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DAY-TO-DAY HALACHIC GUIDE

Detailed instructions on the
laws and customs for the
Festival of Shavuos 5782

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DAY-TO-DAY HALACHIC GUIDE

Detailed instructions on the
laws and customs for the

Festival of Shavuos
5782

By
Horav Yosef Yeshaya Braun, shlita
member of the Badatz of Crown Heights

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Rosh Chodesh Sivan - Motzoei Shavuot

FOREWORD

We present a comprehensive guide to the Yom Tov of Shavuos. The details are derived from multiple sources, Revised by Rabbi **M. M. Rotenberg**.

Due to a dearth of space only some references and halachic notes have been added. Primary sources include: Shulchan Aruch and commentaries, Sefer Haminhagim Chabad, Luach Colel Chabad, Sichos, and Igros Kodesh. Please see the footnotes in the Hebrew section for more halachic discussion of the topics mentioned.

The intention of this summary is to inform you of some of the relevant laws, not to replace each person's obligation to review the Halachos comprehensively.

TIME TO PREPARE

In a *sichah* on the second day of Rosh Hashanah 5752, the Rebbe states:

"We need to focus on studying the laws that apply to this time of year, during which many changes are made to the standard prayers and there are numerous customs that apply. We should make certain to study these laws in the Code of Jewish Law.

"Recently, yearly calendars have begun to include many of the laws that apply to the relevant time of the year and that are necessary to know. This is particularly useful for those who, for whatever reason, do not have *sefarim* or do not know how to find what they are looking for in the *sefarim* that they own. Now, however, they can simply examine such calendars and easily find the relevant laws.

"It is therefore extremely appropriate for every single person to peruse the contents of these calendars, such as the Kollel Chabad calendar (available both in wall size and pocket size formats) in such a manner that the laws that apply to this time of year will become fixed in his memory. After all, it sometimes happens that a halachic question arises precisely at a point during which it is forbidden to interrupt and ask for someone's guidance—or when there is nobody around to ask. Furthermore (if unfamiliar with the relevant laws beforehand), it can happen that one does not even realize that there is a problem to begin with."

TO REALIZE REDEMPTION

This guide incorporates several reminders about laws that will only be applicable during the Era of Redemption, with the hope that Moshiach will come speedily, allowing us to implement these laws in practice. The concept of studying these halachos is based on several sichos, some of which are quoted below:

“Hashem **begs** the Jewish people,” the Rebbe passionately states, “to occupy themselves with the study of the laws of the sacrificial orders ... which (as our Sages state) is considered as if we had actually offered the sacrifices. This study will bring about the actual offerings because it brings (to quote Rambam): ‘King Moshiach [who] will build the Beis Hamikdash ... and restore the laws of the Torah ... so that the Jewish people will again offer the sacrifices ... in accordance with all the mitzvos that are stated in the Torah,’ speedily, in our time—literally! Then (to quote the festival liturgy), ‘We will offer before You there the offerings of our obligations ... in accordance with the commandments of Your will.’”¹

“We must experience greater longing and yearning for the Redemption,” the Rebbe demands. “One of the ways this is accomplished is through studying more Torah on the subjects of the Redemption and the Beis Hamikdash. Studying these topics greatly hastens their actual realization, to the extent that we will go directly from studying these subjects to greet our righteous Moshiach. We will inform him, ‘We have just completed studying the laws associated with your coming!’ An additional motivation to study these laws is that we must expect Moshiach’s arrival each and every day. In that case, these laws (concerning the Redemption and the Beis Hamikdash) are matters that every Jew—men and women alike—must know, in order to put them into practical use on a daily basis, such as many of the laws of the offerings.”²

General Note: The times listed below are for Crown Heights only. Since one can never achieve complete precision, and many factors may influence the accuracy of these times, it is recommended to begin earlier than the time listed and not wait until the last minute (e.g., for the start of Shabbos), or to wait extra time, when that is the appropriate precaution (e.g., at the close of Shabbos).

1) *Likkutei Sichos*, vol. 18, p. 341—emphasis in the original

2) From a sichah addressed to *N’shei Ub’nos Chabad—Sefer HaSichos* 5750, vol. 2, p. 485.

PREPARING FOR SHAVUOS

CROSSING THE DATE LINE

Halachah bids a person to avoid crossing the International Date Line during *sefirah* if at all possible because of the issues associated with celebrating Shavuos when missing a day of the counting. In his *Igros Kodesh*, the Rebbe admonishes those who are cavalier concerning this Halachic issue.

Someone who did travel across the Date Line during *sefirah* should ask a Rav—as early as possible—when and how to celebrate Shavuos.

Similarly—and in a stricter sense as well—polar travel, where night and day are indistinguishable, should be avoided.

GREETINGS

Kabbolas hatorah b'simchah ub'pnimiyus! The Rebbe encourages all Jews to wish one another to “receive the Torah on Shavuos with joy and innerness”, using this precise terminology of the Frierdiker Rebbe. The Rebbe adds that it brings additional blessing to the one extending the blessing as well.

FUNDAMENTALS

“Now is the appropriate time to raise an issue that stands to be corrected.” the Rebbe said before Shavuos,³ “We often discuss how a specific matter should be taken to heart in preparation for a given Yom Tov (or other important date), and we encourage everyone to put effort into that **specific** area. Nevertheless, it is patently obvious that this comes **in addition** to all the other things that need to be done in preparation for Yom Tov. It is just that since these other requirements are so very obviously necessary, that they do not require any mention.

“However, it sometimes happens, due to the intense enthusiasm in promoting that specific—**additional**—activity, that the **primary** preparations are all but forgotten about!

“As a result of this ‘oversight,’ it sometimes happens, that when informing the public of what they have to do for Shavuos, *only* the proposal to bring every Jewish child to the synagogue to hear the Ten Commandments,

3) *Parshas Behar-Bechukosai* 5748; *Hisvaaduyos* pp. 355-356

or to increase in giving Tzedakah before Shavuos, gets publicized—but nothing further!

“There is therefore a need to emphasize that the said activities are **additions** to our primary preparations. Clearly, we should publicize the fundamental Shavuos preparations—which are explained in numerous places, in the works of *mussar* and the like (even before we get to Chassidus), and are even included in the *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch* ... translated into all languages ... explained and elaborated upon in a vast number of Torah sources. It is only due to the darkness of exile that we have to stress that the activities should not remain within the ‘Torah sources’—but rather, should be implemented in the real world.”

TUESDAY, ROSH CHODESH SIVAN

45 Days of the Omer

A DAY FOR MOSHIACH

“Every Rosh Chodesh the spark of Moshiach, also known as the *Yechidah* in every Jew’s soul (which is a spark of the general *Yechidah*—the soul of Moshiach) is revealed.

The revelation of this spark resonates and causes a rejuvenation in the entire being of every Jew, so that everything they do is permeated with the level of *Yechidah*, and, most importantly, through this we cause the revelation and arrival of Moshiach in the most literal sense—that a king from the house of David, soul in body etc.”⁴

PRAYERS

Yaaleh ve’yavo is recited in the *Amidah* and in *Birchas Hamazon*. If you forgot, see the chart at the end of the booklet.

When saying the brachah *Me’ein Shalosh* (for items requiring *al hamichya*, the seven fruits or wine), the proper wording for today is: *Vezochreinu l’tovah b’yom Rosh Hachodesh hazeh*. If you forget, see the chart at the end of the booklet.

In *Shacharis*, half-*Hallel*⁵ is recited, then *V’avraham zaken*, *Kaddish tiskabel*, *Shir shel Yom* (*Shlishi*

4) Sicha of Parshas Toldos 5752

5) Does one make a *brachah* on half-*Hallel* if *davening* without a *minyan*? See www.asktherav.com #2750

baShabbos), *Hoshi'einu*, *Barchi nafshi*, and *Kaddish Yasom*, followed by the reading of the Torah.

KRIAS HATORAH

Four *aliyos* are read in the Rosh Chodesh reading (**Kohen**—until *ola tamid*, **Levi**—reread the verse of *vamarta lahem* until *revi'is hahin*, **Shlishi**—until *veniska*, and **Revi'i**—*Uv'roshei chadsheichem* until *venisko*.)

The Torah reading is followed by *chatzi-Kaddish*; *hagbah* and *gelilah*; *Ashrei* and *Uva letziyon*—the *chazzan* does not conclude *Uva letziyon* aloud. That is followed by *Yehalelu* and the return of the Torah to the *aron*. The *tefillin* are then removed, *Rabbeinu Tam tefillin* are donned and then removed before continuing with *Musaf*.

The *chazzan* should recite a chapter of *Tehillim* before beginning *chatzi-Kaddish* for *Musaf*.

Law of Redemption: We offer the following *Korban Musaf* in the *Beis Hamikdash* in honor of Rosh Chodesh: two bulls, one ram, seven lambs as burnt-offerings, and one goat for a sin-offering. These are in addition to the daily *Korban Tamid*.

We will all ascend to the *Beis Hamikdash* in Yerushalayim—not just three times a year, for Pesach, Shavuos and Sukkos, but also for each Shabbos and for each *Rosh Chodesh* (as it says in Navi⁶).

Omer Reminder: If you forgot to count the *Omer* last night, count it during the day without a blessing. If you only missed last night (but counted the first forty-four days by night or day), you may resume counting tonight with a blessing.

Today we learn Sotah 45, following the custom of learning one *daf* a day throughout the *Omer*, that corresponds to that day of counting.

ROSH CHODESH CUSTOMS

It is a mitzvah to enhance the quality of our meals on Rosh Chodesh.

It is an ancient custom, on each Rosh Chodesh, to study

6) *Yeshayah* 10:23

one verse of the chapter of Tehillim that corresponds with the current years of a person's life. The verse should be studied with the commentary of Rashi, and additional commentaries may be added as well. If the current chapter contains less than twelve verses, or in a leap year, when there are more than twelve months, verses that have been studied on a previous Rosh Chodesh should be studied a second time. Similarly, if the current chapter contains many verses, then two or three verses should be studied at once on each Rosh Chodesh of the year.

TACHNUN

We do not say *Tachanun*, nor may we fast, from Rosh Chodesh Sivan until the twelfth of Sivan. The exception to this rule is a bride and groom on the wedding day.⁷

On these days when *Tachanun* is not said, we omit *Lamnatzeach* (Chapter 20 of Tehillim) from davening. Instead, we precede the daily Tehillim with its recitation.

Law of Redemption: In his *Shulchan Aruch*, the Alter Rebbe states⁸: “During the times of the *Beis Hamikdash* the early Sages instituted that the laws of each festival should be explained to the public starting thirty days prior to the festival. Therefore, they would begin teaching the laws of Shavuos from the fifth of Iyar onward. Since each person living in Eretz Yisrael was obligated to bring three offerings (*olas re'iyah*, *shalmei chagigah*, and *shalmei simchah*) on each festival and each sacrifice has to be free of any blemish or other disqualification, the Sages instituted this practice of publicly explaining the laws of the festivals thirty days in advance to remind the people of the festival so that they do not forget to prepare animals that are fit for offering. They then had a full thirty days to prepare.”

PREPARING FOR MATAN TORAH

In the days preceding Shavuos, we should prepare ourselves in all the ways the Jews originally prepared themselves for receiving the Torah. The Rebbe infers this

7) On Isru Chag, however, they do not fast.

8) beginning of *Hilchos Pesach*

directive from the detailed citation of the Alter Rebbe⁹: “From *Rosh Chodesh Sivan* Moshe began preparing the Jews for *Matan Torah*...”¹⁰

In the list of the Rebbe’s innovations brought in the beginning of the *Hayom Yom*, one from 5748 (1988) calls for the study of the *maamar* from *Torah Or* in *Parshas Yisro*, entitled *Bachodesh Hashlishi*, in the days leading up to Shavuos.

PREPARING EACH DAY

In a public letter the Rebbe writes¹¹:

“In the third month of the Exodus of the Children of Israel from the Land of Egypt, on this very day”—a reference to *Rosh Chodesh*—“they came to the Desert of Sinai, and Israel encamped there”. The verse says, *vayichan* (lit., “and he encamped”) in the singular, as one man with one heart, to receive the Torah from Mount Sinai.

On the second day, they were told “And you shall be”—both a commandment and a guarantee—“unto Me a Kingdom of *Kohanim*, and a holy nation.” On the third day, they were told the command of *hagboloh*, to set boundaries, “Beware of the ascending the mountain etc.” On the fourth day, they were told the command of *perishah*, to separate—from the material and physical—“today and tomorrow” and to be prepared in these days for the Day of Receiving the Torah, the sixth of Sivan on which the Torah was given.

WEDNESDAY, 2 SIVAN

46 Days of the Omer

YOM HAMEYUCHAS

“It is recorded in Torah sources,” the Rebbe says,¹² “that the second day of Sivan received the unique title of *yom hameyuchas*, the Distinguished Day—or *yom yichus*, the Day of Pedigree—due to the fact that it was on the second of Sivan that the Jewish people received their special status, when Hashem told them, ‘You will be for Me a

9) *Orach Chayim* 494

10) see *Likkutei Sichos*, vol. 38, p. 6

11) From Letters by the Lubavitcher Rebbe on the Jewish Festivals II, Kehot 2019

12) *Reshimas Devarim Shabbos Parshas Bemidbar* 5747

kingdom of *Kohanim* and a holy nation' (Shemos 19:6). Let me say that although I conducted thorough research with much effort, I have not found (to date) in the writings of Chabad Chassidus any emphasis on the unique quality of this day.

"Nevertheless, since this matter is discussed openly in the writings of great Torah leaders of previous generations—and they were *truly* great leaders of the Jewish nation, who raised hundreds of thousands of Torah students, etc., and by whose light Jews walk until the end of time—it is appropriate to reveal and publicize (as part of our effort to increase in revealing new concepts in matters of Torah), with the addition of new insights, in the spirit of, 'Give to a wise man, and he will become yet wiser' (Mishlei 9:9).

"Moreover, the basic concept is stated in the Alter Rebbe's *Shulchan Aruch*, at the concluding section of his laws of Shavuos (located at the end of the laws of Pesach)... Anyone studying these laws learns that Hashem told us, 'You will be for Me a kingdom of *Kohanim* and a holy nation' on the second of Sivan. The works referenced above, however, emphasize the *unique* quality of this day: because the Jewish people's special status was first established on this day, the day itself became a meritorious date for the concept of pedigree—it is *yom yichus*, the Day of Pedigree—and beyond that, it achieved its own special status, becoming *yom hameyuchas*, the Distinguished Day."

The Rebbe records that the Frierdiker Rebbe would consider each moment of the days leading up to Shavuos as extremely precious to be used to its fullest potential.

LEARNING TORAH

We best prepare ourselves for receiving the Torah by increasing our diligence in studying Torah. The Frierdiker Rebbe penned a letter in 5700 instructing the yeshivos to establish a *seder* of learning on Shavuos. On Shavuos 5710, the Rebbe called for learning and publicizing this letter.

THE FRIERDIKER REBBE'S LETTER:

In just a few days, we will merit—with the kindness of the Supernal One—to receive the light "*that it is good*" (an allusion to the Torah, as our Sages state), "*Good* refers only to Torah." (It will soon be) the luminous day, the festival of Shavuos, the time of the giving of the Torah! It is the holy Torah that was concealed and hidden away in

Hashem's treasure houses, and in which He delights each day! The Torah for which the supernal angels longed and craved, for which they pleaded with the Creator of the universe, clamoring, "Set Your Glory over the Heavens!" It is this holy Torah that our G-d, G-d of our forefathers, gave to us and to all Jews so that we study it for the sake of observing it!

Each festival is a remembrance to the original time and event at which Hashem established that date as a festival. For this reason, the Torah refers to the festivals as *mo'adim*, "established times", as in the verse, "These are the *mo'adim* of Hashem, holy occasions, which you shall designate in their appointed time."¹³ Each year, on the anniversary of the original date, the light that was revealed at the original event is again revealed and shines forth. Therefore, on Shavuos, the time of the giving of the Torah—these two luminous days that are Hashem's appointed dates—the same lights and revelations that were revealed at the giving of the Torah are revealed anew. The souls that are in the lower and higher *Gan Eden* gather in the Supernal Academy. At the same time, all Jews—may they be distinguished for good life!—gather in synagogues and study halls to receive the holy Torah...

Whoever analyzes the approach of *Tosafos*¹⁴ understands that Shavuos is a unique time of Divine favor. At that time (in the Heavenly Court), G-d disconcerts the Accuser of the Jewish people, just as He confuses him when the *shofar* is sounded on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

The festival of Shavuos is the perfect time to do everything possible to advance one's Torah study and one's service of G-d with awe. Similarly, it is an appropriate time to repent for (failing to study) Torah, since (at that time) the accusing influence of Satan does not interfere—similar to the time of the sounding of the *shofar* on Rosh HaShanah and to the day of Yom Kippur.

THREE PREPARATORY DAYS

The three days prior to Shavuos commemorate the "days of making boundaries" that are a preparation for the giving of the Torah. In specific circumstances, certain restrictions of *Sefirah* are mitigated during these days; generally, the Chabad custom is to continue the mourning restrictions that apply throughout the *Sefirah* until *erev Shavuos*.

13) *Vayikra* 23:4

14) *Shabbos* 89a; s.v. *Torah*

Haircuts: The Rebbe Rashab showed displeasure with those who cut their hair earlier than *erev Shavuos*. This is a stringency based on Kabbalah and is not necessarily for reasons associated with mourning. (See entry for Friday, 4 Sivan regarding practice for this year, as *erev Shavuos* falls on Shabbos.)

Weddings: In earlier years, the Rebbe wouldn't permit weddings before Shavuos. In later years, however, the Rebbe approved of weddings taking place during the three days prior to Shavuos.

Music is permitted in the three days prior to Shavuos. However, this is restricted to weddings and is not necessarily a license for personal musical entertainment. (A parallel to this are the musical Lag B'omer celebrations that are continued into the following night, although the mourning restrictions, including a ban on personal musical enjoyment, remain in full force.)

Shehechianu: Restrictions on new clothes remain in force during this time.¹⁵

SIMCHAS YOM TOV

We are commanded to be happy and cheerful on the festival of Shavuos, and each person must also bring joy to his wife and children and all his dependents. This is a biblical obligation. How is this accomplished? A husband should buy clothing or jewelry for his wife and treats (or at least *chassidische nosh*¹⁶) for his children before Yom Tov.

Rambam states that “when one eats and drinks [on Yom Tov], he must also feed the convert, the orphan, and the

15) Regarding a new garment in the three days preceding Shavuos: On the one hand, the established *minhag* to refrain from saying *Shehechianu* is relatively new (although mention of it is found in earlier sources) and there are *poskim* who reject it as a restriction during *Sefirah*. However, those halachic authorities who propose it use quite specific language that enforces a *Sefirah*-long ban without an exception for the days leading to Shavuos. This is supported by those who reason that this practice is rooted in the concept of *Sefirah* as a time of misfortune that does not abate with the approach of the festival (as opposed to the aspect of public mourning, which is mitigated under certain circumstances). See Hebrew section for more details and for sources.

