

The evening of March 27, 2010 is The Fourteenth Day of Nissan 5770

יד ניסן תשע

One item to note before we discuss what to do on this evening:
If you have not said Birkat Hallanot (Blessing of the Trees) yet. Please do so. You may say this Blessing any time during the month of Nissan. The earlier the better because it is better to run to perform a Mitzvah.

This Blessing is said upon seeing two blossoming fruit trees at any point during the month of Nissan. The two trees may be of the same species or two different species. They just need to be blossoming.

The Blessing is:

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו מלך העולם שלא חסר בעלמו
כלום וברא בו בריות טובות ואילנות טובים להנותבהם
: בני אדם

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha-olam
shelo chiseir ba-olamo k'lum uvara vo briyot tovot v'lanot tovim
l'hanot bahem b'nei Adam

"Blessed are You, G-d, our Lord, King of the universe, for He left nothing lacking in His universe, and He created in it good creatures and good trees, to give mankind pleasure in them."

Please say this Blessing, the first time. when you see 2 Fruit Trees in Bloom during the month of Nissan. Only say this Blessing Once a year.

Now during the evening of the 13th day which is actually the fourteenth of Nissan one searches for Chametz by following this procedure.

1) You will need the following:
Candle (Beeswax preferred)

Feather

Wooden Spoon

Paper bag

the Above is called a Bedikat Chametz Kit and is available at many Jewish stores during the period for under \$2.

Have available 10 pieces of newspaper or clean waste paper that you can wrap around pieces of Chametz

10 pieces of Chametz.

All of these items will be burned in the morning of the 14th day of Nisan so you may want to use an inexpensive wooden spoon and feather.

2) Prepare your Chamtez by wrapping the clean waste paper around your 10 pieces of Chametz. As you complete each one say its count; Keter, Chochma, Binah, Chesed, Gevurah, Tiferet, Netzach, Hod, Yesod, Malchut. Mark each package with the count in a code that you will recognize.

3) Overview of the Chametz Search:

It is done after sunset and before Chatzot (midnight). (In the event you have not started by Chatzot the actual last moment is sunrise but it is best to get this done as early as possible.) It is done by candle light. If any crumbs of chametz are found they are swept by the feather into the spoon and then poured into the paper bag. The search is to be thorough but not difficult. Do not try and hide any chametz but search for any chametz that you can "see" or find.

4) Take your 10 packages of Chametz and have 1 adult in the group hide them throughout the house. No room is off limits (See instructions below) but they should be in plain site and not difficult to find. It is best for each adult to search for their own Chametz. These searches will be done one after the other and not at the same time. If one has small children (under 13) they should accompany one of the adult members and participate in the search.

What is meant by the above is an adult takes the 10 packages of

another adult and hides them as per the above instructions. Then the "owner" of the chametz will search until he/she has found all 10. then another adult follows the same procedure until all adults have completed their search. If there is only 1 adult and no one else to hide the packages. That adult can hide their own.

5) Turn off the lights in the house: Light the candle and take the candle paper bag and spoon and feather into your hands and say the following:

לשם יחוד קודשה בריך הוא ושכינתיה (יאהדונה) בדחילו
ורחימו (יאההויה) ורחימו ודחילו (איההויה) ליחדה שם
יו"ד הי בוא"ו הי ביחודה שלים (יהוה) בשם כל ישראל
הנה אנחנו באים לקיים מצות עשה דרבנן לבדק את
החמץ לאור הנר בחורין ובסדקין שברשותינו בליל יוד
דלת ניסן: לעשות נחת - רוח ליוצרנו ולעשות רצון
בוראנו: ויהי נעם אדני אלהנו עלינו ומעשה ידינו כוננה
עלינו ימעשה ידינו כוננה:

Leshem Yechud Kudsha Berich Hu VeShekintay (יאהדונה) Bidchilu
Urchimu (איההויה) Urchimu Udchilu (איההויה) Leyachda Shem Yood
Hay and Vav Hay Beyachuda Shalaim (יהוה) BeShem Kol Israel Henay
Anachnu Ba'Aim Lekayaim Mitzvat Sephirat HaOmer. LaAsot Nachat
Ruach LeYotzranu VeLaAsot Ratzon Boranu. Vayhi Noam Adonai
Elohainu Alainu UmaAsay Yadainu Connah Alainu Yamaseh Yadainu
Conanaihu.

