

Introduction:

The most common challenge we face during this period of mourning is we feel disconnected. We don't *feel* the pain of the destruction of the בית המקדש. We never saw the בית המקדש and it's difficult to connect. People therefore tend to detach themselves from the הלכות of the 3 weeks and try to find a way out. This is not correct. It's actually backwards. The Seforim tell us that the kedusha in every mitzvah lies in the laws of the mitzvah. If a person wants to connect to the שופר he should learn well and try to fulfill with all his heart and soul the mitzvah of שופר. So too here. חז"ל gave us a few halachos. The halachos are not for those who feel connected, the halachos help us become connected. Every halacha we keep is a pipeline for the kedusha in that particular halacha. May we be זוכה not to have to keep any of these halachos due to the coming of משיח... במהרה בימינו אמן

Laundry - כיבוס:

- It is אסור to do laundry during the 9 days
- Spot cleaning is permitted
- It is אסור to wear laundered clothing during the 9 days
- Wet clothing from the rain etc. may be placed in the drier
- Any clothing that one wants to wear should be worn for at least a half hour before the 9 days begin
- If one forgot to do so, one may place the laundered article of clothing on the floor until it loses its freshness
- There is a leniency with undergarments. If one feels extreme discomfort or unpleasant odor one may wear fresh laundered undergarments.
- If one has nothing to wear they may do laundry only for what they need
- It is actually better to buy new undergarments than to do laundry. However, for other articles of clothing it is better to do laundry than buy new.
- On שבת one may wear fresh laundered clothing
- If someone doesn't have בגדי שבת they may do laundry for that purpose

Children under 6

- All laundry may be done for children 6 and under
- When doing laundry for children one may not add adult clothing
- One should minimize his laundry activity. Therefore its preferable to do one big load of laundry than several smaller loads

Children over 6

- **This year only** because תשעה באב falls out on שבת there are strong grounds to be lenient for children of all ages up to 12, 13. Therefore if someone needs to do laundry for older children it's permitted.

כיבוס around the house:

- It's אסור to wash a shaitel
- It's permitted to wash dishes
- It's permitted to wash and mop the floor. Some are stringent and don't clean with such a thorough cleaning.
- It's permitted to give your car a car wash
- It's forbidden to vacuum the carpet. Spot cleaning is permitted.
- It's permitted to polish shoes

רחיצה - Washing:

- It's forbidden to take a bath or shower for pleasure during the 9 days
- one may wash his hands and face
- If someone feels extremely uncomfortable and feels they must take a shower, one may do so with lukewarm water. Soap may be used.
- It's important to try our hardest to connect to the halachos that Hashem gave us. If someone showers every night then shower every other. Make a change for the sake of hashem.
- Baths for children that can't understand the purpose of mourning is permitted
- Children that do understand should be trained not shower. Or at least minimize what they can
- One may shower regularly לכבוד שבת קודש
- If one goes to the מקוה for Shabbos on a regular basis, they may do so during 9 days.
- If someone is extremely sweaty one may shower to wash off perspiration.

קנין - Buying:

- One may not buy new clothing or utensils during the 9 days
- If there is a bargain one may buy new things. A bargain means a very big sale. A bit cheaper is not a bargain.
- If a person is in a place that is selling something that he normally can't access, and if he doesn't but it now he will have to travel after the 9 days to come back which will be timely and costly, he may therefore buy the item now.
- Appliances needed for now are permitted to buy
- If someone's appliance broke and they need a new one it is permitted to buy. Etc.
- It's forbidden to buy furniture during the 9 days

תיקון - Fixing:

- One may sew a button that fell off or sew up a tear on a garment
- Sewing a full garment is forbidden

בשר - Meat:

- It's forbidden to eat meat and drink wine during the 9 days
- This includes chicken as well
- Children under 5 may eat meat
- Chicken may be served to children of all ages
- Schnapps is permitted during the 9 days
- A salad dressing with wine inside is permitted
- If one makes a siyum the family and friends at the siyum are permitted to have meat and wine
- It is extremely hurtful to hear that there are restaurants that "provide" siyumim to permit their customers to have meat. This is not only against the spirit of the law but actually against the letter of the law as well. Unless the person making the siyum pays for everyone's meal there is no connection to the one making the siyum and the customers, therefore it doesn't permit a random stranger.
- **On מוצאי שבת during the 9 days our מנהג is to make הבדלה on wine and drink it ourselves.**

בנין - Construction:

- one may not do any construction around the house for the purpose of pleasure.
- Fixing something that is broken is permitted
- Of course construction for safety purposes is permitted
- Painting the house is forbidden
- Waxing the floors is forbidden
- If someone hired a contractor before the 9 days he should try to push him off till after the 9 days. If this is not possible it's permitted. A Rav should be consulted to iron out the details.

**שיבנה בית
המקדש
!!במהרה בימינו**