16) The Rebbe once commented regarding Pesach that a picture Haggadah for children can be considered *chassidische nosh*.

widow, along with other poor and unfortunate people. One who bolts his doors and eats and drinks with his own wife and children, neglecting to feed the poor and the bitter of soul—he is not rejoicing in a mitzvah but rather in the satisfaction of his own stomach! Such a celebration is a disgrace!”

The Rebbe *repeatedly* encouraged us to provide those who are in need with all their Shavuos requirements—despite Shavuos not being an expensive Yom Tov. In this way, these individuals will be able to fulfill the mitzvah of *vesamachta bechagecha*, “You should rejoice in your festival,” (Devarim 16:14) personally, and with their families and dependents, by providing food and beverages for the men, clothes and ornaments for the women, and edible treats for the children. In this way, each individual will be able to experience the Yom Tov joy in fulfillment of the above mitzvah in a personally meaningful manner, which leads to complete joy. In fact, the obligation to feast and rejoice on Shavuos is *greater* than on other festivals, because our Sages stated that “it is agreed *unanimously* that on Shavuos we are also required to experience *physical* forms of delight...to demonstrate that this day is pleasing and well received by the Jewish people...as the date on which the Torah was given.”

Omer Reminder: If you forgot to count the *Omer* last night, count it during the day without a blessing. If you only missed last night (but counted the first forty-five days by night or day), you may resume counting tonight with a blessing.

Today we learn Sotah 46.

THURSDAY, 3 SIVAN

47 Days of the Omer

Omer Reminder: If you forgot to count the *Omer* last night, count it during the day without a blessing. If you only missed last night (but counted the first forty-six days by night or day), you may resume counting tonight with a blessing.

Today we learn Sotah 47.

FRIDAY, 4 SIVAN, EREV SHABBOS

48 Days of the Omer

Omer Reminder: If you forgot to count the *Omer* last night, count it during the day without a blessing. If you only missed last night (but counted the first forty-seven days by night or day), you may resume counting tonight with a blessing.

Today we learn Sotah 48.

HAIRCUTS

It is a mitzvah to have hair cut before every Yom Tov, so as not to enter into Yom Tov unkempt.¹⁷ The prohibition of haircutting on Chol Hamoed was instituted especially to compel people to receive a haircut prior to Yom Tov and not to postpone it.

The necessity of receiving a haircut on *erev Shavuos* is more acute, because haircutting was prohibited throughout *Sefirah*. The long hair accumulated over *Sefirah* causes a disheveled appearance, which is highly inappropriate for any Yom Tov.

Minhag Chabad is to take a haircut **only** on *erev Shavuos* (which includes the preceding night). However, since *erev Shavuos* coincides with Shabbos this year, we must cut our hair one day earlier, on *erev Shabbos*. A *Kovetz* on Rabbi Dvorkin's halachic opinions states: "It is obvious to me for a number of reasons that (when *erev Shavuos* coincides with Shabbos) one should receive a haircut on *erev Shabbos*. In fact, I did so myself. And just as the barber began to cut my hair, his telephone rang - it was Rabbi Hodakov calling. The barber then asked me if he could go immediately to give the Rebbe a haircut..." There has been extensive discussion whether this includes Thursday night as well. In practice, we may be lenient about this matter.

We uphold the mitzvah of trimming nails in honor of Shabbos (despite the fact that Yom Tov falls on the third day hence).

BLOOD TESTS

Routine blood tests should not be performed on *erev*

17) The Alter Rebbe's *Shulchan Aruch* 529

Shavuos. In his *Shulchan Aruch*, the Alter Rebbe notes a dispute among the *poskim* which specific procedures might be excluded in the prohibition of letting blood on *erev Yom Tov*. (This reference has led to leniencies related to blood tests on *erev Pesach* and *erev Sukkos*.) *Erev Shavuos*, however, is stricter in this regard, since it is the source of the prohibition, while the eve of the other festivals are restricted as a precaution so as not to differentiate between one *erev Yom Tov* and another. It is therefore recommended to refrain from blood tests altogether on *erev Shavuos*.¹⁸ This year, the recommendation against blood tests is extended to include *erev Shabbos*.

DAIRY FOOD PREP

The Sages instituted a restriction on baking dairy or meat bread (and if such bread was prepared, it cannot be consumed). This prohibition extends also to using a single oven to bake bread simultaneously with meat or dairy foods.¹⁹

As the *Shulchan Aruch* states,²⁰ “One must not knead dough with milk lest he mistakenly eat (the bread) with meat. However, it is permissible to produce a small quantity (of dough mixed with dairy), just enough to eat at once, or else alter the appearance of the bread (before baking) so that it is recognizable and will not (mistakenly) be eaten with meat.” The *Rema* comments on this, “Accordingly, we are accustomed to bake bread kneaded with milk for the festival of *Shavuos* ... for all this is considered a small quantity (that is to be eaten within a day). In addition, the shape (of the dairy bread prepared for *Shavuos*) is different from ordinary bread. Certainly, then, cheese pastries are permitted.”

18) The reasoning given for the practice is that there is concern of danger from letting blood and any restrictions based on danger are more severe. For a discussion on getting a vaccine on *erev Shavuos*, see [#14994](http://www.asktherav.com).

19) This does not apply to baking *pareve* bread in a *milchige* oven that is not presently baking dairy—or the same with a *fleishige* oven—even for those who are stringent and consider the resultant baked goods to take on the properties of the type of oven used. (See Hebrew footnote for sources and discussion.)

20) *Yoreh De'ah*, 97:1

This year, all dairy bread baked for Yom Tov **must** consist of uniquely-shaped loaves. The dispensation for “small quantities that are eaten within a day” obviously does not apply when *erev Shavuos* is on Shabbos.

It is permissible to bake sweet pastries that are dairy, since such desserts are not typically eaten together with meat.²¹ However, it is advisable, regardless, to label all dairy food storage containers as such, as a precaution against anyone mistakenly consuming them without the proper wait time.

KOSHERING THE OVEN

The Alter Rebbe states²² that those who are accustomed to bake dairy products for Shavuos must be careful when koshering their meat ovens (in which meaty juices and the like occasionally drip or splatter, and these juices are then absorbed into the oven walls)—the oven must be heated to the point that sparks fly from it and that the coals used for koshering are passed along all of its surfaces.²³

Nowadays, ovens are made of enamel, and there are divergent views about the halachic status of this material. Food is usually baked in trays as well, not directly on the inner surface of the oven as in former times. Accordingly, the oven walls generally absorb the steam of the food rather than the food itself. Therefore, many authorities are lenient and allow a lighter form of *libun* (heating until white-hot). Practically speaking, a modern

21) See more at [#13100](http://www.asktherav.com) (in Hebrew. See also Hebrew footnote for sources.)

22) There are countless details involved in converting ovens and stoves from meat use to dairy, but this is not the forum to delve into this at length. We will limit the discussion to details relevant to the Alter Rebbe’s treatment of the matter in his laws of Shavuos.

23) According to halachah, complete *libun* is not necessary to convert a utensil from meat to dairy (since the meat is kosher, unlike the conversion of an oven used for non-kosher food); rather, *hagalah* or a lighter form of *libun* is sufficient. According to the Alter Rebbe, *hagalah* works even in a case where first meat and later milk were absorbed into the walls of a vessel without a koshering process in between. However, this case is different, because we are dealing with an oven made of earthenware. Such material cannot be purged without a full *libun*, and the source of the koshering fire must be within the oven itself and it’s only effective if the oven regularly uses a source of fire that is located within.

oven is heated to its highest heat and left running at that temperature for a considerable length of time; this method can be relied upon for converting the oven from meat use to dairy. If the oven has a floor that separates the source of heat, the floor should be removed, if possible, so that the heat enters directly into the heart of the oven.

Some authorities are stringent about this type of koshering as they consider enamel a form of earthenware. Others are concerned that the oven door is glass, and glass cannot be koshered. Nevertheless, if the oven has a self-cleaning mode, we can rely on this self-cleaning process to kosher the oven without concern.

The Alter Rebbe raises an additional point: Be careful to use dairy implements to remove food from the newly converted oven, and not to use the usual tools which remain *fleishig* from previous use in the oven. The same applies to oven mitts—silicone cannot be used from meat to milk; fabric must first be machine-washed in hot water with soap.²⁴

KOSHERING ON YOM-TOV

Note that koshering the oven on Yom Tov is problematic: The light *libun* that is performed on ovens nowadays generally requires the creation of a new source of fire, and it is therefore forbidden on Yom Tov.²⁵

24) See [#7272](http://www.asktherav.com).

25) As a general rule, it is forbidden to perform *hagalah* or *libun* during Yom Tov. That would be considered *mesaken kli*, equal to fixing a utensil on Yom Tov. This is true even if you wish to use the oven or utensil on that same day of Yom Tov for food preparation. However, you may perform *libun* on a metal pan in which you previously cooked meat, so that you can now use it for a dairy product, because it does not appear to be *mesaken kli*; rather, you are warming the pan prior to using it for food, which is permitted on Yom Tov. This works only if you place the food into the pan immediately upon removing it from the source of fire used for *libun*. Once the pan has cooled down, however, if you then reheat it before putting the food in, it becomes clear that the first act was simply an act of *libun*, which is considered *mesaken kli*. In addition, this is permitted only when converting a pan from meat to dairy, because the pan requires only a light *libun*, which is similar to warming a pan for immediate use.

If the pan does not require *libun* or *hagalah* according to the strict letter of the law, but only due to a *chumra* (stringency), you may perform *libun* or *hagalah* on Yom Tov, even if you could have done so in advance of the festival. The reason for this is because, according to the law, the pan does not require koshering; therefore, the act cannot be considered *mesaken*

If you forget to kosher the oven before Yom Tov, it is technically permissible to heat up dairy foods in a meat oven if the pan is well covered and the oven rack is completely clean—because this is not a fundamental breach of halachah. In this case, it is recommended to cover the rack in pre-cut foil and double-wrap the food as well. But this workaround is not ideal for many reasons, and it is much better that the oven should be koshered before Yom Tov.²⁶

Hot Plate: If necessary, it will be permitted to heat up *milchige* foods on a *fleishige blech* or hot plate on Yom Tov, provided that the *fleishige* surface is perfectly clean of meaty foods and the dairy food is placed on a neutral layer such as pre-cut foil.

It is forbidden to cut foil off the roll on Yom Tov, even to an inexact size, since it falls under the prohibition of *mesaken mana*—creating a vessel.

FLOWERS

We cannot arrange flowers on *erev Shavuos* this year because it is Shabbos and arranging flowers would be considered preparing for the next day. We must take care of floral arrangements today, before sunset.²⁷

SHNAYIM MIKRA

Although we hear the Torah being read in shul each

kli, for you cannot rectify a utensil that does not essentially require rectification. However, with regard to ovens, employing *libun* to switch from meat to milk would require a new fire, as stated above, so koshering is still not possible.

To actually kosher an oven on Yom Tov, it must be lit from before Yom Tov and a kettle of pre-boiled water that has not cooled should be poured inside to produce a significant amount of steam. Water may not be heated on Yom Tov for this purpose—it must be from before Shabbos or boiled that day for the purpose of actual food preparation. (Although this is a very lenient form of koshering—since the oven is obviously not at its highest temperature for a true *libun kal*—it suffices for a meat to milk conversion for the reasons outlined above.)

26) See the footnotes in Hebrew section for the halachic sources regarding the limits of kashering back and forth between meat and dairy, and the exceptions made for Shavuos. See also [#6441](http://www.asktherav.com) and [#6455](http://www.asktherav.com). (Entry includes a link to a comprehensive answer in the One-Minute Halachah #727.)

27) The Alter Rebbe's *Shulchan Aruch*

Shabbos, an individual is nevertheless obligated to read each week's *parshah* for himself on a weekly basis, in the format of *shnayim mikra v'echad targum*—reading each *posuk* twice and then its Aramaic translation in *Targum Onkelos* once. It is best practice to complete this reading on *erev* Shabbos after *chatzos* (halachic midday); to fulfill this obligation, however, it is still good to read it anytime during Shabbos morning before eating the Shabbos day meal, though it is better if completed before Shacharis. Today, we read *shnayim mikra* for *Parshas Bamidbar*.

Law of Redemption: The Rambam states that all Jews are expected to maintain a state of ritual purity for each festival, because they must be ready and fit to enter the *Beis Hamikdash* and to partake of the sacred sacrifices.²⁸

Since Yom Tov directly follows Shabbos this year, we would need to immerse any items that require immersion for holy purposes before Shabbos. (The reason why utensils and the like must be immersed a day earlier, before Shabbos, is to avoid leaving them in their state of impurity for an additional day and increase the risk of them coming in contact with *terumah*. Alternatively, it is to avoid the appearance of fixing or completing a utensil on the actual day of Shabbos.) People, however, immerse themselves on Shabbos.

Out of caution for the severity of the laws of impurity, our Sages decreed that *amei ha'aretz*, those unfamiliar with the fine details of halachah, should be considered impure by default, unless there is reason to believe otherwise. During the *Yomim Tovim*, however, our Sages suspended their decree, so that all Jews are considered *chaveirim*, knowledgeable and scrupulous in halachah. All of their utensils, food, and liquids, are considered pure. This is because all Jews are accustomed to purify themselves and their possessions when they ascend to Yerushalayim on the *Yomim Tovim*. For that reason, when they insist that something is pure at any point during the festivals, their word is accepted.²⁹ When Shabbos precedes Yom

28) The Rebbe explains this requirement at length in *Likkutei Sichos*, vol. 32, *Parshas Shemini*.

29) *Mishneh Torah, Hilchos Metam'ei Mishkav u'Moshav* 11:9, based on

Tov, as it does this year, this status is conferred from the onset of Shabbos.

Shtei Halechem: In the *Beis Hamikdash*, the two loaves for the Shavuos offering are baked on *erev Shavuos*. This year, however, due to the fact that *erev Shavuos* coincides with Shabbos, the two loaves must be baked one day early—on *erev Shabbos*. Consequently, the two loaves will be eaten on the third day after they are baked.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Minchah: *Erev Shabbos* additions of *Hodu* and *Pasach Eliyahu* are said today; Minchah is as usual.

If you purchased a new garment for Yom Tov, it is best to don it today, *erev Shabbos*.

Shabbos timers: Someone who is accustomed to setting timers in their home each *erev Shabbos* should bear in mind that they may need to be adjusted for Shabbos as well as the two full days of Yom Tov that directly follow Shabbos. Plan for those saying *Tikun* through the night on Shavuos who will spend time learning at home and men returning after a late *Tahaluchah* the next night.

TZEDAKAH

Give extra *tzedakah* on *erev Shabbos*, for Shabbos and both days of the festival. Included in our *tzedakah* obligations is the duty to provide the needy with their Yom Tov requirements.

“We should give a lot more *tzedakah* on *erev Shavuos*, the day prior to our receiving the Torah, to the extent that we propel ourselves to an unprecedented degree of generosity.”³⁰

Prepping a Flame

Remember to prepare a fire for candle lighting on two subsequent nights. It is forbidden to light a fire on Yom Tov, so it is necessary to prepare a flame that will remain lit from *erev Shabbos*. A gas flame is sufficient for this purpose.

Mishnah / Gemara, Chagigah 26a. The Rebbe explains this concept in *Likkutei Sichos*, vol. 37, pp. 20ff.

30) *maamar* entitled *Anochi 5749*, Ch. 5

Safety Alert: Fire safety organizations recommend that if you leave a gas burner lit over Yom Tov, make sure that a nearby window is open at least four inches and another window is open on the other side of the house to allow proper ventilation. Also ensure that smoke detectors and a carbon monoxide detector are present and active.

If you use liquid wax candles that are placed in small glass holders before being lit (called *Neronim*), it is recommended that you first place a small quantity of water³¹ or oil in the bottom of the glass holders on *erev Shabbos* so that the metal disks (called wick tabs) will not stick to the base of the glass. It is problematic to remove the tabs on both nights of Yom Tov in preparation for candle lighting. (For more details on what may be done on Yom Tov itself, see the entry for the first night of Yom Tov below).

It is best to light a *ner neshamah* before Shabbos for a *yahrtzeit* on Yom Tov (and also for those who customarily light them when saying *Yizkor*—though this is not the Chabad *minhag*), utilizing a 48- or 72-hour candle, since according to a number of opinions, it may not be lit on Yom Tov.³²

Candle lighting is at **8:04 pm** (eighteen minutes before sunset). Since it is Friday afternoon, candles may **not** be lit after sunset. The blessing of *lehadlik ner shel Shabbos Kodesh* is recited. If you said *shel Yom Tov* by mistake, see the chart at the end of the booklet.

It is a mitzvah to check your pockets before Shabbos to make sure they contain no *muktzah* and to avoid carrying items in public in areas with no *eiruv*.

SHABBOS PARSHAS BAMIDBAR, EREV SHAVUOS

49 Days of the Omer

Kabbalas Shabbos and Maariv are prayed as on a regular Shabbos. (There are no Yom Tov-type changes

31) Although it is prohibited on *erev Shabbos* to place enough water in the glass to cause the candle to extinguish earlier than it would on its own on Shabbos, the minute amount necessary to prevent sticking is permitted.

32) If you did not light it before Yom Tov, you may do so in a more permissible way by kindling it with a pre-existing flame together with the Yom Tov candles at the table, where its light will enhance the Yom Tov meal, or in shul at the *amud*, where it will add light and honor to the shul.

in *Kabbalas Shabbos*, such as to the start point or the wording of *Lecha dodi*). We count the last of the *Omer* tonight, 49 days.

Today we learn *Sotah* 49, thereby completing our study of tractate *Sotah* that we have been studying, one *daf* a day, since the start of *sefirah*.

PREPARING TO RECEIVE THE TORAH

“Our main preparation to receive the Torah,” the Rebbe stated in 5749³³, “is *na’aseh venishmah*—accepting to do what Hashem wants of us even before we understand the implications. This is done on the fifth of Sivan, the day prior to the sixth of Sivan when we receive the Torah. On this day, we should contemplate the concept of *na’aseh venishmah* in a manner that propels us to act accordingly: In all matters of Divine service our priority is to actually perform our duty and only then to work on understanding the matter intellectually. True, the fifth of Sivan is *erev Yom Tov* and we are preoccupied with *Yom Tov* preparations (when occurring on a weekday), but the (Friediker) Rebbe taught that on *Shavuos*, and by extension on *erev Shavuos*—a day that is similar to *Shavuos* itself—the *yetzer hara* does not have (the same) control. It is an opportune time to act for the good of Torah study, divine service, and the like.”

“On the fifth of Sivan,” the Rebbe said, “the Jews built an altar and offered sacrifices upon it. The Torah subsequently references the *Tamid* offering as ‘a continual burnt offering, as the one offered on Har Sinai’,³⁴ indicating that the offering at Har Sinai assumed the *same status* as sacrifices offered after the Giving of the Torah. The practical lesson that emerges from this remarkable fact is that the themes of the Giving of the Torah begin **today**, on *erev Shavuos*, for the spiritual realities that occurred in the past recur each year on the same dates.”³⁵

SHABBOS, EREV SHAVUOS

The Rebbe discusses the superiority of *erev Shavuos* coinciding with *Shabbos*, as well as its association with *Parshas Bamidbar*, in *Sichas Shabbos Parashas Bamidbar* 5751.

