

## Halachos of the Nine Days

~ From Rosh Chodesh Av through after Tisha B'Av ~

### *1. General Minhagim of the Nine Days*

- 1.1) Starting from *Rosh Chodesh Av*, many *minhagei aveilus* are added to what was already being kept during the Three Weeks. These *minhagim* continue until midday on the tenth of Av<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.2) In general, pleasurable acts should be minimized during this time. (For example, one should avoid going to an amusement park during the Nine Days.)
- 1.3) One should refrain from doing anything that most people consider a danger (i.e. flying on a plane) for no substantial reason.
- 1.4) One should avoid scheduling a non-urgent surgery during the Nine Days<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.5) One who has a court case with a non-Jew should try to postpone it until after the month of Av, or at least until after *Tisha B'Av*.
- 1.6) The *minhag* is to refrain from doing any work with threads (like sewing a new piece of clothing) during this time. However, sewing on a button or fixing a small tear is permitted.
- 1.7) A *shaitel* should not be washed during the Nine Days. A new *shaitel* should not be cut during this time. A *Rav* should be consulted regarding cutting or adding hair to an old *shaitel*, as it depends on its condition.
- 1.8) Polishing shoes or silver is allowed.
- 1.9) Washing the floors and cleaning the house is permitted during the Nine Days.

### *2. Buying and Shopping*

- 2.1) Avoid buying things that are unnecessary for the Nine Days. However, to prevent a loss of money, one may buy things that are not urgently needed.
- 2.2) Buying things for a *mitzvah* is permitted (i.e. *seforim*, shoes for *Tisha B'av*, or items for a *chasuna* that will occur immediately after the Nine Days).
- 2.3) Window shopping is permissible, as is choosing what to buy for after the Nine Days.
- 2.4) Gifts may be given during the Nine Days.
- 2.5) A *Rav* should be consulted before buying, renovating, or decorating a house or apartment.

### *3. Washing Clothing*

---

<sup>1</sup> ובט' באב בעצמו יש חומרות נוספות (ואפ' על מה שיש להקל בתשעת הימים, בט' באב יש להחמיר).  
<sup>2</sup> באמת יותר טוב שלא לעשותו בבין המצרים בכלל. אבל אם צריך לעשותו אז טוב שלא לעשותו בתשעת הימים, ולכל הפחות שלא לעשותו בשבועה שחל בו.

- 3.1)** It is not permitted to wash clothing during the Nine Days, even if the clothing will not be worn until afterwards.
- 3.2)** A wash that started *Erev Rosh Chodesh Av* (before *shkiah*) may finish, even if it will only finish after sunset.
- 3.3)** It is *assur* to send clothing to a dry-cleaners (even a non-Jewish cleaners). However, clothing that was given to the cleaners before the Nine Days may be picked up from the cleaners<sup>3</sup>.
- 3.4)** Drying wet clothing is allowed during the Nine Days.
- 3.5)** Spot cleaning is permitted.
- 3.6)** Children's clothing may be washed throughout the entire Nine Days.

#### *4. Wearing Fresh Clothing*

- 4.1)** One should not change into clean, fresh clothing during the Nine Days.
- 4.2)** Changing clothing (even into clean clothes) is allowed if one is doing so because their clothes are dirty or sweaty.
- 4.3)** If the freshness of the clothing is removed, one may wear these clothes (even though they are clean, and even for any reason). This may be done through wearing the clothes for a little before the Nine Days or through any other means<sup>4</sup>.
- 4.4)** One may change into fresh socks and undergarments.
- 4.5)** Children may change into fresh clothing.
- 4.6)** One who does not have any clean clothes to wear should buy new clothing rather than wash them. However, if one needs a piece of clothing that will bring pleasure if bought, he should wash the dirty one rather than purchase new clothing. (For example, one who has no clean socks or undergarments should buy new ones rather than wash them.)
- 4.7)** Do not use fresh linen on a bed during the Nine Days. However, one who has a guest may use fresh linen.

#### *5. Eating Meat and Drinking Wine*

- 5.1)** The *minhag* is not to eat meat or drink wine during the Nine Days. This includes poultry and any food cooked with meat (as long as it has the taste of meat).
- 5.2)** Foods cooked in clean *fleishig* utensils are allowed to be eaten.
- 5.3)** One who began a *fleishig* meal before *shkiah* on *Erev Rosh Chodesh Av* may continue up to 15 minutes after *shkiah*. In certain instances, one may continue even further, but should nonetheless hurry and finish as soon as possible.
- 5.4)** One may taste meat and spit it out during the Nine Days.

---

<sup>3</sup> ואם צריך שום מלבוש לשבת חזון האם מותר לשלוח למכבסה ע' בחלק ב'.  
<sup>4</sup> וגם אם לבש שום בגד בשבת חזון מותר ללבוש אותו בתשעת הימים.

- 5.5)** It is permissible to buy meat during this time.
- 5.6)** One who cannot eat dairy products may eat poultry until the seventh of *Av*.
- 5.7)** Pregnant women, nursing women, and women within thirty days of childbirth may be lenient in this *minhag* and eat meat. It is preferable, however, to eat poultry rather than meat.
- 5.8)** This *minhag* includes wine and any foods cooked with wine (as long as it has the taste of wine). One cannot drink grape juice during the Nine Days, either. However, beer and whiskey is allowed.
- 5.9)** At a *bris milah* (even one pushed off until after the eighth day), *bar mitzvah* (the actual day the boy turns 13), or at a *siyum* on a *mesachta*, it is permissible to eat meat and drink wine.

## **6. *Bathing and General Hygiene***

- 6.1)** The *minhag* is not to bathe or shower for enjoyment during the Nine Days.
- 6.2)** For medical reasons, or to remove dirt and sweat, one is allowed to shower (even during the week of *Tisha B'av*).
- 6.3)** One needs to be honest with oneself and limit their shower (i.e. its duration, warmth of the water, and usage of soap and shampoo) to the minimum of what is needed to remove the dirt and sweat.
- 6.4)** Washing hands, face, and feet is permitted (even with warm water if needed).
- 6.5)** Bathing in order to prepare for a *mitzvah* is permitted.
- 6.6)** One who goes to the *mikvah* every morning may do so during the Nine Days; however, it is preferable to use a cold *mikvah*.
- 6.7)** Children may be bathed normally.
- 6.8)** Brushing one's teeth is allowed.
- 6.9)** It is permissible to cut one's nails until the week of *Tisha B'av*. During the week of *Tisha B'av*, one can cut their nails for a *mitzvah* (i.e. *Erev Shabbos* or for *tevilah*). One is also allowed to cut nails for safety or hygienic reasons.
- 6.10)** Children's nails may be cut (for non-cosmetic purposes).