



Parshas Bamidbar 5765

June 3, '05

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*What if one did not hear the boreh p'ri hagefen of kiddush?*<sup>1</sup>

In the previous shiur we mentioned that if one missed hearing the *boreh p'ri hagefen* of havdala it is not necessary to repeat havdala. The same applies to *kiddush*. If one missed 'vayechulu' or *boreh p'ri hagefen* (on Friday night) but heard the remainder of the kiddush, one has been *yotze kiddush* and only if one wishes to partake of the wine is it necessary to first recite *boreh p'ri hagefen*.<sup>2</sup> Since it is a *mitzvah* to recite 'vayechulu' three times on Friday night,<sup>3</sup> if one did not recite or hear 'vayechulu' before *kiddush*, one should recite it holding a cup of wine, even during the meal, if one has not recited it prior thereto.<sup>4</sup>

*When should one overspill the wine at havdala?*

We mentioned that the reason we spill some wine during *havdala* is to live up to the dictum "spilled wine is a sign of a *b'racha*". This is only done during *havdala* and not when reciting *kiddush* or *bentching*. *Havdala* is the entrance to the week when we toil to earn a living and therefore we want a 'good sign' at the week's commencement.

<sup>1</sup> This week's questions are based on clarifications requested by readers of the 'Shabbos Sheet'.

<sup>2</sup> *SS"K* 47:40.

<sup>3</sup> *M"B simon* 271:45 in the name of the Roke'ach who cites the Midrash.

<sup>4</sup> *M"B* *ibid*. Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach is cited in the *SS"K* 47 footnote 148 saying that one may recite over the *challos* as well.

It is incorrect to spill wine after the *b'racha*, before drinking, as it may give the impression that one recited a *b'racha* over something unpleasant. Some have the custom to spill the wine during the *b'racha* and others after drinking. The *Mishna Berura* states<sup>5</sup> that the most favorable action is to spill the wine when pouring. One should only spill a small amount so as not to waste wine.

*Why do people look at their fingers and palms after 'boreh me'orei ha'eish'?*

One may only recite *boreh me'orei ha'eish* if in a position to enjoy the fire or light. The *gemora Berachos* 53b says that one should be close enough to the flame in order to differentiate between coins of different countries.<sup>6</sup> In order to test if we are close enough to the fire or flame, we inspect our fingernails and palm to see whether we can tell the difference between fingernails and flesh (the palm), which will indicate that we are close enough to differentiate between types of coins.<sup>7</sup>

Another reason is because we seek signs of prosperity and growth during *havdala* (as mentioned previously) and since fingernails constantly grow, they represent growth and prosperity. We also gaze into our palms, which are grooved with signs of prosperity and good fortune.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>5</sup> *M"B simon* 196:5.

<sup>6</sup> *Simon* 298:4.

<sup>7</sup> *M"B simon* 298:9.

<sup>8</sup> *M"B simon* 298:9.

*How should one look at fingers and palm during havdala?*

The correct manner is to fold four fingers into the palm over the thumb and look at the fingernails and palm simultaneously. One then outstretches the fingers and looks at the fingernails from behind. We avoid looking at the inside of the fingers during the procedure.<sup>9</sup>

*What is the reason for folding the tallis straight after Shabbos?*

The *Maharil* would fold his *tallis* immediately after Shabbos in order to begin weekday activities with a *mitzvah*.<sup>10</sup> I understand that the '*mitzvah*' is to care for one's *mitzvah* articles and folding the *shul's talitot* would accomplish a similar outcome.

*What is the reason for melaveh malka?*

*Melaveh malka* is a meal eaten after Shabbos the purpose of which is to escort Shabbos on her way out. Even if one is satiated from the Shabbos meals, one should nevertheless wash for even a *kazayis* (a small amount of bread). There are many stories of notable *rabbonim* who would do their utmost not to skip *melaveh malka*.

Many kabalistic notions are associated with *melaveh malka*. It is stated that a particular bone in one's body is nourished only from this meal and from which *Hashem* will 'reconstruct' a person at *t'chias hameisim*.<sup>11</sup>

*When should one eat melaveh malka?*

Since *melaveh malka* is as its name implies – it escorts the queen, the sooner one eats *melaveh malka* the better. However, if one is not capable of eating so soon after Shabbos one may delay the meal until later, but

preferably not later than midnight (provisional hours). Others hold that it should *l'chatchila* be eaten within four provisional hours after sunset.<sup>12</sup>

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Vort on the Parsha

Each person was placed at his work and load (4:19) meaning he fulfilled a particular function in the *Mishkan*. The commentators point out that the Torah instructed each person to be allotted a particular position, which if not done, would result in arguments and stress. This is because each person would do his utmost to grab a part of the *mitzvah*.

R' Yisroel Salanter stressed that mourners should not fight over *kaddish* etc. because there is more reward avoiding *machlokes* (arguments and disputes) than performing the actual *mitzvos*.

The *Chasam Sofer* is known to have said that mourners will not lose merits or reward for not reciting *kaddish* or *davening* (before the *amud*) when another person is arguing for it, because the reward for the *mitzvah* in heaven will be allotted to the correct party.

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Food For Thought

*What should be eaten for melaveh malka?*

*Must the table be set for melaveh malka similar for a Shabbos meal?*

*Are there particular rules as to when Shabbos clothes may be removed?*

*May one run on Shabbos?*

Answers coming be"H next week.

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<sup>9</sup> *Rama simon* 298:3 and *M"B* 10–11.

<sup>10</sup> *M"B simon* 298:40. See the *SS"K* 63 footnote 30 that one should not have others fold his *tallis*.

<sup>11</sup> See *kaf haChaim simon* 300:1-2.

<sup>12</sup> See *kaf haChaim simon* 300:14.

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**Note:** The purpose of this series is intended solely for the clarification of the topics discussed and not to render halachic decisions. It is intended to heighten everyone's awareness of important practical questions which do arise on this topic. One must consult with a proper halachic authority in order to receive p'sak.