33) *maamar Anochi* 5749

34) *Bamidbar* 28:6

35) *Likkutei Sichos*, vol. 28, p. 15 ff

In the sichah of *Shabbos Parashas Bamidbar* (and in the sichah of 3 Sivan) 5748, the Rebbe discusses the unique lesson to be derived from Chassidus that the Tzemach Tzedek delivered on this date in the year 5589, as recorded in *Hayom Yom* for 2 Sivan. The Rebbe mentions that it would be worthwhile and appropriate to study these teachings on the corresponding date.

PURIFICATION

“One should purify himself before Yom Tov.” This refers to going to the *mikveh*, in addition to other spiritual preparations.

This year, since *erev Shavuos* is on Shabbos, someone who immersed on Shabbos morning does not need to immerse again in preparation for Shavuos.

SPIRITUAL PURIFICATION

“How are we meant to fulfill the obligation to ‘purify oneself?’” the Frierdiker Rebbe asks³⁶ “With new clothes?! The intent with this instruction is the purification of the faculties of the soul, and the purification of one’s thoughts, speech, and actions.”

The Shelah states that this obligation is all the more meaningful before the festival of Shavuos, because the entire Jewish nation, men and women, immersed themselves at the command of Hashem in preparation for receiving the Torah. He notes that although the Zohar implies that the time to immerse is shortly before dawn on Shavuos morning after studying Torah the entire night (and this is the custom in Eretz Yisrael), we should also immerse before Yom Tov in order to enter the festival in a state of purity and to mirror our ancestors who immersed during the day, before sunset, on the eve of receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai.

SHACHARIS

The regular Shabbos morning prayers are recited.

The Torah portion is read from *Parshas Bamidar*. This portion is always read prior to Shavuos. The mnemonic for this rule is “*m’nu v’itzru*”. (This is a hint to the counting of the Jewish nation in the *parshah*—*m’nu* being related to the word *minyan*, counting; this reading is followed by *atzeres*, the Torah name for Shavuos, which shares the root of the word *itzru*.)

36) *Sichas Acharon shel Pesach* 5701.

Originally, the last *parshah* read before Shavuos was to be *Bechukosai*, which includes words of rebuke. Shavuos is, in a sense, also one of the Rosh Hashanahs—beginning of a new year, being the day on which fruit trees are judged—so Ezra Hasofer established this schedule so that “the end of the year should be the end of the curses”. However, we add the following *parshah*, Bamidbar, immediately before Shavuos, so that there should be a reading without any rebuke as a break between the *parshah* with negative pronouncements and the Yom Tov of Shavuos.

Av harachamim is not said.

Law of Redemption: When *erev Yom Tov* is on Shabbos, the *lechem hapanim* is distributed equally among all the kohen watch groups just like on Yom Tov due to their early arrival in readiness for the Yom Tov service.

SHABBOS AFTERNOON

Reminder: On Shabbos, it is forbidden to prepare for post-Shabbos needs, even if this work is performed for us by a non-Jew. All prep for Yom Tov—including but not limited to moving tables or chairs, and other arranging—must wait until *motzoei Shabbos*. Only whatever cleaning or neatening up that is needed for the house to be presentable for Shabbos afternoon is permitted. For this reason, as described earlier, we may not arrange flowers on Shabbos for the sake of Yom Tov.

Someone who naps on Shabbos afternoon should not say explicitly that they are doing so “in order to stay up tonight” or another phrase that would imply preparing for Shavuos.

We also do not change into new Yom Tov clothes until nighttime. However, it is permitted to do so earlier in the afternoon so that it is construed that the intention is to wear clean clothes for Shabbos afternoon (so it’s not clearly in preparation for Yom Tov), though, as mentioned above, many are already be wearing their Yom Tov suit from *erev Shabbos*.³⁷

37) This is despite the fact that many are lenient in this particular aspect. To see general Shabbos-to-Yom Tov sources, including the *gezeira* of an egg laid on a Sunday that is Yom Tov, see the Hebrew footnotes on this section. See also the entry for *Yom Tov Afternoon* on the first day of Shavuos for some rules of food preparation.

We should refrain from washing our hands for a meal from the tenth hour of the day (4:38 pm). Those who are accustomed to eating *challah* at their *seudah shlishis* should take care to do so before this time. If, for whatever reason, *seudah shlishis* did not commence earlier, it may be eaten even after the tenth hour.³⁸ In that case, eat a small quantity of food.³⁹

MINCHAH

The Torah reading for Minchah is from *Parshas Naso*. We complete the third *aliyah* with the thirty-third verse of the fourth *perek*: “Zos avodas...b’nei Merari...Aharon Hakohen.” (The same applies to the Thursday morning reading the following week.)

Tzidkascha tzedek is not said.

We recite the sixth chapter of *Pirkei Avos*⁴⁰ after Minchah.

MOTZOEI SHABBOS, FIRST NIGHT OF SHAVUOS

Hillula of the Baal Shem Tov

Shavuos marks the *yahrtzeit* of the Baal Shem Tov.

Today’s *Hayom Yom* records that “The Baal Shem Tov passed away on Wednesday, the first day of Shavuos, 5520 (1760) and is interred in Mezhibuz. The Alter Rebbe commented⁴¹: ‘On the fourth day the luminaries were taken away...’

THREE LEADERS

The Rebbe often discussed the association between Shavuos and the three shepherds of the Jewish people: *Moshe Rabbeinu*, *Dovid Hamelech*, and the Baal Shem Tov.

“As is known, Shavuos is associated with *Moshe Rabbeinu*,

38) Alter Rebbe’s *Shulchan Aruch*

39) *Minhagei Maharil*

40) It is our practice to avoid mentioning Hashem’s name when quoting an incomplete *passuk* whilst learning. It has been reported that this is the Rebbe’s instruction regarding reciting *Pirkei Avos*, since they are learned (as opposed to prayed, like the section of *K’gavna*). In this week’s chapter, two verses in Mishnah Ten fall into this category: *Ad ya’avor* and *Mechon l’shivticha*.

41) on Wednesday, the 20th of Kislev 5559 (1798) in Petersburg

who received the Torah at Sinai, and with *Dovid Hamelech* and the Baal Shem Tov. For Shavuos marks the *hillula* (*yahrtzeit*) of *Dovid Hamelech*⁴² ... and also of the *hillula* of the Baal Shem Tov. (In a way, we can consider Shavuos the *hillula* of Moshe Rabbeinu as well, because at the giving of the Torah, the souls of all Jews flew out of their bodies [when Hashem spoke the first two of the Ten Commandments], and they were then revived with the dew of Resurrection. This certainly occurred to every Jew without exception, young and old alike ... and even to *Moshe Rabbeinu*. Therefore, Moshe's soul left his body on this day as well, which is the concept of a *hillula*.)⁴³

THE ALTER REBBE & SHAVUOS

The Alter Rebbe would particularly cherish the Yom Tov of Shavuos.

In 5703, the Frierdiker Rebbe stated,⁴⁴ “The Tzemach Tzedek recounted the following in the name of the Alter Rebbe, who heard it from his Rebbe, the Maggid of Mezritch: ‘When we spent Shavuos with the Rebbe—the Baal Shem Tov—we experienced *niftechu hashamayim va’ereh mar’os Elokim* (*The heavens opened up and I saw visions of Hashem*)’⁴⁵...

“The Alter Rebbe then commented on his own experience, ‘When we were with the Rebbe—the Maggid of Mezritch—for the Yom Tov of Shavuos, we saw and perceived (the same)...’

“The Berditchever was a great *amkan* (in-depth person). He once addressed a concept in *nigleh* and he prefaced it with the verse, ‘*Hinei Hashem rocheiv al av kal*’ (*Behold, Hashem is riding on a light cloud*).⁴⁶ He then proceeded to deliver seventy-two questions on this single concept, followed by one hundred and thirty responses. (The numerical value of *av* (אב) is 72, while the value of *kal* (קל) is 130.) The Alter Rebbe wrote a four-hundred-page record of this, but he subsequently commented that all of this revelation did not come close to what they saw when

42) For a discussion on whether *Dovid Hamelech* passed away on the sixth or seventh of Sivan, corresponding to the first or the second day of Shavuos, see *Likkutei Sichos*, vol. 8, p. 22, fn. 8. See also *Sichas Yom Beis D’chag Hashavuos* 5728; and *Roshei Devarim B’eis Haseudah B’yom Alef D’chag Hashavuos* 5730.

43) *maamar* entitled *Atah Horeisa* 5746

44) see *Sefer Hasichos*

45) *Yechezkel* 1:1. This is in the Haftorah of the first day of Shavuos.

46) *Yeshayah* 19:1

they were with their Rebbe on Shavuos.

“The Tzemach Tzedek elaborated on this thought: ‘This experience did not only occur by the Maggid, but with all of the Rebbeim. And it did not only occur in those times, but it occurs in each era. It is only that we are required to have *keilim p’nimiyim*, inner receptacles....”

ACCEPTING THE TORAH

“Accept the yoke of Torah!” instructs the Frierdiker Rebbe.⁴⁷ We should do so on the night of Shavuos both in our hearts and also verbally, declaring: “*Ribono shel olam!* (Master of the Universe!) I hereby accept upon myself the yoke of Torah.”

The Frierdiker Rebbe continues,⁴⁸ “Just as on Rosh Hashanah, each Jew must accept something new in his Divine service, so must a Jew take on something new in Torah study on Shavuos. For any Jew with even a bit of intellect...is suited to Torah study...and on Shavuos, each Jew must take this upon himself with a proper *kabbalah* (acceptance), with a vow, and with a true acceptance in the heart and not *bli neder* (a commitment which lacks the force of a vow). Truth be told, it is extremely difficult to use the term ‘vow’ in such a case, because there could always be—as they say in the language of this country (English)—‘trouble’... But at least, he must make *kevi’us b’nefesh* (an iron-clad resolution), with a true dedication to uphold his commitment to his addition in Torah study—regarding both his personal study as well as his giving of himself to study with other Jews—to strengthen the Torah by bringing others to study Torah as well.”

“The *kabbolas ol* (acceptance of the yoke of Heaven) of Shavuos,” explains the Frierdiker Rebbe,⁴⁹ “is the *yechidah* of the *etzem haneshamah* (the core of the soul’s essence). Through this, we perceive the light of the Torah. For it is entirely possible for a person to learn Torah even while the Torah teaches him nothing; it is also possible for the Torah to teach him, but the light of the Torah remains way beyond him....”

SHAVUOS & MOSHIACH

“It is stated in sefarim,⁵⁰” the Rebbe says,⁵¹ “regarding the

47) *Sefer Hasichos* 5704, p. 127

48) *Ibid.*, p. 129

49) *Sichas Chag Hashevuos* 5702, printed in *Sefer Hasichos*, p. 123, also quoted in *Hayom Yom*.

50) *maamar Mordechai* to the tractate *Pesachim*

51) *Shabbos Parshas Naso* 5751. See also *Roshei Devarim Leil Beis D’chag*

allusion in the words of our Sages that ‘all agree that on Shavuos we also need *lachem*’ (for yourselves—meaning that the festival is to be celebrated not only with prayer and the like, ‘For Hashem,’ but also with good food and the like, which is considered ‘for yourselves’): This can be understood to mean that it is an opportune time to pray for the hastening of the Redemption ... Our Sages use the term *b’inan*, ‘we need,’ which is also a term connoting prayer and beseeching, as in the phrase, ‘*im tivayun be’ayu*’ (*If you will request, request*)⁵². The words *nami lachem* (נמי לכם), ‘also for yourselves,’ is the numerical value (190) of *keitz* (קץ), ‘the End’ of exile. Taken together, our Sages’ statement that ‘all agree that on Shavuos we also need for yourselves...’ can be read, ‘All agree that on Shavuos we pray for the *keitz*!’ It is a time to pray for the *keitz hageulah*, the *keitz hayamim*, and *keitz hayamin!*’

FLOWERS

Flowers, plants, and trees have long been used to decorate *shuls* and homes in honor of Shavuos, as described in the Alter Rebbe’s *Shulchan Aruch*, to recall the joy of *Matan Torah* and also to remind us to pray for the fruits of the trees whose fate is decided in Heaven each Shavuos. This custom is mentioned in *Luach Kollel Chabad* and was practiced in the *shul* in Nikolayev, but it is actually not the Chabad custom (in Chabad *shuls*).

Cut flowers in full bloom may be moved on Yom Tov, as long as there was prior intention to move them or the individual mentally designated them for a permissible purpose before Shabbos. However, leaves or petals that shed on Yom Tov are *muktzah*.

Water may be added to the vase of fully-open blooms (those that are not stimulated to open by water), but its present water cannot be changed—this is only allowed on Yom Tov, not on Shabbos. Cut flowers in full bloom may also be added to a vase that was filled with water before Shabbos. Great care must be exercised when moving a vase containing blooms that are stimulated to open while their stems are immersed; they must be moved extremely gently.

Hashavuos 5751 to those who returned from *Tahaluchah*, printed in *Sefer Hasichos* 5751.

52) *Yeshayah* 21:12

Plants (flowering or not) are *muktzah* on Shabbos and Yom Tov, and may not be moved at all. Those that have a scent may be smelled on Shabbos and Yom Tov, for that is a pleasure that would not necessarily cause a person to detach them from the earth. However, scented plants that are edible, and may be used in food preparation, may not be sniffed during Shabbos and Yom Tov.

The brachah on tree sprigs (such as *hadassim*) is *borei atzei besamim*; grass species receive the brachah *borei isvei besamim*.

FIFTIETH DAY

Maariv is delayed until after *tzeis hakochavim* (nightfall). The Torah requires us to count seven complete weeks. If Maariv were to be prayed earlier on the first night of Shavuos, the sanctity of the festival would have arrived and the last of the forty-nine days of the *sefirah* would have been cut short. With the setup of this year's calendar, there is no need to delay more than the time Shabbos goes out at **9:13 pm**.

FROM SHABBOS TO YOM TOV

Before lighting Yom Tov candles, or before performing any other *melachah* (activity that is prohibited on Shabbos but permissible during Yom Tov), recite Maariv and include *Vatodi'einu* that is effectively a *Havdalah* prayer. At the very least, recite *Baruch hamavdil bein kodesh l'kodesh*⁵³ before performing these activities.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Light the candles **after 9:13 pm** after saying *Baruch hamavdil* from a flame that has remained lit from before the onset of Shabbos. Someone who forgot to light the gas burner or another 72-hour flame before the start of Shabbos is permitted to ask a non-Jew to light it now. According to Chabad custom, the candles may be lit right away at the above-mentioned time for candle lighting. There is no reason or purpose for delaying just in order to light the candles right before *Kiddush*.

53) We say this now without Hashem's name, and again during the *Havdalah* section of *Kiddush* **with** Hashem's name. Even if you mistakenly use Hashem's name before *Kiddush*, you do so again later.

The Yom Tov candles are lit before reciting the blessing, as is done before Shabbos. There are two blessings today: 1) *l'hadlik neir shel Yom Yov* and 2) *Shehechyanu*.

A man who is lighting candles says only the first *brachah*; *Shehechyanu* is recited during *Kiddush*.

HOW TO LIGHT

If you said the wrong *brachah* or forgot *Shehechyanu*, see the chart at the end of the booklet.

If using a match to light from the pre-existing flame, be sure to lay it down where it can burn out safely on its own; remember not to extinguish it on Yom Tov.

Some are stringent to avoid using the Yom Tov candles for other purposes, such as to light a candle that is not being lit in honor of Yom Tov, or to light a gas burner.

When setting up candles on Yom Tov, do not warm the base of a candle to stick it in its holder. This is prohibited as a precaution, so that you will not come to directly smoothen or straighten the bottom of the wax candle, transgressing the prohibition of *memareach* (spreading). Similarly, do not trim the bottom of a candle to insert it more easily into its holder. This would violate the prohibition of *mechateich* (cutting to shape or size). However, you may firmly press a candle into its position in the holder, even if this will cause its base to erode somewhat to fit the holder—this action is not considered *mechateich*.

Technically, you may clean out a used candle holder on Yom Tov without fear of violating the prohibition of *mesken kli* (fixing an article) on Yom Tov. Similarly, if using Neronim, you may clean a used glass holder from the metal tab that held the used wick in order to insert a new candle in its place. There is an issue, however, of *muktzah* with the remnants of used wax, charred wicks, or spent tabs.⁵⁴

54) This is especially an issue nowadays, when such items are considered disposable and will not be reused. Even in pre-modern times, when such materials were indeed reused, moving them was somewhat problematic. As the Alter Rebbe explains, “Although according to the strict letter of the law these items are not *muktzah*, it is appropriate to be careful not to move them unless for great need.” It is prohibited to move them even

The solution, if you are using wax candles, is to take the holder over to the garbage (since the glass holder is not *muktzah*⁵⁵), and shake it out so that the remnants of wax and wick fall directly into the garbage can. If it cannot be removed through shaking, or if you are using liquid wax candles and the spent tab has become stuck to the base of the glass holder so that it cannot be removed without prying it out with a knife or a similar object, you may not do so during Yom Tov. There is no difference in this case between using a knife and using your fingers—the issue of *muktzah* remains. You may however remove it with a *shinui* (change), using an item which is not normally used in this way. The most preferred method is to think ahead, as mentioned earlier, and pour a small quantity of water or oil into the holder on *erev Yom Tov*, which will prevent the tab from sticking to the glass in the first place. This would enable you to take the holder to the garbage can during Yom Tov and to empty its contents directly into the garbage.

MAARIV

Maariv begins with *Shir hama'alos* and includes the *Amidah* for *shalosh regalim*, reciting the passage, *es yom chag hashavuos hazeh, v'es yom tov mikra kodesh hazeh, z'man matan toraseinu, mikra kodesh...*⁵⁶

Since it is also *motzoei Shabbos*, *Vatodi'einu* is added to the *Amidah*.

If you accidentally recited a blessing (beginning or conclusion) of the weekday or Shabbos *Amidah*, forgot to recite *Vatodi'einu*, or made other omissions or errors associated with the *Amidah* or *Havdalah*, see chart at the end of the booklet.

NIGHT SEUDAH

Kiddush for the first night of Shavuot (even when it falls out in the middle of the week) may not be recited early, while it is still daylight. This year, *Kiddush* also contains *Havdalah*. *Kiddush* is recited in the following order:

when moved for the sake of food preparation.

55) for reasons beyond the scope of this publication.

56) For an explanation of the phrase, "*z'man matan toraseinu*," see *Shulchan Aruch Admor Hazaken*, beg. of 494, and in *Likkutei Sichos*, vol. 3, p. 997ff.

1) *Askinu*; 2) *borei pri hagafen*; 3) *Kiddush (mekadesh Yisrael v'hazemanim)*; 4) *borei me'orei ha'esh*; 5) *hamavdil bein kodesh l'kodesh*; 6) *Shehechyanu*.

Someone who recited the various components of tonight's *Kiddush* in the incorrect order has nevertheless fulfilled their obligation—with one exception: the blessing of *mekadeish* must come after the blessing over wine; if that order was switched, you must repeat the blessing of *mekadeish*.

A woman who recites *Kiddush* should say the *brachah* on *Havdalah* and the candle as well. However, she omits *Shehechyanu* because she already recited it during candle lighting.

