

ORDER OF THE SEARCH AND REMOVAL OF CHAMETZ

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One of the central laws of Passover is the removal of all leaven or chametz from our homes or dwellings places. It is customary to put pieces of hard bread in various places some time before (usually the night before Pesach) the search, so that the one who searches will find them. This serves as a great lesson of slavery and freedom. According to the tradition, one should place 10 pieces around the house. There are 4 steps to the removal of chametz. 1. Bedikat Chametz-the search 2. Bittul Chametz- Nullifying 3. Bi'ur Chametz- Burning 4. Mekhirat chametz- Selling .You will need a feather, a spoon, matches, candle, and a paper bag.

Before starting the search light the candle, and the following blessing is recited:

Baruk atah Yahweh, Eloheinu Melek haolam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al bi'ur chametz.

Blessed are You, Yahweh, our Elohim, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us concerning the removal of chametz.

One is to search by candlelight in all hidden places, even cracks in the floor. One is not to speak between the blessing and the beginning of the search, even concerning the search itself. Throughout the search one should not speak about anything that is not relevant to the search. Members of the household should stand nearby to hear the blessing, with each one then searching his own place without speaking in between. Take heed to search first in the room nearest the place where the blessing was heard, and not to go to another room immediately after the blessing. When the chametz is found use the feather to sweep it into the spoon and then place the chametz in the paper bag. Be sure all 10 pieces are found.

After the search one must be careful that the chametz retained to be eaten or to be burnt in the morning, be put in a safe place, so that it not be carried about and thereby crumbled and spread by children or rodents.

After the search one must also nullify [the chametz he may have overlooked] and say:

Kol chamira vachami'a d'ika vir'shuti, d'al chamitei ud'la vaaritei, ud'la yadana lei, liv'til v'le'hevei hefker k'afra d'ara.

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 and ownerless as the dust of the earth.

On the fourteenth of Nissan; in the fifth hour of the day, one should make a special fire and burn the chametz and nullify it. For the nullification of the daytime say:

Kol Chamira va-chami'a d'ika vir'shuti, da-chamitei u-d'la chamitei d'va-aritei u-d'la va-aritei, livtil v'lehevei hefker k'afra d'ara.

All leaven and anything leavened that is in my possession, whether I have seen it or not, whether I have observed it or not, whether I have removed it or not, shall be considered nullified and ownerless as the dust of the earth.

The ten pieces are to be burnt along with the feather and the spoon, and the following is said during the burning of the chametz:

May it be Your will, Yahweh, our Elohim and Elohim of our fathers, that just as I remove the chametz from my house and from my possession, so shall You remove all the extraneous forces. Remove the spirit of impurity from the earth, remove our evil inclination from us, and grant us a heart of flesh to serve You in truth. Make all the sitra achara, all the kelipot, and all wickedness be consumed in smoke, and remove the dominion of evil from the earth. Remove with a spirit of destruction and a spirit of judgment all that distress the Shekhinah, just as You destroyed Egypt and its idols in those days, at this time. Amen, Selah.

Pesach teaches us to be free from the things that hold us in slavery or bondage. The chametz represents “pride” and the yetzer hara or evil inclination within us. We all have within us the capacity for the negative. Chametz is the embodiment of this side of our personalities. We eat chametz for 51 weeks of the year, but during this 8-day period we are FREE from its influence and experience the FREEDOM of the Messianic Redemption!