For the sake of the unification of the Blessed Holy One and His Shechena, with Fear and Love and Love and Fear, in order to unify the Name Yood Hay and Vav Hay in perfect unity, and in the name of Israel, we have hereby come to perform the Mitzva of the burning of Chametz as directed by our honored Sages during the night of the 14th of Nissan.

And may the pleasantness of Hashem, Our God, be upon us and may He establish the work of our hands for us and may the work of our hands establish Him. (Psalms 90:17)

Blessing:

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו
במצותו וצונו על ביאר חמץ :

Baruch atta Ado-noy Elo-hai-nu Melech ha'olam asher kid-sha-nu
b'mitz-vo-sav v'tzi-vanu al bee-ur chametz

Blessed are you, Lord our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to remove the chametz.

Once the blessing is said the searcher should not speak until at least one package has been found and placed in the paper bag. it is best not to speak at all until the final Blessing for this search is said (see below). All of the people should accompany the searcher. This is a happy time and many jokes and misdirective statements can be addressed to the searcher all in good fun. It can be like children playing tag or hide and go seek.

One keeps searching until all 10 packages are found. This can be pay back for the misdirections as one can choose not to find the last one for hours which will cause the family to be walking around in the dark. All of this is a final opportunity to search your own ego and attitudes looking for your personal Chametz (your inflated ego).

Remember you are looking for all Chametz not just the prepared packages. Our family has often found overlooked items that are chametz during the search. All Chametz found goes into the paper bag.

6. When you finish the search, place the extinguished candle and feather and the wooden spoon together with ALL the chametz in the bag. Close the bag securely and put it in a safe place until it will be burnt tomorrow morning.

7. Immediately after the search say the following both in Hebrew and English (Say it 3 times in the language you are most familiar with):

כל חמירא דאיכא ברשותי : דלא חסיתיה ודלא
ביערתייהת לבטיל ולהוי הפקר כעפרא דארעא :

Kol Chamira Decha Birshuti. Dela Chazitai Udla BeArtai, Levtil
VeLehvai Hefker KeAfra DArAh.

All leaven and anything leavened that is in my possession, which I have neither seen nor removed, and about which I am unaware, shall be considered nullified, canceled and destroyed. and ownerless and abandoned as the dust of the earth.

There is one additional tool to assist us on this day. Each day of the year there are Tzadikim (Righteous People) who have chosen to leave this world on a particular day. There is a connection between these souls and this day. They ask us to utilize their connection to strengthen our own connection to our spiritual actions during this day. The more one learns about a particular Tzadik, the better is ones connection to their connection. All these actions are bringing us closer to Hashem.

Historically Birthdays have not been celebrated by the Jewish World until the last 200 - 300 years. Kabbalah teaches that the Birthdate represent the Keter or potential of the Soul while the Death Anniversary or Hilula represents the actual accomplishments of the Soul. While the Hilula is the stronger of the two from our perspective we can also utilize the Birth Date of a Tzadik to assist us in our spiritual connection.

The Tzadikim who died on Yood Dalet Nissan are:

Rabbi Avrohom Yaffen, Rosh Yeshiva, Novardok (1970 which is 5730 in the Hebrew Calendar)

Rabbi Asher Yeshaya of Ropshitz ben Rabbi Eliezer Lipman (1845 which is the year 5605 in the Hebrew Calendar), son-in-law and successor of Rabbi Naftali of Ropshitz

Birthday of Maimonides - Rabbi Moses Ben Maimon - born 1137 or 1138 (which is the Hebrew Year 4897 or 4898)

Birthday of the Maharal of Prague - Rabbi Yehudah Ben Bezalel Loew - born 1520 (which is the year 5280 in the Hebrew Calendar)

Go back to the previous page and look at the instructions for burning the Chametz on the morning of the 14 of Nissan.

Where do you search for Chametz:

You are required to search any room where there is a reasonable doubt that Chametz might have entered throughout the year. So if, for example, you NEVER bring food in to your restrooms, they do not have to be searched. The same is true if you have an office or laboratory where you are careful not to bring any food.

You also have to search your vehicle and office.

If you MIGHT have brought chametz into an area during the year it must be searched.