The blessing over spices is not recited.⁵⁷

The Chabad custom is to simply gaze at the candles during *Havdalah* of Yom Tov, but not to draw two candles together, nor are the fingernails extended close to the flames. Do not put out the candle with the wine, which is expressly forbidden on Yom Tov.

The final word of *Havdalah* is changed from *l'chol* to *l'kodesh*. If you mistakenly said *l'chol*, or if you forgot to make *Havdalah* altogether, see the chart at the end of the booklet.

TALK ABOUT THE BAAL SHEM TOV

On the second day of Shavuos, 5724 the Rebbe said: “The (Friediker) Rebbe stated that ‘it is the custom of our Rebbes to repeat a *maamar* (of the Baal Shem Tov) and to recount a story regarding the Baal Shem Tov during Shavuos.’ Although the (Friediker) Rebbe referred to this as ‘a custom of our Rebbes,’ nevertheless, that very fact that he reported it to us and made it available for publication indicates that it is proper for each Jew—all who hear about this custom—to similarly review a teaching of the Baal Shem Tov on each Shavuos, the anniversary of his *hillula*, and to recount a story about him.”

THE MEAL

Regarding the requirement of *simchas Yom Tov* during the

⁵⁷) See *Likkutei Sichos*, vol. 31, p. 191ff. If you mistakenly made the *brachah* on *besamim*, it is not considered a *hefsek*, and no part of *Kiddush/Havdalah* need be repeated.

meal, see tomorrow's entry for the first day of Shavuos.

Ya'aleh v'yavo is included in *Birchas Hamazon*.

Harachaman for Yom Tov is also added. If you forgot *ya'aleh v'yavo* in *Birchas Hamazon*, see the chart at the end of the booklet.

STAY AWAKE!

It is customary to remain awake all night studying Torah, particularly *Torah sheba'al peh* (the Oral Tradition, including Mishnah, Talmud, Midrash and Kabbalah). It is written that someone who remains awake in study the entire night of Shavuos is guaranteed to live through the coming year without suffering harm.

KESSER TORAH FOR THE SLEEPLESS

On Simchas Torah 5652, the Rebbe Rashab stated: "I own a handwritten manuscript of the Mitteler Rebbe in which he promises that whoever remains awake the entire night of Shavuos will merit *kesser Torah* (the crown of Torah). The Mitteler Rebbe was a *posek* (halachic authority)..." At that point, the Rebbe Rashab rose to his feet and declared, "Listen, all Jews! We must remain up on the night of Shavuos!" He then sat down and continued, "I mean it literally! We must remain awake; we simply cannot go to sleep!"

SAYING TIKKUN

The Chabad custom is to recite *Tikkun leil Shavuos*. The Frierdiker Rebbe records that the Rebbe Rashab would begin reciting the *Tikkun* immediately after candle lighting as soon as Shavuos began. He would then interrupt for Maariv and the Yom Tov meal and resume after the conclusion of the meal.

The tune employed for the recitation of the *Aseres Hadibros* is *ta'am hatachton* (lower notes, though be aware that many *Tikkun* books are printed with the higher notes), since it is said privately. It is our *minhag* to remain seated for this recitation.⁵⁸

The obligation to stay awake extends until time of *alos*

58) The same would apply to saying this portion for the weekly *parshah* recitation of *shnayim mikra v'echad targum*. The reason we stand for the *kriah* with the congregation is because it mimics the position of the acceptance of the Torah by the Jewish nation at *Har Sinai*. When reciting the *parshah* privately, standing is permitted, but not required.

hashachar (dawn) at 3:39 am.

Someone who did not complete the *Tikkun* at night should complete it the following day.

There are a number of corrections to the standard versions of the *Tikkun*. The Rebbe notes that the passage that concludes *Sefer Yetzirah* often appears as:

נאמנת בפנים . . אחד בפה ואחד בלב.

This ending doesn't make sense and is not a positive conclusion to the book. It should rather read:

נאמנת ג' רעות ללשון דיבור רע והמלשין והמדבר אחד בפה ואחד בלב
ג' טובות ללשון שתיקה ושמירת הלשון ודיבור אמת.

The Rebbe further observes that Rashbi's teaching: 'אנן בחביבותא תליא מילתא דכתיב כו' is missing its third supporting verse and should read:

אנן בחביבותא תליא מילתא דכתיב ואהבת את ה' אלקיך וכתיב
מאהבת ה' אתכם וכתיב אהבתי אתכם אמר ה'.

When reciting the *Torah sheba'al peh* (Mishnah, Talmud, Midrash and Kabbalah) sections of the *Tikkun*, be sure not to mention Hashem's name in any incomplete *pessukim*.⁵⁹

A REAL REVISION

The appropriate manner in which to recite the *Tikkun*, the Rebbe explained, is to read it as if its words were right now being transmitted to us from Hashem Himself in the most awe-inspiring Divine revelation, identical to the revelation at Mount Sinai—"with awe and fear, trembling and perspiration."

The Rebbe encourages us to explain this to whomever we are able to reach, so that every Jew is aware that at the very moment he recites the sacred words of the *Tikkun*, Hashem personally repeats the identical words along with him! With this awareness, the *Tikkun* must certainly be recited in an appropriate manner, with due awe and reverence.

The Rebbe insists that the proper preparation to *Kabbalas Hatorah* on Shavuos is not in-depth study, not even of

59) See the footnote for the entry for Shabbos afternoon, where the same direction is mentioned with regard to reciting *Pirkei Avos*.

Chassidus and *p'nimiyus hatorah*, as some mistakenly believe. Rather, it is simply reciting the *Tikkun* all the way through to its *minyán hamitzvos*, and to do so with the appropriate awareness, as described above. This is indeed the appropriate *tikkun* (rectification) for receiving the Torah.

Reading the words with your mind is insufficient. Care must be taken to recite each word aloud, so that you can clearly hear what you are saying. Someone who is able to recite the words aloud but instead reads them with his mind has not fulfilled the obligation in a manner of “*v'limadetem osam*,” (you shall teach them).⁶⁰

Someone who recites selections from *Torah shebichsav* but is not sufficiently learned to comprehend the words he utters has nevertheless fulfilled the mitzvah of Torah study. This is not the case with selections from *Torah sheba'al peh*, for which he is not considered having studied at all if he does not comprehend the words he recites. Nevertheless, we are encouraged to busy ourselves with all words of Torah, even that which we cannot comprehend. In the Future Era, we will be granted the ability to fully comprehend the same teachings that we studied without understanding their meaning.⁶¹

TIKKUN DISTRACTIONS

It is not appropriate to awaken someone who fell asleep in the midst of reciting *Tikkun*, unless you know that they would wish for you to do so. This is especially problematic with regards to your father— even in the case where you are certain he is amenable, it is better to ask someone else to wake him up.

The Baal Shem Tov instructed that special care be taken not to engage in idle talk from the onset of Shavuos until after reciting *Kesser* in the *Kedushah* of Musaf. (Needless to say, this does not suggest that we may engage in such chatter after *Kesser*.) The time for *Tikkun leil Shavuos* should certainly not be wasted in idle chatter, as we would thereby lose the benefit of having stayed awake.

60) This concept was explained at length at the *Kinus Torah* of Shavuos 5775.

61) Cf. *Imrei Pinchas* 274

MIKVEH

It is customary to immerse in a *mikveh* towards morning, just before the crack of dawn, which will occur at **3:39 am**. It is customary to dip four times.

Luach Colel Chabad quotes the relevant teaching from the writings of the Arizal:⁶² “Upon the approach of morning, slightly prior to the crack of dawn, while the eastern sky is yet darkened—for that is the moment of *ayelet hashachar*, as is known—one must then immerse in a *mikveh*. He must concentrate on the supernal *mikveh*, which is *kesser elyon* of *zah* (*ze’ir anpin*), for that is drawn down to him on this night, and it is referred to as the fiftieth gate, as we have written. Regarding him it is stated, ‘I will sprinkle pure water upon you...’⁶³ Through this, we receive additional sanctity from this realm of *kesser*.”

The immersion should be performed “approximately a quarter of an hour before the light of day”⁶⁴ or “approximately half an hour before the light of day.”⁶⁵

EARLY MORNING SNACKS

Eating and drinking before Shacharis is forbidden according to *Chazal*. This applies once the time for Shacharis has arrived, at dawn each morning. However, an individual who cannot concentrate on prayer without nourishment is permitted to eat and drink. This remains true nowadays, despite the fact that our powers of concentration remain relatively diminished regardless of nourishment. Moreover, there is a well-publicized statement of the *Rebbeim* regarding the value of nourishing the body in preparation for prayer. Nevertheless, first recite the morning blessings and the full three paragraphs of *Shema* before eating or drinking in the morning.

There is another issue with eating before Shacharis from a Kabbalistic perspective, according to which food and drink at that time may empower the forces of *klipah*. The timeframe for this concern is a matter of dispute; it begins

62) *Sha’ar HaKavanos*

63) *Yechezkel* 36:25

64) *Rema MiPano*

65) *Tur Barekes*

either at dawn or midnight. Here again, nourishment is permitted for the sake of health, concentration in prayer, and similar concerns. All opinions concur that the prohibition would not begin earlier than dawn for someone who did not sleep at night, or slept less than “sixty breaths.” (The Rebbe quotes *Eshel Avraham* who states that eating is also permitted if awakening during the night with plans to go back to sleep before dawn. The statement of *Eshel Avraham* appears to imply that even if someone goes to sleep after dawn, they may eat and drink before sunrise.)

BEDTIME SHEMA

What about the bedtime *Shema*? “There were certain nights in Lubavitch,” says the Frierdiker Rebbe,⁶⁶ “during which we never recited *krias shema she’al hamitah* ... on the eve of Shavuos. As a rule, my father the Rebbe [Rashab] was accustomed to reciting *krias shema* on the approach to midnight, each night, even if he would lie down at a later hour—this was done without anyone noticing. On those nights, during which he would not recite *krias shema she’al hamitah* at all, as mentioned earlier, he would instead sometimes discuss the concept of *krias shema*, and at other times, he would discuss the meaning of the words of *kri’as shema*.”

SUNDAY, 6 SIVAN—THE FIRST DAY OF SHAVUOS

Day of the Giving of the Torah

MORNING SHEMA

Reciting the *Tikkun* throughout Shavuos night does not exempt a person from reciting *krias shema* at the proper time in the morning. Plan a sleep schedule accordingly. To study the entire night and then fail to recite the morning *Shema* before its deadline would be completely counterproductive.

The time for the morning *Shema* begins at dawn, according to Torah law. As a precaution, *Chazal* delayed its time until the daylight is strong enough to recognize an acquaintance at a distance of four *amos*, because that is when the majority of people awaken. In extenuating

66) *Sefer Hasichos* 5702, p. 100.

circumstances, the *Shema* can therefore be recited from its biblically allotted time starting at dawn. The deadline for reciting *Shema* is at the end of the third halachic hour of the day.

The time for morning *Shema* begins at **4:25 am**. (If there is no choice, it may be recited as early as **3:39 am**.) The latest time for *Shema* is at **9:07 am**.

Before going to sleep after studying the entire night, arrange for someone to awaken you in time to recite the morning *Shema* and Shacharis, although it is not forbidden by halachah to go to sleep even if there is no one to awaken you for this purpose.

As a precaution, it is worth reciting *krias shema* immediately after dawn, bearing in mind that if you do not have an opportunity to repeat the *Shema* in the ideal time established by *Chazal* (between **4:25 am** and **9:07 am**), you will have nevertheless fulfilled your obligation.

EARLY SHACHARIS

When faced with the option of remaining awake and praying Shacharis at sunrise, or going to sleep, the Rebbe favored the second option if sleeping would permit greater concentration during prayer. The Rebbe noted, however, that what works for one person will not necessarily work for another. Some feel invigorated after a brief nap, while others feel even groggier than before. The Frierdiker Rebbe related that the Rebbe Rashab would sometimes sleep first, although it is unclear whether this was his prevalent custom.

Our custom is to recite all the morning brachos as usual, including *al netilas yadayim* and *Elokei neshamah* (this is based on a secret—and unofficial—directive of the Frierdiker Rebbe), even having remained awake the entire night and having not changed clothing. Nevertheless, if possible, it is better to sleep a little before reciting the blessings. The only difference between someone who slept during the night and another who remained awake is that the former may recite these blessings after midnight, while the latter must wait until after dawn to recite these blessings.

BIRCHAS HATORAH

It is essential that when the time arrives for morning brachos at dawn (3:39 am), you suspend all verbal talk on Torah topics until you say the brachah on the Torah.

When reciting the morning brachah on the Torah each day—and especially today, the day of the giving of the Torah—it is proper to contemplate the precious words of the Alter Rebbe in his *Shulchan Aruch*⁶⁷: The Torah is Hashem’s precious vessel in which He takes delight every day, and should therefore be valued so highly by every individual that he recites its blessings with a joy that surpasses his joy over all the pleasures in the world. This shows that he engages in its study for its own sake, and will therefore merit a chain (of descendants apropos) to one who learns for its own sake, as it is written, “It will not depart from your mouth nor from the mouth of your descendants.” Through this will come the fulfillment of the request in the brachah itself: “that we and our descendants (be those who know Your name...)”.

The Bach writes⁶⁸ with regard to the meaning of *Birchas Hatorah*: Our engagement with Torah causes the unity of our neshamah with the essence, spirituality and the holiness of the Torah’s original source. It is for this reason that Hashem gave the Jewish nation the Torah of Truth as a gift—so it will not be forgotten, connecting our neshamos and bodies with its 248 limbs and 365 sinews—through the via the 248 positive and 365 negative mitzvos of the Torah. If we would learn Torah with this intention, these become a vehicle and a chamber for Hashem’s *shechinah*, to the point that it is literally inside us, as a place where His presence lives and the entire world would shine with His glory. This creates a connection between the supernal and earthly beings so they unite in one dwelling... We begin with engaging in Torah and blessing Hashem, thanking Him for giving the Torah to the Jewish people so that we can attach ourselves to its holiness and Hashem’s *shechinah*. This is the intent in the brachah, that He chose us and brought us close to *Har Sinai* and gave us His holy Torah, which is His precious vessel that He takes delight

67) 47:1

68) The Rebbe refers to this source in many places (see Hebrew footnote for details and sources), calling these words of the **Bach** wondrous and a call to learn *pnimius hatorah*; also that, “similar ideas found only in Chassidus”; and once: “Would we not have a clear source in the Bach, we’d assume these are words composed by a Chassidische Rebbe.”

in every day, so that we may connect our souls to the essence of the Torah's holiness and spirituality, and bring the *Shechinah* down amongst us.

The blessing over the *tzitzis* may not be recited if the same pair of *tzitzis* was worn throughout the night and has not been changed from the previous morning. It is best to recite the blessing over another pair, and thereby exempt the original pair from a blessing.

For those that daven Shacharis early in the morning, the earliest time to make a brachah on the *tallis* is at **4:25 am**. The *Amidah* should be scheduled to begin only after sunrise at **5:26 am**.

It is a *mitzvas asei* (Biblical obligation) to recall the giving of the Torah at Har Sinai each day. It is appropriate to fulfill this while reciting the blessings preceding the morning Shema, so that when we recite the words *uvanu vacharta* ("You chose us"), we think about the giving of the Torah, and when we reach the word *v'keiravtanu* ("You drew us close"), we recall the revelation at Har Sinai.⁶⁹

SHACHARIS & HALLEL

During Shacharis, the *Amidah* for *shalosh regalim* is followed by the complete *Hallel*.⁷⁰

It is a Rabbinic mitzvah established by an institution of the Prophets to recite the complete *Hallel* on each of the three festivals, during the daytime, and to recite a blessing beforehand—*asher kiddishanu...likro es hahallel* (...Who commanded us to read the *Hallel*). Do not interrupt the recital of the (complete) *Hallel*, except for those matters for which it is permissible to interrupt during the recital of the blessings before the *Shema*.

The best way to fulfill the mitzvah of reciting *Hallel* is to recite it together with the congregation, immediately after the *Amidah* of Shacharis. That way, the verses of *Hodu* and *Ana Hashem* can be recited in response to the *chazzan*.

In *Igros Kodesh*, the Rebbe mentions the case of an

69) See footnote in Hebrew version for references and insights.

70) In his *Shulchan Aruch*, the Alter Rebbe mentions a custom of distributing spices among the congregants in *shul* on Shavuot. He warns against doing so from the start of *Baruch She'amar* until after the *Amidah*. However, as far as can be determined, this is no longer an existing custom.

individual who enters *shul* in order to begin Shacharis and discovers that the congregation has already recited the *Amidah* and is poised to begin *Hallel*. The Rebbe states, “I never heard an explicit directive regarding reciting *Hallel* before one has recited Shacharis. According to oral tradition among the *chassidim*, however, despite the fact that our Rebbeim would extend their *Shabbos* prayers over many hours—long after the congregation had concluded the service—they would nevertheless organize their time on Yom Tov so that they would conclude the *Amidah* with the congregation and then recite *Hallel* together with them.

If you did not recite *Hallel* immediately after the *Amidah*, it may be recited anytime during the day prior to *tzeis hakochavim*.

Hallel is followed by *Kaddish Shalem*, *Shir shel Yom*, and *Kaddish Yasom*.

When the *aron* is opened for the reading of the Torah, *Vayihi binso'a* is recited, followed by the *Yud-gimmel Midos Marachamim*, *Ribbono shel olam* and *Brich sh'mei*; two *sifrei Torah* are removed. Five *aliyos* are read in the first scroll from *Parshas Yisro* (from *Bachodesh hash'lishi* until the end of the *sedrah*), which discuss the events surrounding the giving of the Torah. The second *sefer Torah* is used to read *Maftir* from *Parshas Pinchas* (*Uv'yom habikkurim*), which describes the offerings of the festival of Shavuos.

Akdamus (the liturgical Shavuos poem): The Alter Rebbe's *Shulchan Aruch* states that where there is no particular custom, *Akdamus* should be recited before reading the Torah, before the *Kohen* recites his opening blessing over his *aliyah*. *Akdamus* was thus recited in many communities that follow the Alter Rebbe's opinions, as well as in the city of Yekaterinoslav (now known as Dnepropetrovsk). However, in *Hayom Yom* and *Sefer Haminhagim*, the Rebbe states that we do not recite *Akdamus*.⁷¹

ASERES HADIBROS

During the *Aseres Hadibros*, the entire congregation stands facing the Torah. The *Aseres Hadibros* are read according to *ta'am ha'elyon* (higher notes), whereby all the verses are

71) At the Rebbe's Shavuos meal, on the first night of Shavuos 5727, a discussion took place regarding the Rebbe's personal custom in this matter.

split into ten sections, with each section containing one of the ten *dibros*, since the *dibros* were given on this day, we read it in a manner similar to the way they were said when the Torah was given. The common custom is to always read it in this manner, even on *Shabbos Parshas Yisro* and *Shabbos Parshas Va'eschanan*; the *ta'am hatachton* (lower notes) is only used while reading in private.

