in a max of two gulps/sips. (Kdei Shtiyas ReViyus, the amount of time it takes to drink a ReViyus.) So, one must drink at least a majority of a large cup in two gulps/sips. (This applies to the first two cups of the night.)

HaSeyba:

- Is required here. If forgotten, one does not go back and repeat on the 1st cup.

Misc:

- Red wine is preferred throughout the night. (If one is using white wine mixed with anything red (eg: Grape juice), the red should be added to the cup first followed by the white wine.)
- Technically, water and other soft drinks may be enjoyed until the 2nd cup is filled. One must have Kavana for this when he is saying/listening to the Bracha on the first cup.
- One may be Yotzei the Brachas (Including HaGafen) with another that is making the Kiddush.
- One should have in mind both the Mitzvah of Kiddush Yom Tov as well as the Mitzvah of the first cup.

3) **Seder Plate:**

How to set up the plate?

- See the different pictures at the beginning of various Hagadas.

How many Matzahs?

- The Gr" a and Rav Moshe had 2 Matzahs on the Seder Plate.
- Most have 3 Matzahs on the Seder Plate.

4) **UrChatz:**

Who should wash at this point?

- Everyone would be preferred unless one's Minhag is that only the head of the Seder does.

Why?

- Throughout the year one should wash in the normal manner without a Bracha whenever he will eat fruits and vegetables that have become wet, even if they are dried before eating. (Regardless if this happens through a faucet or dipping.)
- It is more emphasized tonight so that children should ask questions about the Seder night.

Misc:

- This is done the way that one washes for bread all year round.
- There is no talking from the time of washing until after the eating of the Karpas.

5) **Karpas:**

What can be eaten?

- Anything so long as the Bracha is Adoma. (Follow one's Minhag)

How?

- One should dip the vegetable into the salt water and eat it. (*All with his hands*)
- The dipping should be done prior to the Bracha.
- Less than a Kzayis should be eaten to avoid a Safek Bracha Achrona. (A small little piece will suffice here.)

Misc:

- Some say to lean for the Karpas (Rav Chaim Soloveitchik) and some say not to lean (Rav Chaim Kaniefsky). (One should follow their Minhag)
- One should have Kavana to be Yotzei the Adoma that would technically be necessary on the Maror later on.

6) *Yachatz:*

How?

- The middle Matzah (If there are two Matzahs then the bottom one) is broken into two pieces.
- The bigger half is put away for Afikoman while the smaller one is returned to its place in the Seder Plate.

7) *Magid:*

Misc:

- It is best not to eat at this point. (Water is allowed if necessary.)
- By “Ha Lach Maonya”, there is a custom to place the Matzah on one’s shoulder and walk around a little to symbolize our exit from Egypt.
- Fill the 2nd cup to the top as listed in the Hagada.
- The spilling of the wine should be done with the pinky or pointer finger.

8) *The 2nd Cup:*

How?

- The same amounts required for the 1st cup are required by the 2nd cup as well.
- Ashkenazim drink with a Bracha before but, not afterwards.
- *HaSeyba* is required at this point. If forgotten, one may drink another cup while leaning without repeating any Brachas.
- One must drink the Shiur in a max of two gulps/sips. (Kdei Shtiyas ReViyus, the amount of time it takes to drink a ReViyus.) So, one must drink at least a majority of a large cup in two gulps/sips.

9) *Rachtza:*

How?

- As a stringency, one should dirty (With his shoes) his hands before washing with a Bracha since he recently washed for UrChatz.
- This washing is done in the normal manner, with a Bracha.

10) *Motzi Matzah:*

How?

- 1) All three of the Matzahs are held for the Bracha of “HaMotzi Lechem”. The bottom Matzah is dropped/placed down and then the Bracha of “Al Achillas Matza” is recited.
 - There is a dispute as to whether one should recite their own Bracha of “Al Achillas Matzah” or just be Yotzei with the head of the Seder. According to some, it is proper to recite it himself (Rav Chaim Soloveitchik). This

should be done immediately before one begins to eat. Others however, recommend that one should be Yotzei with the head of the Seder just like he is by the other Bracha of “HaMotzi Lechem”. (Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach)

- 2) The top two Matzahs are broken at the same time.
- 3) They are not dipped into salt at either Seder. (Rav Moshe did dip them into salt.)
- 4) Two options:
 - a) Everyone has their own Matzahs (*Either two or three*) and follows along the entire Seder from beginning to end using those Matzahs. (Both Rav Moshe and Rav Eliashiv felt this was proper practice.)
 - b) Follow along with the head of the Seder (Without one's own Matzahs) and proceed in the manner that will be discussed.
- 5) Two options: (Depending on which option for number 4)
 - a) One should now eat one Kzayis from both the top and middle Matzahs. (*Two Kzaysim total*) They should ideally be eaten at the same time. (One may place small pieces inside his mouth, chewing and eventually swallowing at once. This is not necessary)
 - b) One should eat a piece from both the top and middle Matzahs of the head of the Seder. One should also use other Matzahs to equal the amount of two Kzaysim. All the Matzah should be eaten at the same time. (One may place small pieces inside his mouth, chewing and eventually swallowing at once. This is not necessary)

BeDieved: A Kzayis from the Top followed by the middle may be eaten. (ie: The two Kzaysim don't need to be eaten all at once). Also, eating one Kzayis either from the top or middle will be Yotzei BeDieved.
- 6) All of the eating must be done within 2-9 minutes from the time one swallows the first time. (Kdei Achillas Pras, the time it takes to eat six Kzaysim) One should be as stringent as possible and stay as close to the 2 minute mark as he can.
 - Rav Moshe held that this time slot is 3 minutes.
 - Many hold that 2 minutes must be followed for the Mitzvah of Achillas Matzah.
- 7) One should not talk needlessly throughout all of the above, as well as until after Korech is finished. (Especially about matters unrelated to the Seder.)
- 8) HaSeyba is required here. If forgotten, one should eat another Kzayis while leaning. (*ie: Not two more*)

How much is one Kzayis?