In *Hayom Yom*, it is noted that, in 5740, the Rebbe called for all children including tiny infants to come to shul on Shavuos to hear the *Aseres Hadibros*. In *Likkutei Sichos*, the Rebbe instructs⁷²: “As mentioned many times before based on the teaching of *Chazal*, ‘Hashem says to the Jewish people, “My children! Read this Torah portion each year and I will consider as if you are standing before Mount Sinai and receiving the Torah.” Just as the *Aseres Hadibros* were originally delivered in the presence of the entire Jewish nation, men, women, children, and even the extremely young, it is worth the effort to ensure that when this portion is read on the festival of the giving of the Torah each year, **all Jewish people, even its very youngest members are present in shul, at least during the reading of the *Aseres Hadibros***. We should recall that the Torah was given in merit of the Jewish people offering their **children** as guarantors.” (In many *sichos*, the Rebbe discusses bringing children from the age of one month and upwards, or even younger, if their health allows for it.)

COME GET THE TORAH!

The Frierdiker Rebbe recalls⁷³ Shavuos when he was five years old: “On *erev Shavuos* that year (5645/1885), our *melamed* told us that the Torah says that *Moshe Rabbeinu* led the *Yidden* to *Matan Torah* (*likras ha'Elokim*). ‘Kinderlach! the *melamed* says to us. ‘Come, and I will lead you to *Matan Torah*...tomorrow, the first day of Shavuos in the morning, let us all rise one hour earlier than usual and go the *beis midrash* to accept the Torah.”

Kids' Minyan: Those who wish to organize an *Aseres Hadibros* reading especially for children outside the main minyan must ensure that the reading includes at least six male participants who have not yet heard the *leining*.⁷⁴

72) *Likkutei Sichos*, vol. 28, p. 315

73) *Sefer Hasichos* 5705, p. 100 ff

74) See [#12334](http://www.asktherav.com)

Someone who will participate in such a pop-up minyan cannot listen to the main reading with the intention to be retroactively *yotzeh* only if they fail to raise the necessary six at the later time.⁷⁵

HAFTORAH

For the *Haftorah*, we read *ma'aseh merkavah* from *Yechezkel*, because Hashem appeared to us at Mount Sinai accompanied by myriads of angels. It is customary to conclude with the verse, *Vatisa'eini ru'ach*, although it is not written in the same section as *ma'aseh merkavah*. In some communities, a *chacham* and *gadol* is called upon to read this *Haftorah*. Some are accustomed to reading it while standing, not only the person who reads the *Haftorah*, but all who read quietly with him also remain standing out of reverence for its content.

SO LOFTY!

“Why was the *Haftorah* that describes the *merkavah* (divine chariot) chosen for Shavuos, when most people do not understand its contents?” the Rebbe asks.⁷⁶ “Because although the details presented in the *Haftorah* are not comprehended, each Jew is able to understand the overall theme of the *Haftorah*—namely, that all of these details envisioned by Yechezkel were images that allowed him to perceive and recognize supernal realities.”

MUSAF

The *Amidah* of *shalosh regalim* is recited for Musaf. Following the *nussach* of the Alter Rebbe,⁷⁷ it is the Chabad custom to recite *U'shnei se'eirim l'chaper* during Musaf, corresponding to the additional goat that was offered on Shavuos accompanying the *shtei halechem* (two-loaf offering).⁷⁸

If you made a mistake in the *Amidah* of Musaf, see the chart at the back of the booklet.

75) See [#5213](http://www.asktherav.com) (in Hebrew with sources)

76) *Likkutei Sichos*, vol. 33, p. 23—see there at length.

77) unlike the view of the *Daas Zekeinim Mibaalei Tosfos*, *Pinchas* 28:28

78) see *Sha'ar HaKollel* 40:15, glosses from the Rebbe *ibid*. See also sources cited in *Hamo'adim b'Halacha* II:82.

The reason why the *shtei halechem* is not mentioned in today's Torah reading—nor in today's Musaf prayers—was explained at length at the *Kinus Torah* on *Isru Chag Hashavuos* 5774.

Birchas Kohanim is recited at the end of Musaf. The congregation should move their heads in the following sequence: When the *Kohanim* say *Yivarechacha*, the head remains erect; *Hashem*, lean head to the right; *veyishmerecha*, head erect. *Ya'eir*, lean head to left. And so on, for the remaining eleven words of the blessing.

Recite the *Ribono shel Olam* prayer only while the *Kohanim* are singing, but not when they pronounce the actual words. At that point, you must remain silent and listen carefully. The prayer is split into three parts: While the *Kohanim* sing before the word “*v’yaseim*,” recite from *Ribono* until *hatzaddik*. While they sing before “*lecha*,” recite from *ve’im* until *Elisha*. While they sing for “*shalom*,” recite from *u’kesheim* until *letovah*. Then, as they pronounce *shalom*, recite the three final words *v’sishmereini*, etc. Once the *Kohanim* conclude *shalom*, say “*amein*,” followed by *Adir bamarom*, while still covered by the *tallis*.

You may not thank the *Kohanim* for their blessing until the entire *Kaddish tiskabel* that follows is completed. In communities where it is customary to extend “*Yasher Koach!*” after the *Kohanim*’s blessing, the *Kohanim* should remain on the platform until *Kaddish* is over.

The *shesh zechiros* (six Remembrances) are recited following Musaf.

“*Mazel tov!*” was the customary greeting on Shavuos among the first generations of Chassidim. At first, they would wish each other *mazel tov* at the reading of the Torah. However, because it is stated in *sefarim* that this constitutes an interruption, they started wishing each other *mazel tov* after the reading of the Torah. Eventually, it was moved to after the conclusion of the prayer service. “I remember elders in the town of Lubavitch who would announce ‘*mazel tov*’ on the festival of Shavuos,” recalls the Frierdiker Rebbe.⁷⁹

Law of Redemption: The time for *Bikurim* is between Shavuos and Chanukah; they are not brought before the festival.⁸⁰ On the holiday itself, there are

⁷⁹) *Sefer Hasichos*, Kayitz 5700. This is explained in *Sichas Chag Hashavuos* 5713

⁸⁰) *Bikurim* 1, Mishna 3

different opinions in the *Rishonim* as to whether it is permissible to bring *Bikurim*.⁸¹

There are special laws pertaining to *Bikurim* in a *Shemita* year, and there is no real consensus whether they are brought as usual.⁸² Regardless of this discussion, this year's offering is not a subject for debate, for Moshiach's arrival will be Year One (and not Year Seven)—according to the Rambam, there will commence a reset of the *Shemita* count when Moshiach comes.

Korbonos of the holiday: In addition to the individual *korbonos* that everyone had to bring (*olas r'iyah*, *shalmei chagiga*, and *shalmei simcha*), communal *korbonos* are brought for the holiday. This communal *Korban Musaf* includes: two cows, one ram, and seven lambs for an *Olah*, and a goat for a *Chatas*, as detailed in *Parshas Pinchas*. In addition, a *Korban Minchah Chadashah* is brought on Shavuot which consists of two loaves of bread from the new wheat called *shte ha'lechem*. Offered with the bread were seven unblemished lambs, one ox, two rams for an *Olah*, a goat for a *Chatas*, and two lambs for *Shlamim*, as detailed in *Parshas Emor*.

Altogether, twenty-four animals are offered in honor of Shavuot, thirteen of which accompany the *shte*

81) see *Tosefos Bechoros 26a s.v. melay'ascha. Maharit Algazi ibid. Minchas Chinuch Mitzvah 18. Sh'ut Igros Moshe Orach Chaim, vol. 1, Inyanei Kodshim Siman 1.*

82) Rashi states explicitly that *Bikurim* are brought in the seventh year. However, there are halachic opinions that argue that *Bikurim* should not be brought, and conjecture that his stance on the matter is due to a printer's error—indeed, it does not appear in all versions of Rashi's commentary. Among the reasons *not* to bring: this offering is “from the land that You gave”—and this year ownership of the land reverts to the Creator, and the fruit that grow in this year are themselves *hefker*—ownerless. In addition, should the *Bikurim* fruit be set aside to be eaten only by Kohanim and only in Yerushalayim, this would circumscribe the law that makes the fruit of the seventh year available to all. There are laws regarding *challah* of the seventh year that may apply here as well. Among Acharonim, some argue why *Bikurim* **should** be brought—because the mitzvah of *Bikurim* precedes the mitzvah of *Shemita*, or that in truth the land belongs to the owner and the laws of *hefker* in the *shemita* year explicitly apply to fruit, and the owner has already taken these fruit for himself and they belong to him. See Hebrew footnote for more arguments and sources.

lechem, while the other eleven comprise the *Musaf* offering. These correspond to the twenty-four books of Torah, *Nevi'im*, and *Kesuvim* (thirteen of Torah and *Nevi'im*, and eleven of *Kesuvim*.) These are also representative of the traditional twenty-four adornments of a bride, of which thirteen are gold and silver, and the remaining eleven are types of clothing.

There are unique laws that apply to the *shte halechem* being that it is a Shemitah year.⁸³

SEUDAS YOM TOV

On Shavuos we must eat and rejoice on the day that the Torah was given to show that the Jewish people welcome and enjoy the day on which they received the Torah. Hence, it is forbidden to fast for *ta'anis chalom* (a bad dream) on Shavuos, although it is permitted on every other Yom Tov and even on Shabbos.⁸⁴

When reciting *Kiddush*, we say *Askinu se'udasa* for Yom Tov, and then *Eileh mo'adei* and *borei pri hagafen*.

DAIRY MEAL

It is customary in all Jewish communities to eat milk products on the first day of Shavuos. A Jewish custom is considered Torah, especially as in this case, many insights into the custom have been given. The custom to eat a *milchige* meal on Shavuos does not override the obligation of eating meat on Yom Tov. The former is a custom, while the latter is a mitzvah. We therefore eat both.⁸⁵

Care must be taken to avoid the prohibition of mixing meat and milk, and that all of the appropriate laws are observed. We are not permitted to eat dairy and meat products in the same meal even if we wait the necessary time in between courses. Therefore, a *brachah acharonah*

83) See footnotes in the Hebrew section.

84) The Rebbe explains this at length in *Likkutei Sichos*, vol. 23.

85) The Alter Rebbe simply notes that there are numerous reasons for eating milk products. The *Rema*, for example, traces this custom to the *shte halechem*, two breads that were offered only on Shavuos, which imply two meals for which we need to wash and eat bread separately; the bread used in a *milchige* meal may not be used for a *fleishige* meal. (Although we are now accustomed to merely eating *mezonos* at the *milchige* meal, the *mezonos* is also considered bread for this purpose.)

on the *milchige* foods must be recited before washing for the *fleishige* meal.

Many fulfill the custom of eating dairy foods with a *milchige kiddush* of cheesecake before waiting some time and then washing for a *fleishige* meal. In this case, where there is no challah for *lechem mishneh*, the *mezonos* foods with which you are *yotzeh Kiddush* should be covered—some halachic authorities suggest having two whole pastries for this purpose.⁸⁶

Additionally, the person who makes *Kiddush* should be sure to drink a full *reviis* (over three ounces) of wine, to avoid any doubt over the addition of *al hagefen* in *bentching* at the end of this *kiddush*.

If you neglected to recite *Shehechianu* on the first night of Shavuos, recite the blessing today whenever you remember your omission.

SEUDAS MITZVAH TIMES A MILLION

“Although the Shavuos meal is a Yom Tov meal,” clarifies the Frierdiker Rebbe,⁸⁷ “it is mainly a *seudas mitzvah*... it is a *seudah* of *kabbolas hatorah v’hamitzvah*. If, when we bring even a single Jewish child into the *bris* of *Avraham Avinu* or into Cheder, the accompanying meal is considered a *seudas mitzvah*; certainly when six hundred thousand men of military age, in addition to the elderly, the womenfolk, and the children, are brought by Hashem into Cheder to recite ‘*kamatz alef ah*’—as stated in the verse, ‘*The King brought me to His chambers (cheder); we will rejoice and be glad in You!*’ (Shir Hashirim 1:4) ...’ *We will rejoice and be glad in You* (כא)’ meaning the twenty-two (כא, the same letters as כא) letters of the Torah. The first letter that Hashem spoke was *kamatz-alef* of the word “*Anochi*” (*I am*). Therefore the meal of Shavuos is first and foremost a *seudas mitzvah*, in addition to its serving as a *seudas Yom Tov*.”

BRACHOS ON DRINKS

If the dairy meal is being eaten where *Kiddush* was made, the wine you drank for *Kiddush* will cover all subsequent *Shehakol* drinks physically present at the time or that you had in mind to drink.⁸⁸ This applies to the person who

86) See Hebrew sources in the footnotes on this topic.

87) *Sefer Hasichos* 5703; See also 1st day of Shavuos 5705.

88) For a in-depth, see the One-Minute Halachah #731 at www.

made *Kiddush*, and also to anyone who partook of the wine, even a small sip. Someone who was *yotzeh Kiddush*, but did not drink wine and did not wash for *hamotzi*, must make *Shehakol* on whatever they drink.

When saying the after-brachah of *al hagefen*, all *Shehakol* drinks are included. This applies whether the initial drink was covered by the *borei pri hagafen* or not (for example, if they made a *brachah* on another drink they had not intended to have while drinking the wine). However, as stated earlier, an *al hagefen* is said on a *reviis*, so an individual who was *yotzeh Kiddush* with just a sip of wine will make a *borei nefashos* after all their subsequent drinks.

BETWEEN MILK AND MEAT

It is our custom to wait one hour between milk and meat. This spans the time from finishing *milchigs* to beginning eating *fleishigs*, so washing can still commence soon after concluding the dairy meal.

Of course, we should use this opportunity to educate our children to wait between eating dairy and meat, each according to their age.

A sharp food such as an onion, radish, lemon, or head of garlic⁸⁹ that was chopped with a *fleishige* knife or blender,⁹⁰ even in the case where the utensil is not *ben yomo* (meaning that it was not used for a hot meat product during the last twenty-four hours), may not be used with milk or milk products. The same applies also in reverse: sharp food that was cut with a *milchige* knife cannot be eaten with meat. In the latter case, according to many opinions, the food cannot be eaten even within the six hour period following the eating of meat.⁹¹ Naturally, it is best to keep a pareve knife and cutting board for just such purposes.

halacha2go.com.

89) and in many regards, somewhat sharp foods such as pickles

90) Some are stringent even if a *fleishige* cutting board was used

91) This stringency does not apply in reverse, i.e. if you drank milk, you may eat a sharp food that was cut with a *fleishige* knife. Also, after eating a sharp food cut with a meat knife, you may subsequently drink milk.

IS IT 6-HOUR CHEESE?

American cheese can certainly be considered one-hour cheese. We may need to wait six hours for other hard cheeses, such as Parmesan cheese, since their taste lingers for a considerable time.

Among the halachic authorities, there are multiple possible determinations of which cheeses require a six-hour wait, such as: cheese that has cured for six months or more; cheese that has developed worms; cheese that has been stored in rennet long enough to become sharp and hard; cheese that is extremely fatty with a taste that lingers for a long time. There are some *poskim* who require waiting one hour for each month it takes to produce the cheese.

Modern cheese production has changed the curing process drastically, and this further varies halachic rulings. For our purposes, we will cite the *Yad Yehuda* who posits⁹² that we need not be concerned of the possible “six-hour” status of cheese that is melted, and it requires only a one-hour wait. Thus, with regard to modern cheeses which are melted (aside from those aged for six months or more), there is room for leniency.

CHEESECAKE & OTHER MEZONOS

The brachah on cheesecake that has even a thin crust is *mezonos*, provided that the purpose of the dough is to enhance its flavor. The question is whether an *al hamichya* can be recited if the crust itself is not a full *kezayis*.⁹³ In this case, the amount necessary is determined to be one-sixth of the total *kezayis* volume.⁹⁴ If you are not sure that this requirement is fulfilled, take another piece of *mezonos* and also another food that calls for a *borei nefashos* and subsequently recite both *brachos acharonos*. (Note that a *shehakol* food, not a *shehakol* drink, is required for this purpose if you had a *reviis* of wine, as explained above.)

Aside for the above consideration concerning an after-

92) *Yoreh Deah* 69

93) A *kezayis* is a measurement of volume—the amount that fits into a small matchbox.

94) See One-Minute Halachah #493 at www.halacha2go.com. Also www.asktherav.com #6843 and #4393 (in Hebrew).

blessing, it is necessary to eat a *kezayis* of *mezonos* or to drink a full *revi's* of wine in addition to the wine drunk at *Kiddush* (at least *lechatchilah*). *Kiddush* must be followed by washing for bread, or the meal substituted by these quantities of *mezonos* or wine.

AFTER-BRACHAH ON WINE & CAKE

If you drank a *reviis* of wine and ate a *kezayis* of *mezonos* (including cheesecake that is at least one-sixth crust), the *Me'ein Shalosh* brachah is recited at the end of the meal, with the wording that includes both: *al hamichyah v'al hakalkalah* and *v'al hagefen v'al pri hagefen*. If you drank less than a *reviis* of wine, but ate more than a *kezayis* of *mezonos*, only *al hamichyah* is said—and vice versa.

For someone who drank more than a *kezayis* (between 0.60 and one ounce aprox.) but less than a *reviis* of wine, there is no halachic consensus whether the *al hagefen* brachah must be said—and because the rule is that we are lenient when it comes to making brachos (lest we say Hashem's name in vain), *Me'ein Shalosh* is not recited. However, if a *kezayis* of *mezonos* was also consumed at the meal, *al hagefen* should be added as well, even though only a *kezayis* of wine was consumed.

If you made a mistake in the after Beracha, see the chart at the end of the booklet.

In the brachah of *Me'ein Shalosh*, add for Shavuos: *vezachreinu letovah b'yom chag hashvuos hazeh*. If you forgot, see the chart at the end of the booklet.

A *brachah acharonah* must be recited on the *milchige* meal before washing for the second meal. If you forgot the after-blessing, it should be made during the next meal. If *Birchas Hamazon* was already said, *al hamichya* is no longer required, but *borei nefashos*, if necessary, should still be recited.

When eating *mezonos* at the *milchige* meal, take care not to eat so much as to be *kove'ah seudah* (eat such a large amount that it equals a satisfying bread-meal) otherwise you may be required to recite *Birchas Hamazon*.⁹⁵ A quantity of baked *mezonos* equalling four *beitzim* (the volume of four average-sized eggs) that satiates you (even

95) See *Seder Birchas Hanehenin*, Chapter 2

if the fullness is a result of the baked goods plus other foods combined), obligates *Birchas Hamazon* according to the biblical requirement.

THE MEAT MEAL

A *Kiddush* cup used at the *milchige* meal should not be used again at the *fleishige* meal in case any dairy residue remains on the cup.

A latecomer to a Yom Tov meal who discovers that the people have already finished their dairy foods and are now eating their *fleishige* meal—whereas they still need to eat dairy in honor of Shavuos—should not proceed to eat dairy food on the same tablecloth as those eating their meat meal. There must be distinct tablecloths for meat and for dairy.

The obligation of *oneg Yom Tov* means drinking wine during each Yom Tov meal, if the individual can afford it, and having plenty of meat, wine, and delicacies, according to their means. To fulfill the obligation of rejoicing on Yom Tov, men must drink a *revi'is* of wine. This requirement may be satisfied through drinking the wine of *Kiddush*. The Friediker Rebbe was accustomed to drinking a *revi'is* of wine at each Yom Tov meal. Children should be given foods they enjoy to help them rejoice on Yom Tov.

Although rejoicing on Yom Tov is a biblical obligation, there is no dispensation to get drunk. In fact, the *Rambam* specifically warns against overdoing the obligation of drinking wine on Yom Tov.

Avoid eating a *seudah* after the tenth halachic hour of the day (4:38 pm), in order to be able to enjoy the Yom Tov meal on the second night of Shavuos. However, if you have not yet eaten *seudas Yom Tov* for some reason, you may do so even after this time.

Law of Redemption:

All utensils found in Yerushalayim during the time of the *Beis Hamikdash* are considered pure. The exception is knives used for the *korbanos*; due the added severity of the laws of impurity surrounding the *korbanos*, our Sages decreed that we must know with certainty that a knife is pure before using it for

a *korban*. However, the Sages suspended their decree for the duration of the *Yomim Tovim*, so that if one finds such a knife in Yerushalayim during a festival, it is considered pure and can even be used for the sacrifices.⁹⁶

The meat of the *Shelamim* (peace-offering) is eaten in fulfillment of the Torah's obligation to rejoice in the festival. In *Likkutei Sichos*, the Rebbe explains⁹⁷ that according to the Alter Rebbe, the *ikar mitzvah*, the primary instrument of rejoicing in the festival (for men) is accomplished through eating the meat of the *Korban Shelamim*. This is not merely a physical feast, but it is mainly the joy of a mitzvah. It is the consuming of the holy sacrifices, whereby the person absorbs actual sanctity in a tangible manner.

(Incidentally, the halachic authorities debate whether this mitzvah involves only the act of eating, or also the offering of specific parts that is performed prior to the eating. It is the opinion of the Tzelach that there is one mitzvah to offer a *shelamim* at least once during the festival, and a second mitzvah to partake of the meat during the festival.)

Here is an overview of some of the laws pertaining to eating the sacrificial meat on Yom Tov (without details pertaining to ritual slaughter, offering on the altar, or preparing the sacrificial meat).

Note: This is not an exhaustive treatment, nor does it present the plethora of opinions on many of its details that are sometimes the subject of polar opposite views among poskim. (Let Eliyahu Hanavi come and resolve all halachic disputes, and bring Moshe and Aharon with him to teach us!) When applicable, the laws below reflect the opinions quoted in the writings of our Rebbeim.

As mentioned earlier, everyone is obligated to purify themselves in advance of the festival. According to some opinions, people would avoid entering a home in Yerushalayim during the festival for fear of contracting *tum'as ohel*—ritual impurity received

96) *Mishneh Torah, Sh'ar Avos HaTum'ah*, 13:5, based on *Mishnah, Shekalim*, 8:2, and *Pesachim* 19b.

97) *Likkutei Sichos*, vol. 33, p. 62ff. See the Rebbe's discussion at length.

when coming under the same roof as a corpse or its contaminants—and they would simply sleep in the streets. We could perhaps counter this with the argument that since everyone is obligated to purify themselves in advance of the festival, this should not be a concern. In any case, it is clear that caution must be taken to avoid entering a home in which there is a real concern of impurity.

If a utensil that was under the same roof as a corpse is discovered in a home, even in a building several stories high, do not remain in that building. Similarly, do not touch a chair or bed that has not been ascertained to be free of *niddah*-impurity or the like. However, a plastic chair or rubber mat and the like may be used without fear, and food that has not become *huchshar* (halachically susceptible) to *tumah* may be eaten without concern.

The Sages decreed, as an extra precaution, to avoid partaking of sacrificial meat without first immersing hands in a body of water that is kosher for use as a *mikveh*.

The meat of the *Shelamim* may not be eaten by its owners before the *Kohanim* have offered its sacrificial parts on the altar, for it is the latter activity that makes it permissible for the sacrificial meat to be eaten to begin with. The exception to this rule is in the case that the sacrificial parts are accidentally lost or destroyed before they reach the altar, in which case the meat may be eaten as long as the sacrificial blood was sprinkled on the altar.

Eating the meat of the *Shelamim* is a mitzvah that is observed by the offering's owners and not just by the *kohanim*. The blessing before eating the meat is as follows: “*Baruch...le’echol zevach,*” or alternatively, “*al achilas shelamim.*” (“Blessed are You ... instructed us to eat the sacrifice,” or “...instructed us regarding the eating of the peace-offering.”)

The basic obligation is fulfilled by eating just a *kezayis* of meat. However, all of the meat must be eaten (by the owner or by others) for another reason: so that it does not become *nosar*—sacrificial meat left uneaten beyond the deadline stipulated in the Torah.

According to some opinions, it is an actual mitzvah to eat the meat in its entirety.

During the festival, another mitzvah is performed simultaneously—that of eating the meat of a *Shelamim* during the festival for the sake of rejoicing during the festival as required by Torah law. A *kezayis* of meat is sufficient to fulfill this second obligation. (Some say a *kezayis* is insufficient and it must be *lasovah*, enough to be satiated, which is determined as the quantity of *kebeitzah*.) A married woman fulfills the obligation to partake of a *Shelamim* on the festival through her husband offering the sacrifice and sharing its meat with her. (Some opinions disagree.) Children are exempt from this obligation.

All sacrificial meat, of greater or lesser sanctity, must be prepared for eating *lemashchah*—in the manner that food is served to royalty or nobility. It must therefore be roasted and prepared with mustard. *Tosefos* explains this was common for royalty, but someone who prefers another manner of gourmet cuisine may follow their preference.⁹⁸

The *Shelamim* belongs to the category of *kadashim kalim*, sacrificial meat of lesser sanctity that may be eaten anywhere within the boundaries of the city of Yerushalayim. (Some say, only on ground level.)

For practical purposes, it is advisable to eat the *Shelamim* that is served hot at the table using (kosherable) metal —or disposable—plates, because the flavor of the hot meat that is absorbed into the utensils becomes *nosar* after a certain time, as will be discussed shortly. It is also advisable to clear the table of all other cutlery and crockery before serving the meat for the same reason.

The *Shelamim* must be eaten within a specific time frame (see below), and great care must be taken to

98) The Rambam's view of this obligation is elaborated upon in *Kovetz Hallelu Avdei Hashem*. In the *drashah* delivered in 770 in honor of Shavuos 5775, Harav Braun *shlita* expounded on the debate regarding one who did not prepare mustard for his *Shelamim*—whether he is permitted to transport the mustard from one domain to another, or instead sweeten it via extinguishing burning metal during Yom Tov, in light of the fact that mustard isn't considered a staple for all.

avoid leaving any meat uneaten beyond this time. An individual who finishes their own portion of meat may leave the table, according to some opinions, and assume that the other adults who are still partaking of the meat will not leave any over beyond the stipulated time. They may not, however, rely on children to finish their portions, and must remain to supervise them.

After the deadline has passed, any remaining meat becomes *nosar* and it transmits ritual impurity to the hands of whoever touches it.

On the first night of Yom Tov, there is a mitzvah of *linah*, whereby someone bringing an offering to the *Beis Hamikdash* is obligated to spend the entire night in Yerushalayim. There is an additional obligation to remain there on the following night, the eve of the second day of Yom Tov, which can be attributed to the festival or to the offering they brought. The Midrash on Rus on the phrase, “*ba’asher talini alin*” (*Wherever you lodge, I will lodge*)⁹⁹ seems to imply that women are included in the obligation of *linah* due the offerings they bring.

Shelamim must be eaten within “two days and one night,” which includes the actual day on which the sacrifice was brought (when its blood was sprinkled on the altar), as well as the following night, and then the entire following day until sunset. In our case, when the sacrifice was offered on the sixth of Sivan, it should be eaten before the conclusion of the seventh of Sivan. Nevertheless, the proper way to fulfill the mitzvah is to eat it on the actual day of offering and/or the following night.

It is a mitzvah to burn any leftover meat that has become *nosar* due to passing the deadline. Although *Shelamim*-meat becomes *nosar* after sunset on the second day, it must not be burned at night. The prescribed time for burning *nosar* is on the following morning.

Metal utensils used for the *Shelamim* while the meat was hot require koshering. This must be performed within the city of Yerushalayim. The process demands rinsing with hot and cold water

99) Rus 1:16

and *hagalah* (koshering via boiling water). If the utensil was earthenware, it must be shattered. Some are stringent to require shattering glass utensils and not to rely on the koshering process that is used for metal utensils. There is a halachic dispute as to the procedure required for reusable plastic utensils and plastic covers.

MINCHAH

Today's Mincha included *Korbonos*, *Ashrei*, *Uva l'tziyon*, and *Amidah* for *shalosh regalim*.

Tahalucha: It has been customary for many years now," the Rebbe said,¹⁰⁰ "that during Yom Tov we go to visit our Jewish brethren in other synagogues and *batei midrashos* in many other communities, in order to amplify the joy of the festival by uniting with large numbers of Jews from additional communities, and especially by reviewing Torah teachings (*The commandments of G-d are upright, causing the heart to rejoice*¹⁰¹) culled from both the revealed and mystical teachings of the Torah."

AFTERNOON PREPS

It is forbidden to prepare anything for the second day of Yom Tov until after **9:14 pm**. According to the Alter Rebbe, we may not request a non-Jew to perform such activities either.¹⁰²

However, it is permitted to remove frozen items early enough in the day that it will have time to defrost and could technically be prepared and eaten that same day. If cooking for today, ensure that the food is ready for consumption before *shkiah* (**8:23 pm**).

SUNDAY NIGHT, 2ND NIGHT OF SHAVUOS

CANDLE LIGHTING

Candles are lit for the second day of Shavuos after *tzeis hakochavim*, **9:14 pm**. The flame must be taken from a pre-existing flame, one that has remained lit since before the onset of Shabbos. Two blessings are recited: 1) *lehadlik ner*

100) *Sefer Hasichos* 5751

101) *Tehillim* 19:9

102) See Hebrew Halachic Guide for extensive references on this topic.

shel Yom Tov and 2) *Shehechyanu*, as on last night.

Besides the prohibition of lighting a fire, additional precautions need to be made while preparing the candles for lighting on Yom Tov. See the entry above for the first night of Yom Tov.

A STRICTER SECOND DAY

The Rebbe often referred to the statement of the Chasam Sofer that the second day of Shavuos is treated more stringently than the second days of Pesach and Sukkos. This is because of a fundamental difference in the original establishment of these dates:

The second day of Pesach and Sukkos were established due to a doubt that existed in former times as to the correct date of these festivals. By the time these festivals arrived (on the fifteenth of Nissan and the fifteenth of Tishrei), communities located at a considerable distance from Yerushalayim had not yet heard word of the decision of the *beis din* in Yerushalayim regarding the establishment of Rosh Chodesh Nissan or Rosh Chodesh Tishrei. Therefore, they were unable to determine the precise date of Pesach and Sukkos. Due to this doubt, a second day was added to these two festivals by way of precaution. Conversely, there was never a doubt regarding the correct date for Shavuos, because Shavuos is not celebrated on a particular date in the calendar, but rather, on the fiftieth day after the first day of Pesach. In other words, whether Rosh Chodesh Sivan is one day or two days is irrelevant to determining the date of Shavuos. Rather, Shavuos depends solely on when Pesach began—which in turn depends on Rosh Chodesh Nissan. By the time Shavuos arrived, even communities living at a distance from Yerushalayim had ample time—over two months—to clarify the *beis din's* decision regarding Rosh Chodesh Nissan.

The Sages nevertheless established a second day for Shavuos as well, simply to avoid confusion between Pesach, Shavuos, and Sukkos. As a result, the second day of Shavuos is not the product of a doubt, but a deliberate act of the Sages. It is therefore treated with the greater stringency afforded purposeful Rabbinical enactments.

MAARIV & KIDDUSH

Maariv and *Kiddush* are identical to those of the first night of Shavuos. If you made a mistake in either, see the chart at the back of the booklet.

MONDAY, 7 SIVAN—2ND DAY OF SHAVUOS

TEFILLOS

Shacharis is identical to yesterday's Shacharis.

The Alter Rebbe's *Shulchan Aruch* records the custom of reading *Megillas Rus* in *shul* on Shavuos to impart the message that the Torah can be acquired only by those who are willing to undergo suffering and poverty in order to merit it, as reflected in the story of Rus, who converted and embraced the Torah under such conditions. He states that a blessing should not be recited over this reading.

Although it is **not** the Chabad custom to read *Rus*, neither in *shul* nor at home, the Rebbe emphasizes that the theme of *Rus* and its association with Shavuos is not diminished. In fact, *Megillas Rus* is expounded at length in the teachings of Chassidus on Shavuos. Its importance is further underscored by the fact that the entire *Megillas Rus* is included in the *Tikkun* that we recite on the night of Shavuos while almost every other book of the Torah is represented in the *Tikkun* by only a number of verses. Only those subjects that are deeply connected to Shavuos (another example is *ma'aseh hamerkavah*) appear in their entirety. The Rebbe also explains that the crucial connection to Shavuos is the fact that *Dovid Hamelech* was born and passed away on Shavuos and that the purpose of *Rus* is to detail his ancestry.

KRIAS HATORAH

Five *aliyos* are read from the first *sefer Torah* from the portion *Kol habechor*. The *Maftir* is read from the second scroll, exactly as on the first day of Shavuos. The *Haftarah* is from *Tefilah l'Chavakuk* until *lam'natze'ach binginaso*. However, Chabad—and others, as well—have the custom to begin from *Va-shem b'heichal kodsho*.

Yizkor is recited as well as *Av harachamim*. Someone who cannot attend shul, may say *Yizkor* without a minyan as well.¹⁰³

Anyone with two living parents should exit the shul while *Yizkor* is recited. A mourner (within the first year) remains, but does not say the *Yizkor* prayer.

103) See www.asktherav.com #7960

It is customary to pledge *tzedakah* while saying *Yizkor*; whether as a general pledge or actually specifying the amount—both are legitimate practices.¹⁰⁴

The difference between *Yizkor* and *Av harachamim* is that *Yizkor* is recited by individuals in the merit of particular souls, whereas *Av harachamim* is recited by the public in the merit of all departed souls from the departed Jewish community at large. Usually, on a day on which *Tachanun* is not recited, *Av harachamim* is also omitted because it is a universal form of *Yizkor*. But today, when individuals need to recite *Yizkor*, they recite *Av harachamim* as part of that service, so it may also be recited by those who do not need to recite *Yizkor*, if they so wish.

Musaf, Kiddush, and Minchah are identical to the first day of Shavuos.

Today's Chitas, the second aliyah in Parshas Naso begins with the twenty-ninth verse in the fourth perek of Bamidbar, "*Ub'nei Merari...tifkod osam.*" It ends with the forty-ninth verse, "*Al pi Hashem...es Moshe.*"

FORGETTING SHEHECHIYANU

If you forgot to recite *Shehechiyanu* in last night's *Kiddush*, say it anytime before the end of Yom Tov (even if you remembered it the first night).

FARBRENGEN

The Frierdiker Rebbe recounted,¹⁰⁵ "Our master the Baal Shem Tov greatly cherished the second day of Shavuos. Immediately following his public revelation [as a Baal Shem], at a time when everything was done with alacrity and by the strict letter of the *Shulchan Aruch*—so that *Kabbolas Shabbos* was recited at its precise time, and the like—the Baal Shem Tov held a unique schedule on the second day of Shavuos. He would pray at the earliest time in the morning, and then hold a small meal together with a *minyán* of his students in order to recite *Birchas Hamazon* over a cup of blessing. Later, in the middle of the day, he would hold a grand meal and he would *farbreng* for hours. He continued this practice until the day of his passing."

104) See *Roshei Devarim* of the *sichah* of the second day of Shavuos, 5748

105) *Sichas Yom Beis D'chag Hashavuos* 5704. See there for the reason behind this practice. The Rebbe explains this further in *Likkutei Sichos*, vol. 4, p. 1027ff.

It is customary to wash hands for bread before sunset and to eat at least the quantity of bread equal to a *kebeitzah* to participate in a farbrengen. The *niggunim* of all the Rebbeim are sung.

THE ZEIDE'S MEAL

It is appropriate to be stringent and take into account the view that we are required to recite *hamotzi* over two complete loaves (*challos*). Even if we eat an entire series of meals on Yom Tov, we should use two loaves each time, if they are available. If not, we should at least use one whole *challah*.

“The Alter Rebbe would refer to the meal on the second day of Shavuos as *dem zeiden's seudah* (Grandfather's meal),” the Frieddiker Rebbe relates. “During the meal, the Alter Rebbe would pronounce, ‘*Baruch haba!*’ (Welcome!). At that point, the *Chassidim* knew that the Baal Shem Tov was present.

BARUCH HABA!

“It once happened that during the meal of the second day of Shavuos, the Alter Rebbe failed to announce *baruch haba*. Three elderly individuals were present; they had known the Baal Shem Tov personally. Since the guests would sometimes speak at the Alter Rebbe's table, these individuals began repeating their recollections of the Baal Shem Tov. The Alter Rebbe called out that the Baal Shem Tov is still busy right now in *gan eden ha'elyon* and *mesivta d'Kudsha Brich Hu* (the higher *gan eden* and the supernal academy of the Holy One blessed be He). A while later, the Alter Rebbe pronounced *baruch haba*, and they knew that the Baal Shem Tov had arrived at the meal. This episode was recounted by the Tzemach Tzedek, who was present at that gathering. He was six years old at the time, because this took place in the year 5556. The story was subsequently transmitted from one Rebbe to the next.”

INVITING ALL THE REBBEIM

On the second day of Shavuos in the year 5715, the Rebbe instructed the *Chassidim* to sing a number of *niggunim*. However, the Rebbe himself sat in his chair, seemingly withdrawn, an extremely serious expression on his face, and entirely lost in his thoughts. After some time, he began to speak with tremendous emotion and delivered the following message:

“The Alter Rebbe used to announce, ‘*Baruch haba!*’ at the Shavuos meal. He was referring to the Baal Shem Tov,

because the Baal Shem Tov's *yahrtzeit* is on Shavuos.

“Some elderly *Chassidim* were once seated at his table, and they related stories of the Baal Shem Tov. As is known, through relating stories of *tzaddikim* it is possible to draw down the souls of those *tzaddikim*. The Alter Rebbe told them that the Baal Shem Tov was still busy in *gan eden ha'elyon*... After some time, the Alter Rebbe pronounced *baruch haba*—in his customary tune—and everyone seated at the table then realized that the Baal Shem Tov had arrived.”

At this point, the Rebbe announced, “Whoever sees and feels and is able to say *baruch haba* should say, ‘*baruch haba!*’ (When the Rebbe said these last two words, he said them with a tune.)

“When the *ispashtusa d'Moshe* (a leader whose soul is an extension of Moshe's soul) that is in each generation is present—and in our generation, it is my father-in-law the Rebbe—then through him, the Rebbe Rashab is also present. He, my father-in-law, the Rebbe, is the Rebbe Rashab's *memaleh makom* (his successor), and as we have often explained, the concept of *memaleh makom* is that all the matters that existed previously continue to exist, and even with an addition. And when the Rebbe Rashab is present, then the Rebbe Maharash is also present. When the Rebbe Maharash is present, then the Tzemach Tzedek is here as well. When the Tzemach Tzedek is present, then the Mittler Rebbe is also here. When the Mittler Rebbe is present, then the Alter Rebbe is here as well. When the Alter Rebbe is present, then the Maggid is also here. When the Maggid is here, then the Baal Shem Tov is present as well.