- Rav Willig: A little more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the average hand Matzah. (A little more than $\frac{1}{4}$ total)

- The Steipler Gaon: $\frac{1}{2}$ of the average hand Matzah or $\frac{2}{3}$ of the normal machine Matzah. (This opinion only requires $\frac{1}{2}$ of the hand Matzah and $\frac{2}{3}$ of the machine Matzah total. Half of each Shiur should be taken from the top Matzha and the other half from the middle Matzah.)

11) Maror:

What should be used?

- Different opinions in the Poskim. One should follow their Minhag.
- The prevalent Minhag is to use either raw/grated horseradish or romaine lettuce.

How?

- Dip the whole Maror into the Charoses and then shake it entirely out. Make the Bracha on "Maror" and then eat.
- One should not leave the Maror in the Charoses for too long.
- One whole Kzayis should be eaten for Maror within 2- 9 minutes. (It is better to stay as close to 2 minutes as possible even though here we are more lenient than Matzah.) (Rav Moshe held that the Shiur here should be 4.5 minutes.)
- No "HaOdama" is recited.
- No Haseyba at this point since this is all a remembrance of the slavery that we went through.
- We do not eat the Chaoroses alone at this point.

How much is a Kzayis of Maror?

- *Horseradish*: A full spoonful. (A standard soup spoon may be used to measure this amount.)
- *Romaine Lettuce*: A whole large leaf. This is to fulfil the opinion of both Rav Moshe and The Chazon Ish that 1.1 fl oz of Romaine lettuce should be taken for Maror. (One must be careful of the holes that are found in the leaf as they do not contribute towards the Shiur of a Kzayis.)

12) Korech:

What is this and how is it done?

- Take a Kzayis from the third/bottom Matzah along with a Kzayis of Maror. (See above for the amounts necessary. One may be more lenient here as this is a Rabbinic requirement.) Dip the Maror in Charoses and then shake the Charoses entirely off. (Some skip this step by Korech. One should follow their Minhag.) Place the Maror in between two pieces of Matzah and then eat them all together. (One must only be careful that both enter the mouth at once.)
- Recite the "Zecher" as you have it in your Hagada.
- This should all be eaten within 9 minutes of swallowing. (Kdei Achillas Pras)
- HaSeyba is required. If forgotten, there is no need to repeat this step of the Seder.

13) Shulchan Urech:

HaSeyba:

- There is a Minhag to lean for the entire meal or at least while one is eating and drinking.

Roasted Meat:

- One may not eat roasted meat of any kind at the Seder less someone mistake it for the Korban Pesach.
- If the meat was cooked with at least a quarter inch of water/liquid it would be permissible to eat at the Seder.
- Some have the custom to eat eggs during the meal. (There is no obligation here.)

14) Afikoman/Tzafon:

How?

- The hidden piece from Yachatz is removed and used for the Afikoman.
- **Ideally** two Kzaysim should be consumed for this portion of the Seder. At least some of this portion should come from the remaining middle Matzah.
 - *It would suffice to eat only one Kzayis if one finds it hard to eat two at this point in the night. Still, at least some of this portion should come from the remaining middle Matzah.*
- HaSeyba is required. If forgotten, so long as one did not recite Birchas HaMazon yet he should return and eat one Kzayis while leaning.

How much?

- Since according to some this is the fulfillment of the Mitzvah DeOraysa to eat Matzah, the same guidelines as above should be followed:
 - *Rav Willig: A little more than 1/5 of the average hand Matzah. (A little more than 2/5 total)*
 - *The Steipler Gaon: 1/2 of the average hand Matzah or 2/3 of the normal machine Matzah. (This opinion only requires 1/2 of the hand Matzah and 2/3 of the machine Matzah total.)*
 - *Time limit:*
 - *All of the eating must be done within 2-9 minutes from the time one swallows the first time. (Kdei Achilles Pras, the time it takes to eat six Kzaysim) One should be as stringent as possible and stay as close to the 2 minute mark as he can.*
 - *Rav Moshe held that this time slot is 3 minutes.*
 - *Many hold that 2 minutes must be followed for the Mitzvah of Afikoman.*

Time to finish eating and Misc:

- The Afikoman must be finished by Halachic Chaztzos (Midnight). (This was the opinion of Rav Moshe.)

- Eating and drinking is prohibited (Except for the last two cups of the night) after the Afikoman. Rav Moshe held that water and tea would be permitted after the Seder has concluded, but one should be stringent with anything that removes the taste of Matzah from the mouth.

15) The 3rd Cup:

Misc:

- The third cup is filled after the meal is over and is used for Birchas HaMazon.
- HaSeyba is required. If forgotten, one does not go back and repeat the 3rd cup.
- A Bracha of "Al HaGafen" is recited but no Bracha Achrona.
- As long as one drank the necessary amount (See above) within a Kdei Achillas Pras, he is Yotzei.

16) The 4th Cup:

Misc:

- As long as one drank the necessary amount (See above) within a Kdei Achillas Pras, he is Yotzei.
- HaSeyba is required. If forgotten, one does not go back and repeat the 4th cup.
- A Bracha of "Al HaGafen" is recited as well as a Bracha Achrona covering both the 3rd and 4th cups.

17) Post Seder:

- *This is a special time with Hashem. Shir HaShirim should be recited as we contemplate our relationship with our creator.*
- *Since this is a protected night, only HaMapil and the Parsha of Shema alone are recited.*