“In general, it is not possible to differentiate between our Rebbeim, but at least as far as we are concerned, whichever Rebbe is closest to us is most precious to us. Since a large percentage of the audience here are *Chassidim* of my father-in-law, the Rebbe, for they were with him in the life that he lived in this world, and they study his Torah teachings, and so on, it is therefore understandable that my father-in-law, the Rebbe is the most critical for us.

“True, there is the Baal Shem Tov, the Maggid, the Alter Rebbe, the Mittler Rebbe, the Tzemach Tzedek, the Rebbe Maharash, and the Rebbe Rashab—but what is most critical for us is **the Rebbe**. It is through him that we also have the Rebbe Rashab, the Rebbe Maharash, the Tzemach Tzedek, the Mittler Rebbe, the Alter Rebbe, the Maggid, and the Baal Shem Tov—who received his teachings from [the prophet] *Achiyah Hashiloni*, who was also the teacher of *Eliyahu Hanavi* regarding whom it is stated, ‘*v'heishiv lev avos al*

banim' (He will turn the heart of the fathers back through the children, and the heart of the children back through their fathers, *Malachi* 3:24)—may it be speedily in our days!"

OUR WEDDING DAY

"They say about weddings," the Rebbe says,¹⁰⁶ "that with all the stress and confusion, the *baalei simchah* need to be reminded not to forget the most important thing—that the *chosson* and *kallah* actually have a *kiddushin*! The same can be said of the Yom Tov of Shavuos, which is also a *chasunah*, as the Arizal explains.

"Shavuos is a wedding in two aspects—one, a marriage of Hashem with *Bnei Yisrael*, and also a unification of *Bnei Yisrael* with Torah.... At every wedding ceremony, there are the ways in which the husband is bound to provide for his wife. In this case (*Matan Torah*), what are the 'husband's' obligations? In the case of Yisrael, we are committing to the Torah, obliging ourselves to be *amelim*—toilers of Torah learning. From Hashem's side, in His wedding with His bride, the Congregation of Israel, He is promising to deliver on the blessings listed in the Torah, 'I will give you rains in their proper time...' (see the original source for elaboration).

"These days are remembered and repeated' each year (as the Megillah writes). So when the Yom Tov of Shavuos arrives, the Time of the Giving of the Torah, each of us must accept resolutions, with the proper focus, to toil in Torah. And in return, Hashem commits to give all of us and our families all we need in the physical and revealed sense.

"So all those who have exerted themselves in the study of Torah before Shavuos, must add even more effort now, with firm commitment, without delaying until tomorrow. Right now, tonight, on *motzoei Shavuos*, add in your Torah engagement!

"This directive is addressed to those who are 'stressed out with wedding preparations', who, because of all the *balagan*, might forget what is most essential—that the main point of the whole wedding is to reach the King's inner chambers! Now that we are completing the *avodah* of *Sefiras Ha'omer*, which focuses on perfecting our character, it might happen that we become so consumed with this tremendous work and its accompanying revelations that we neglect to actually reach the goal—acceptance of the Torah. This is the essential point we must remember on Shavuos: let's not get caught up in all the epiphanies, but grab the essence—the limitless quality inherent in Torah and mitzvos.

106) *Roshei Devarim Sichas Yom Beis D'chag Hashavuos* 5724

“Therefore, every year when Shavuos arrives, each of us need to boost our commitment to Torah and mitzvos in all three main facets: Torah, *tefillah*, and *tzedakah*—without any constraint. This means that despite already being involved in these three areas until now, it has been within certain limitations. See, for example: with regard to *tzedakah*—do you still have any money? That’s proof that you’ve been giving with restraint! Do you have stores of energy? You’ve been toiling in Torah within limits. And since you are still a *mentch*, it’s likewise obvious that your mode of ‘purging your soul (to Hashem)’ isn’t completely realized.

“Therefore, today, on Shavuos (every year, and especially this one) we must add in every aspect, with no holds barred!”

LEARNING ONWARD AND UPWARD

“The emanations are drawn down on Shavuos to every Jew,” the Rebbe says in a *maamar*,¹⁰⁷ “and give him strength in his Divine service through the coming days. If someone, G-d forbid, is lacking in his service, these effusions give him no rest and drive him to toil in his work in the coming days in the optimal manner, starting with the days of *tashlumin* (rectification) of Shavuos until the twelfth of Sivan, inclusively (these are days we do not say *Tachanun*, as the Alter Rebbe writes in his Siddur, since these are days on which the sacrifices of the Festival were [still] brought), until we channel these phenomena [into our lives] throughout the year. With this, the year will include all the brachos that are indicated by the letters of the alef-beis, up to [the last]—a year of Torah...”

At these Shavuos *farbrengens*, the Rebbe often demanded an increase in Torah study, including the daily study of *Chitas* and Rambam. Here is an excerpt of one such *farbrengen*¹⁰⁸:

“... this applies to the *shiurei Chitas*—the daily study of *Chumash* (divided according to the days of the week), of *Tehillim* (divided according to the days of the month), and of *Tanya* (divided according to the days of the year). These three *shiurim* correspond to the three shepherds of the Jewish people who are associated with Shavuos: *Chumash* is associated with *Moshe Rabbeinu* who received the Torah at Sinai; *Tehillim* is the book of *Dovid Hamelech* who passed away on Shavuos; And *Tanya* is the elucidation of the teachings of Rabbi Yisrael Baal Shem Tov whose *hillula* is also on Shavuos. And how good, how appropriate, and so on, it would be to apply this to the daily study of Rambam

107) *maamar Yom Beis D'chag Hashavuos* 5748

108) *Chag Hashavuos* 5751, printed in *Sefer Hasichos* 5751, vol. 2, p. 560.

(divided into an annual cycle of three chapters a day, or a three-year cycle of one chapter a day, or an annual cycle of *Sefer Hamitzvos*.)”

INTO THE NIGHT

If the Yom Tov meal or *farbrengen* extend past nightfall—even if it extends many hours into the night—recite *ya’aleh v’yavo* during *Birchas Hamazon*. As long as the meal began at a time when *ya’aleh v’yavo* was required, that obligation continues for the duration of his meal. (Naturally, if you prayed Maariv or recited *Havdalah* over a cup of wine, you can no longer recite *ya’aleh v’yavo*.)

MOTZOEI YOM TOV

Yom Tov ends at **9:14 pm**.

Atah chonantonu is added to the *Amidah* of Maariv.

It is possible to recite *Kiddush Levanah* tonight.¹⁰⁹

The regular *Havdalah* is recited, but without the blessings over the candle and spices. *Veyiten lecha* is not recited tonight.

TUESDAY, 8 SIVAN, ISRU CHAG

Yom T’voach

The day after Shavuos is called *Yom T’voach* (Slaughtering Day), when the *olos r’iyah* were brought. For this reason, it is forbidden to fast on *Isru Chag Shavuos* by force of law (not merely per custom as it is on other days that immediately follow a festival). Even a *chosson* who is getting married today cannot fast.

109) There is a special aspect to blessing the moon on *motzoei Shabbos*. Does this extend to *motzoei Yom Tov*, or is it better to wait until after the coming Shabbos? There is support in the sources for either conclusion—see Hebrew section for extensive notes on this subject—yet it was not the practice in the Rebbe’s shul for *Kiddush Levanah* to be recited after *Kos shel brachah* on *motzoei Yom Tov* (as evidenced by the private diaries of years past; see also *Sefer Hasichos* 5751, p. 596, fn. 159). However, it is also recorded (as brought by the *Rema* and printed in *Sefer Hasichos* 5752, vol. 1, p. 68) that we do not wait until *motzoei Shabbos* when it falls after the tenth of the month (as this year), and even more so when the season or location make moon sightings less certain. As stated in the *sichah*: “If there is a question of a doubt, follow the direction of a local *posek*.”

TASHLUMIN

Until the twelfth of Sivan (inclusively), *Tachanun* is not recited, because this post-festival period is a time of *tashlumin*, meaning that personal festive offerings that were not brought during Shavuos may still be offered during this period. (On this coming Shabbos, we omit *Av harachamim* and *Tzidkasecha tzedek*.) Rather than reciting *Tachanun*, we yearn and expect each day that Moshiach will arrive and we will offer the festive sacrifices (*shalmei simchah* and *shalmei chagigah*) that we were unable to offer on Shavuos.

PACKING UP

“The Tzemach Tzedek asked the Alter Rebbe,” the Frierdiker Rebbe tells,¹¹⁰ “why Shavuos is celebrated for seven days until the twelfth of Sivan (in that we refrain from reciting *Tachanun*, and so on). The Alter Rebbe responded that it is analogous to merchants who travel to participate in a great two-day business fair where they purchase much merchandise. Once the fair is over, they need to journey back to their homes. However, they linger for a few days in order to properly package and secure their merchandise, especially if they have to travel a great distance, in which case, there is always a concern that something may be lost or stolen along the way. The same is true of the Festival of the Giving of the Torah. Without a doubt, each Jew acquires something from the revelations of this festival. He must linger until he has properly packaged that which he acquired. The concept of waiting a few days after the festival is in order to secure everything so that it will not be lost with the trials of time.”

ISRU CHAG

The day following a festival is referred to as *Isru Chag*. This name is derived from the verse, “*Isru chag ba’avosim ad karnos hamizbe’ach*” (Bind the festival [offering] with cords until [you bring it to] the horns of the altar).¹¹¹ Taken literally, the phrase *isru chag* means to bind the festival itself, which Chazal explain as connecting the day following the festival with the actual festival, to celebrate in honor of the festival that has just ended. This celebration, Chazal say, takes the form of feasting, as alluded to in the alternative meaning of *ba’avosim*— with fattened cattle.

110) *Sichas Yom Beis D’chag Hashavuos* 5698

111) *Tehillim* 118

The verse's final phrase, "to the horns of the altar," allude to the fact that whoever celebrates by eating and drinking a little more than usual on the day after the festival, and treats it as a mini-festival in honor of the departed festival, is considered having built an altar and offered an actual sacrifice to Hashem. It is customary to eat and drink a little more than usual on this day.

FILLING PLEDGES

Someone who pledged to give *tzedakah* during *Yizkor* should not delay in fulfilling their pledge. In a number of letters, the Alter Rebbe places extraordinary emphasis on donating money owed to *tzedakah*, in addition to the need to avoid the prohibition against delaying fulfillment of a vow. The author of *Terumas Hadeshen* would not eat food on the morning of *Isru Chag* until he had sent *yizkor*-money to the *gabbaim*.¹¹²

There is a debate regarding someone who forgot to recite *Havdalah* on *motzoei Yom Tov*. Some say that they can recite it the following day, while others disagree. Since the matter is shrouded in doubt, we do not recite *Havdalah* on *Isru Chag*.

KINUS TORAH

At a farbrengen on the second day of Shavuos 5749, the Rebbe said¹¹³: The custom which has been established over a number of years and in numerous locations, to arrange a *Kinus Torah* following—and in close proximity to—all of the three major festivals [Pesach, Shavuos, and Sukkos]... and especially Shavuos, for being the "Time of the Giving of the Torah", it is the most appropriate time to hold a *Kinus Torah*... We should strive to publicize this custom wherever it has not yet been implemented, so that the people of those locations will likewise arrange a *Kinus Torah* in continuation of—and in proximity to—the festivals, i.e., on the day of *Isru Chag*. They should consider the local conditions and hold the *Kinus* during subsequent days instead if doing so will allow for a larger attendance.

Rabbi Yeshayahu Hertzel, *shlita* recounted the following episode: "In the year 5726, I was standing outside [770] the court of the Rebbe *shlita*, together with my father-in-law,

112) see *Leket Yosher*, *Hilchos Tzedakah*

113) *Hisvaduyos*, p. 294

Harav Yaakov Freidman, of blessed memory. It was *Isru Chag Shavuos*, and the *Kinus Torah* was underway [inside the building]. The Rebbe turned to us and demanded, ‘Why are you standing outside of the *Kinus Torah*?’ We responded that we were so preoccupied with arrangements for the upcoming wedding that we had not paid attention to the matter at all. The Rebbe again demanded, ‘But it is the middle of Torah! For wedding arrangements you should steal time from your sleep!’ From then on, it was fixed within me a sense of the importance of participating in these *Kinusim* even when it is somewhat difficult. When I recounted all this at the *Shavuos Kinus Torah*, *Harav Hagaon* Rabbi Mentlik, of blessed memory, was extremely pleased to hear of this exchange, and he exclaimed, ‘Why did you wait until the conclusion of the *Kinus* to report this!’”

Law of Redemption: During the days immediately following Shavuos, we may offer the following mandatory Yom Tov sacrifices that we did not have an opportunity to offer during Yom Tov: *shalmei simchah* and *chagigah*.

As for the *olas r'iyah*, although the established halacha is like *Beis Hillel* who say it is permissible to bring it on Yom Tov itself, still in this case, *Beis Hillel* did as *Beis Shamai* said not to bring them on Yom Tov (since it is not needed for food we do not desecrate the Yom Tov for it, since it is possible to bring it after Yom Tov). Many Jews did the same, and brought it the day after Shavuos.¹¹⁴

Once the festival has concluded, the utensils and equipment of the *Beis Hamikdash* are removed from their places and immersed. This is done to purify the Courtyard from the ritual impurity of those ignorant of the laws of ritual purity who came in contact with the equipment during the festival.

SHABBOS PARASHAS NASO, 12 SIVAN

There is a special quality to the Shabbos that follows *Matan Torah*; the Rebbe speaks on this theme in various *sichos*.¹¹⁵

114) *Shulchan Aruch Harav Orach Chaim, Siman 494:19*. See *Likkutei Sichos*, vol. 28, p. 24ff.

115) See *Likkutei Sichos*, vol. 8, p. 49ff; *Sefer Hasichos 5751* vol. 2, p. 583; *Sichas Shabbos Parshas Naso 5726* (published in part in *Likkutei Sichos*, vol. 8, *ibid.*, along with other sources.

Krias Hatorah: The first *aliyah* ends with the twenty-eighth verse in the fourth *perek*, “*Zos avodas...hagershoni... Aharon hakohen.*” The second *aliyah* ends with the forty-ninth verse, “*Al pi Hashem...es Moshe.*”

Today’s portion of Chumash (the seventh *aliyah*) begins with the verse, “*B’yom ashtei-asar yom, nasi livnei Asher...*”¹¹⁶

THE SEVENTH DAY

“While we were out together for a walk,” the Frierdiker Rebbe relates,¹¹⁷ “my father told me: ‘Today (the twelfth of Sivan) is the seventh day from Shavuos.’ He proceeded to list all the superior qualities of *Hoshana Rabba*, which is the seventh day of Sukkos and those of *Shvi’i shel Pesach*, the seventh day of Pesach. He then explained the concept of the twelfth of Sivan, the seventh day from Shavuos.”¹¹⁸ In a *sichah* on the twelfth of Sivan, 5720, the Rebbe explains that this day has the quality of the “the seventh is beloved.” Since this is the culmination of the revelations associated with the festival of Shavuos, the light radiates with more intensity, with an even greater *shturem* than it shone on Shavuos itself, because it possesses the superiority of *or chozer* (light that rebounds [with added strength]).

Av harachamim and *Tzidkas’cha tzedek* are not recited this Shabbos.

Pirkei Avos is recited after Minchah. This week the first chapter is read.¹¹⁹

A surprise *farbrenge* was held on this day in 5751—it was Shabbos, 12 Sivan at the time of *shalosh seudos*, just before *shkiah*, and was followed by the distribution of *kos shel brachah* on *motzoei Shabbos*. For details on the Rebbe’s talk and what occurred then, see *Sefer Hasichos, Shabbos Parshas Naso* 5751, including the footnot

We wish our readers and the entire Crown Heights community, among the entire community of Anash worldwide, and all our fellow Jews, a gut Yom Tov, kabbolas hatorah b’simchah uv’pnimius, a healthy summer, and above all, the immediate revelation of the true and complete Redemption!

116) See *Sichas Yom Beis D’chag Hashavuos* 5746. See also Hebrew footnote for more sources, which include a conflicting opinion.

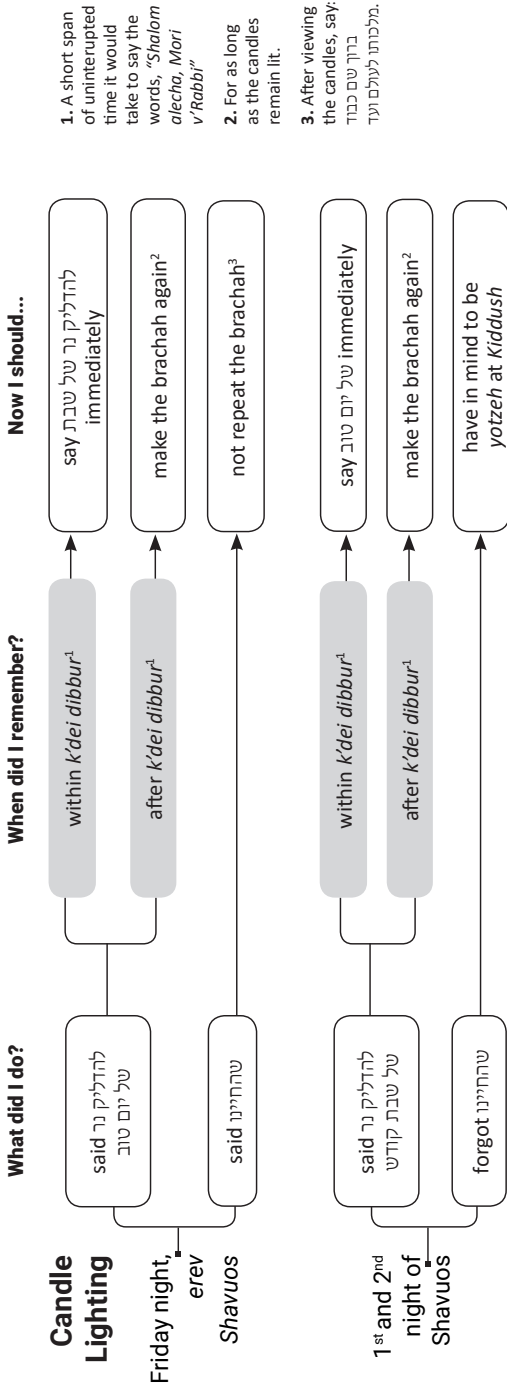
117) *Sefer Hasichos* 5704, p. 143

118) See *ibid.* for an explanation of the superiority of 13 Sivan, as is also explained in the *sichah* of 12 Sivan, 5720 that is mentioned.

119) See *Sichas Shabbos Parashas Naso* 5751.

“Oops! I made a mistake...”

Rosh Chodesh Sivan - Motzoei Shavuos 5782



Kiddush

Friday night,
erev
Shavuot

recited *Kiddush*
for Yom Tov

before saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

go back to the words
אשר קדשנו

after saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

repeat the brachah correctly⁴

recited *Kiddush*
for Shabbos

before saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

go back to the words
אשר בחר בנו

after saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

repeat the brachah correctly

mentioned
Shabbos additions

before saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

go back to the words
אשר בחר בנו

after saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

conclude ⁵מקדש ישראל והזמנים

forgot to say
¹⁵שהחיינו

anytime during Yom Tov

say it now

said ¹⁶שהחיינו
at
candle lighting
& again now

after saying Hashem's
name in the brachah

conclude the brachah now
בורא פרי הגפן

after concluding the brachah

repeat the brachah of
בורא פרי הגפן

4. and repeat
פרי הגפן בורא.

5. if you
concluded with
מקדש השבת

וישראל והזמנים
within *k'dei
dibbur*, say the
correct version
immediately. If
k'dei dibbur has
passed, repeat
the brachah
correctly.

What did I do?

When did I remember?

Now I should...

Kiddush

motzoei
Shabos,
1st night of
Shavuos

forgot to make
Havdalah

said
המבדיל בין קדש לחול

after drinking the *Kiddush* wine⁶

after washing hands for *hamotzi*⁶

after saying *hamotzi*⁸

once I started the meal

on the first day of Yom Tov

on the second night of Yom Tov

after Yom Tov

within *k'dei dibbur*¹

after *k'dei dibbur*¹

pour another cup & say the brachah on the candle & *Havdalah*⁷

pour another cup & say the brachah on the candle & *Havdalah*⁷

taste a bit of bread, then pour another cup & say the brachah on the candle & *Havdalah*⁷

pour another cup & say the brachah on the candle & *Havdalah*⁷

make *Havdalah* as soon as I remember⁹

make *Havdalah* during *Kiddush*:
הגפן, מקדש ישראל והזמנים,⁹
המבדיל בין קודש לקודש, שהיהינו

do nothing; I'm *yotzeh* with *Havdalah* of *matzoei Yom Tov*⁹

immediately say
המבדיל בין קודש לקודש

be *yotzeh* with someone else's *Havdalah*¹⁰

6. If you also forgot *Amidah* now as well.

7. Do not say *Amidah* again unless you had specific intent not to drink extra wine during the meal.

8. or *mezonos* on cake.

9. Do not make a brachah on a candle.

10. If there is no other *Havdalah* to listen to, you should repeat *Havdalah*

correctly yourself and make *Amidah* again.

Birchas Hamazon

Rosh
Chodesh

forgot יעלה ויבוא

mentioned a
Yom Tov instead

before saying Hashem's
name in ובנה

after saying Hashem's
name in ובנה

after saying ברוך in the
brachah of הטוב והמטיב

before saying Hashem's
name in ובנה

after saying Hashem's
name in ובנה

after saying ברוך in the
brachah of הטוב והמטיב

say יעלה ויבוא now

conclude the brachah &
then say the brachah of
שנתן ראשי חדשים¹¹

After shki'ah:
conclude the brachah; I don't
say שנתן ראשי חדשים¹²

not repeat *bentching*¹²

interrupt & go back to רחם

conclude the brachah &
then say the brachah of
שנתן ראשי חדשים¹¹

After shki'ah:
conclude the brachah; I don't
say שנתן ראשי חדשים¹²

not repeat *bentching*¹²

11. as stated in
the siddur (for
Rosh Chodesh):
ברוך אתה ה' אלוהינו
מלך העולם אשר
שנתן ראשי חדשים
לעמו ישראל לזכרון
(without the
conclusion).

12. If you did not
realize that you
are not meant to
repeat *bentching*
and you started
saying it again,
stop wherever
you are currently
holding—even
in middle of
a brachah.

What did I do?

Birchas Hamazon

Rosh

Chodesh

ותחזינה עינינו
יעלה ויבא יענה
(as in davening)

When did I remember?

before saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

after saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

after concluding
המחזיר שכינתו לציון

Now I should...

start ובנה ירושלים now
& continue as usual

למדני חקיך: יא.
ובנה ירושלים¹³
then start

return to רחם

13. If you concluded the brachah with ברחמינו בונה אתה ה' אתה ה' אלוקינו מלך העולם שנתן שבתות למנוחה לעמו ישראל באהבה לאות ולברית מקדש השבת

14. as stated in the siddur: ברוך אתה ה' אלוקינו מלך העולם שנתן שבתות למנוחה לעמו ישראל באהבה לאות ולברית מקדש השבת

Shabbos רצה
forgot

before saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

after saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

after saying ברוך at the beginning
of the brachah הטוב והמטיב

return to רצה

conclude the brachah &
then say the brachah of
שנתן שבתות¹⁴

After shki'ah:
conclude the brachah; I don't
say שנתן שבתות¹²

repeat *bentching*
after *Seudah Shlishis*:
not repeat bentching¹²

What did I do?

When did I remember?

Now I should...

Birchas Hamazon

Yom Tov

ותחזינה עינינו
יעלה ירבה
(as in davening)

before saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

after saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

after concluding
המחזיר שכינתו לציון

start ובנה ירושלים
& continue as usual

say: למדני חקין;
then start ¹³ובנה ירושלים

start
רחם

17. if you remember before saying Hashem's name in הטוב המברך or שמך את עמו ישראל

למדני חקין, בשלום למודין and then return to Retzei.

18. assuming you would continue

taking steps

back to conclude the *tefillah*, and

do not intend to include any personal requests or supplications.

19. You must first wait *k'dei hilulach* (the *daled amos* (the time it takes to walk six feet)

before restarting the *Amidah*.

Me'ein Shalosh

Rosh Chodesh

forgot to say
זכרנו לטובה ביום
ראש החדש הזה

before saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

after saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

return to say לטובה
& conclude as usual.

do nothing; I am *yotzeh*

Shavuot

forgot to say
זכרנו לטובה ביום
חג השבועות הזה

before saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

after saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

return to say לטובה
& conclude as usual.

do nothing; I am *yotzeh*

Amidah
Maariv
Shacharis
Minchah

Rosh
Chodesh

יעלה ויבא
forgot to say

before saying Hashem's
name at the end of the
המחזיר

יעלה ויבוא
interrupt & start

20. You are, however, still prohibited from work permitted on Yom Tov until you say: ברוך המבדיל בין קודש לקודש.

after מחזיר שכינתו לציון
but before מודים

say יעלה ויבוא now & then
continue with מודים
In Maariv: do not say it now or start over

before the second יהיו לרצון

say יעלה ויבוא now¹⁷
In Maariv: do not say it now or start over

21. Do so immediately upon remembering. It is not considered a *hefsek* between *Kiddush* and washing, or washing and *hamotzi*.

after the second¹⁸ יהיו לרצון

start the *Amidah* again¹⁹
In Maariv: do not say it now or start over

remembering. It is not considered a *hefsek* between *Kiddush* and washing, or washing and *hamotzi*.

after already reciting Musaf (if for Shacharis)

do nothing, I am *yotzeh*

before saying Hashem's name at the end of the brachah

say ותודיענו now

22. Even once you've started the next word but did not finish it ("choi—" or "choin—"?) you may switch to the Yom Tov davening. However, if you are not

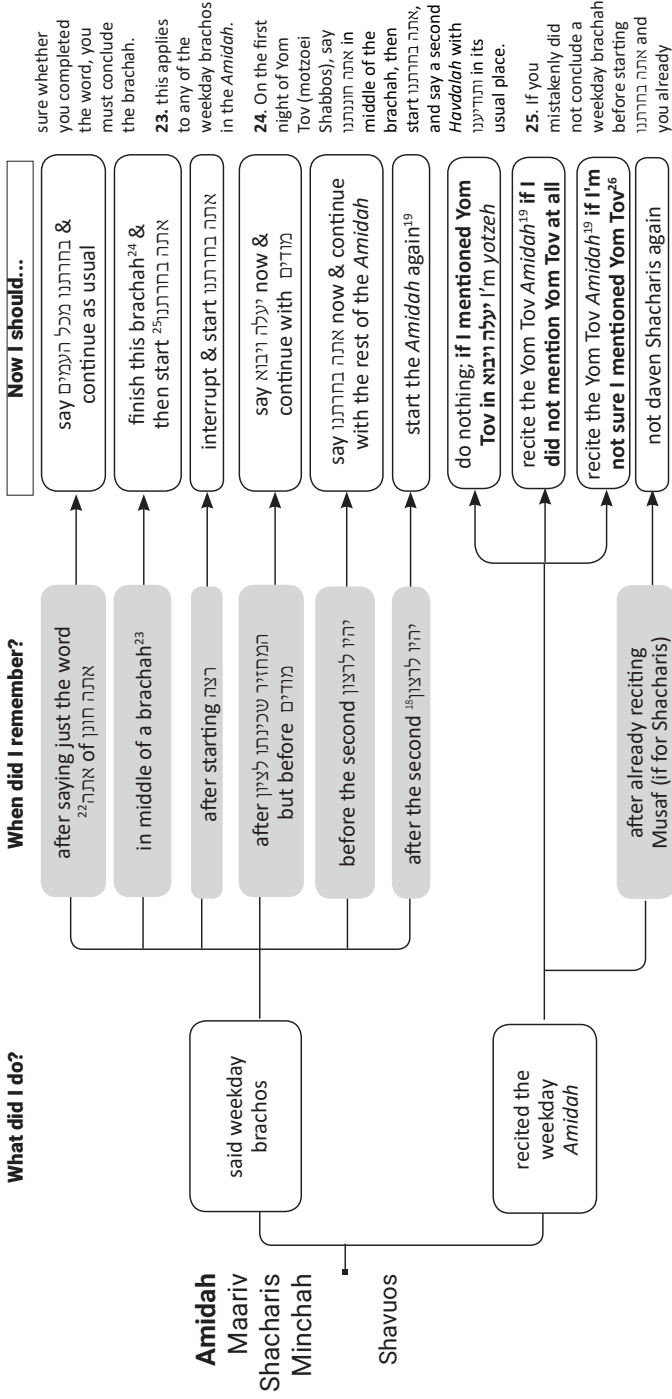
Maariv
1st night of
Shavuot
(*motzoei*
Shabbos)

forgot to say
ותודיענו

after saying Hashem's name at the end of the brachah

not say it again²⁰

daven again if I ate by mistake before *Havdalah* at *Kiddush*²¹
not daven again even if I did *melachah* by mistake before *Havdalah* at *Kiddush*²⁰



sure whether you completed the word, you must conclude the brachah.

23. this applies to any of the weekday brachos in the Amidah.

24. On the first night of Yom Tov (motzoei Shabbos), say אתה חוננתנו in middle of the brachah, then start בחרתנו, and say a second Havdalah with ותדעינו in its usual place.

25. If you mistakenly did not conclude a weekday brachah before starting בחרתנו you already

Amidah
 Maariv
 Shacharis
 Minchah
 Shavuos

recited the
 Shabbos
Amidah

in middle of the brachah
 for Shabbos

interrupt & start
 בחרתנו אתה

after completing the
 brachah for Shabbos

say
 אתה בחרתנו again

after the second יהיו לרצון¹⁸

start the *Amidah*¹⁹ again²⁷

mentioned
 Shabbos
 additions

before saying Hashem's name
 at the end of the brachah

interrupt & start
 אתה בחרתנו now

after saying Hashem's name
 at the end of the brachah

say למדני חקיך then
 start
 אתה בחרתנו

after concluding the brachah

do nothing; I'm *yotzeh*²⁸

concluded the
 brachah of
 והמנים ישראל-
 נקדט, you
 cannot go back
 and conclude
 that brachah.

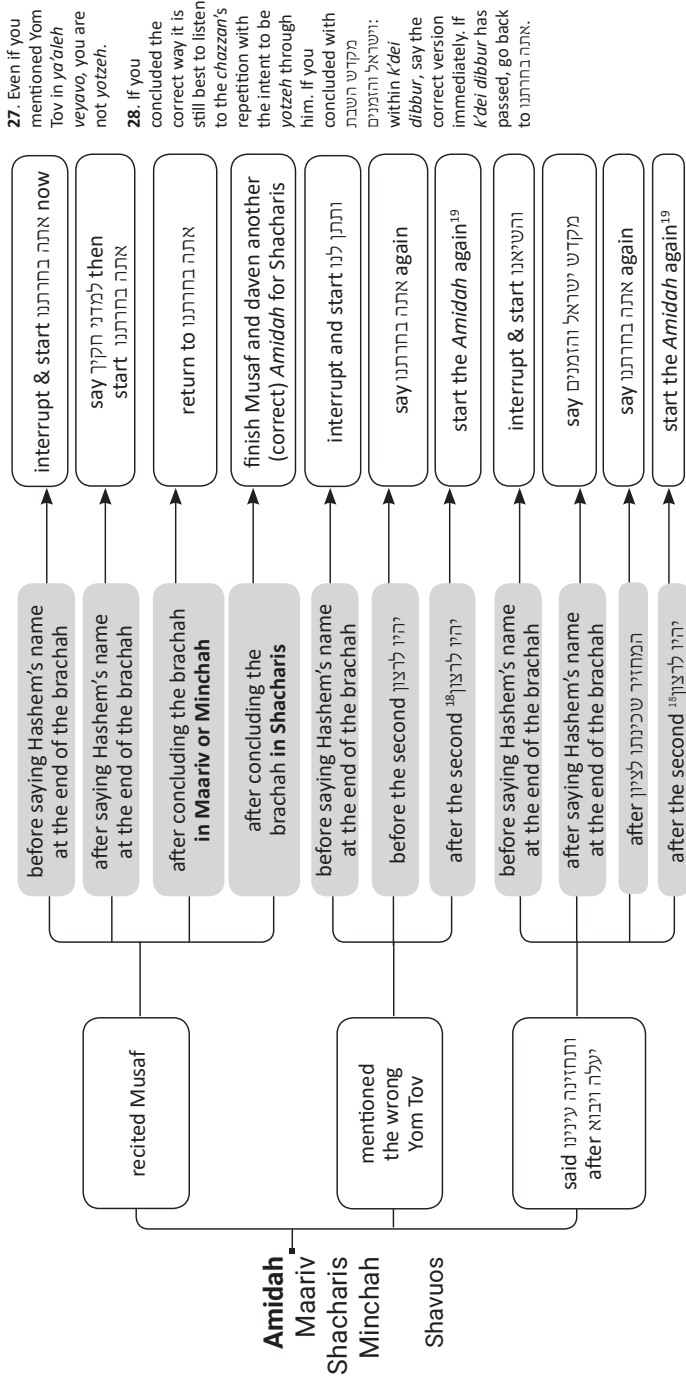
26. If you're
 unsure if you
 davened for
 weekday or Yom
 Tov, the halachah
 is inconclusive
 whether you
 should repeat
 the *Amidah*.
 Instead, listen
 to the *chazzan's*
 repetition
 with the intent
 to be *yotzeh*
 through him.

interrupt & start
 אתה בחרתנו now
 say למדני חקיך then
 start
 אתה בחרתנו
 do nothing; I'm *yotzeh*²⁸

What did I do?

When did I remember?

Now I should...



Amidah

Maariv

Shacharis

Minchah

Shavuot

can't remember
if said והשיאנו
or skipped to ותחזיקה²⁹

before the second
יהיו לרצון

return to אתה בחרתנו &
continue as usual

said ובנה ירושלים
after ועלה יבוא

after the second¹⁸
יהיו לרצון¹⁹

start the *Amidah* again¹⁹

before saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

interrupt & start
הרשיאנו

after saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

conclude the brachah with the
Yom Tov ending:
מקדש ישראל והזמנים

after concluding בונה ברחמי

return to אתה בחרתנו &
continue as usual

after the second¹⁸
יהיו לרצון¹⁹

start the *Amidah* again¹⁹

did not say
the *pessukim*
of Musaf³⁰

before saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

go to the beginning of the
section & say it correctly

after saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

not say it now or start over

before saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

go to the beginning of the
section & say it correctly

after saying Hashem's name
at the end of the brachah

say יהוה אתה בחרתנו &
continue as usual

after the second¹⁸
יהיו לרצון¹⁹

start the *Amidah* again¹⁹

Amidah

Musaf

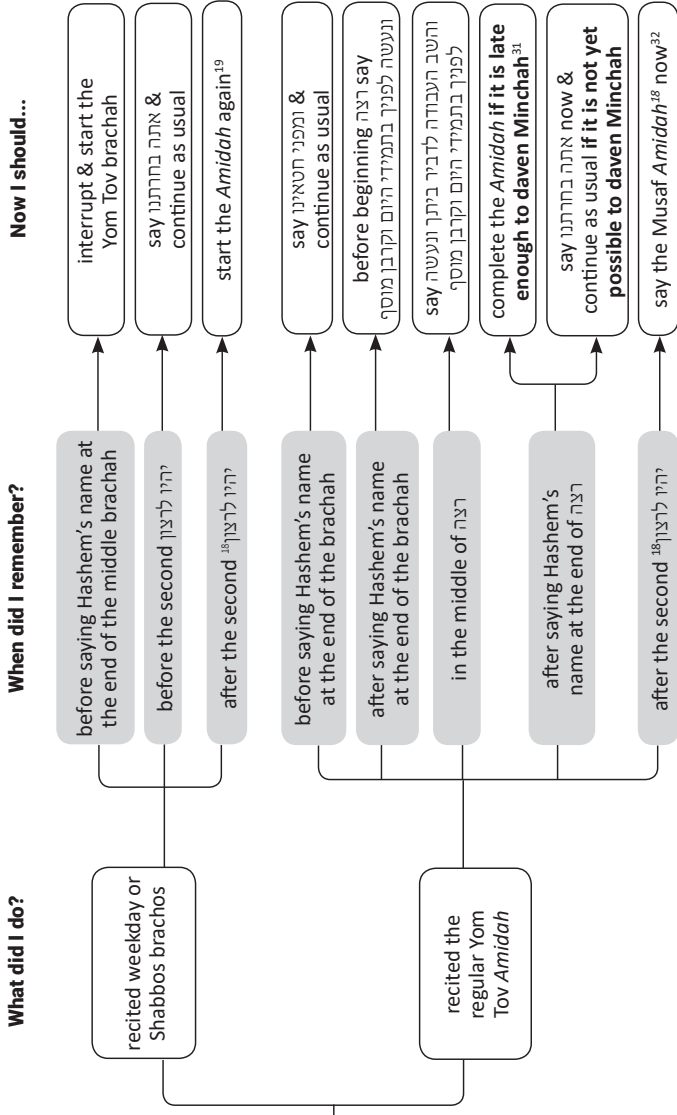
Shavuot

said the *pessukim*
for the wrong
Yom Tov

29. If you
are davening
by heart.

30. This rule also
applies if you
said ושעיר לכפר
instead of ושני
לכפר
שעירים לכפר.

Amidah Musaf Shavuos



31. This *tefillah* will then be considered *Minchah*; then go back and daven *Musaf*. (You may daven *Musaf* at any time throughout the day.)

32. If it is already possible to daven *Minchah*, it will be considered as such.

33. This *tefillah*

will then be considered Minchah; then go back and daven Musaf

34. If it is already possible to daven

Minchah, it will be considered as such.

