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Subject: Passover Begins Monday
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Dear Friends,

Passover begins Monday evening **April 10** and continues through nightfall on **April 18**.

For more information and detailed laws, customs and everything you want to know about Passover, please visit

www.passover.org

Please make every effort to attend a Seder on Monday night and Tuesday night. You can find a Seder near you in any city in the world that has a Jewish community by visiting www.passover.org . If you are having trouble finding a Seder, please email me at mmk@aleph.institute and I will try to assist you.

The Day Before the First Seder

Jews are not permitted to own any leaven during the Passover holiday, Jews traditionally enter into contracts to sell their leavened products and related utensils (kitchen supplies, etc.) before the holiday.

An agent or proxy may be appointed to sell one's leaven on one's behalf. To sell your leavened products, please click on the following link or copy and paste the link into your browser :

https://www.mychabad.org/holidays/passover/sell_chometz.asp?aid=111191&jewish=Sell-Your-Chametz-Online.htm&site=chabad.org

On Sunday night, April 9, Jews conduct a "search" for leaven in their dwellings. All rooms, drawers and shelves must be searched, to insure that no leaven remains in possession (food or utensils that are sold may remain in one's possession but should be covered or locked away). Traditionally, ten small pieces of bread are first placed around the home before the search, to insure that some leaven is found. The search is traditionally conducted using a single candle (to light the way), a feather (to sweep up all leaven), a wooden spoon and a bag (to hold the ten pieces and other leavened products found in the search. The ten pieces of bread and any other leaven found that evening (and the tools used in the search) are traditionally burnt the following morning (**Monday, April 10**). Jews are allowed to eat bread and leavened foods until Monday morning before around 10:00 a.m.. All bread and leavened foods remaining that have not been sold should be burnt before 11:00 a.m.

A Few Important Passover Laws

There is Biblical prohibition to eat, possess or own any leavened foods during the entire eight-day holiday, which include bread, pasta, cake ect or anything that has any type of grain in it's ingredients whatsoever. Jewish law requires observant Jews to eat only specially-prepared foods during Passover that are clearly labeled "Kosher for Passover."

Jewish women and girls (men are required to light candles when there is no woman in the household) should light holiday candles to usher in the holiday on Monday night April 10 and Tuesday night April 11. Candles should be lit before sundown on April 10 and after dark on April 11 (about one hour after sundown and not before) . The candles can only be lit from a preexisting flame on ther second night or if lighting after sundown on the first night. If you do not have a pre existing flame, you may ask a non Jew to light a fire for you. It is forbidden for a Jew to strike a match, turn on a gas stove or use a lighter during the holiday.

The following two blessings should be recited before lighting the candles on Monday night and Tuesday night :

1) *Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-hei-nu me-lech ha-olam asher ki-deshanu be-mitzvo-tav ve-tzvi-vanu le-hadlik ner shel Yom Tov .*

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and has commanded us to light the candle of the Holiday.

2) *Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-hei-nu me-lech ha-olam she-heche-ya-nu ve-ki-yi-ma-nu ve-higi-a-nu liz-man ha-zeh*

Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion.

For more information about Shabbat candle lighting for women and girls every Friday evening, Please visit

http://www.chabad.org/generic_cdo/aid/323422/jewish/Candle-Lighting.htm

WWW.FRIDAYLIGHT.ORG

There is Biblical obligation to eat Matzo and recite the Haggadah on the first night of the holiday.

There is an obligation to participate in two Seders on Monday night, April 10 and Tuesday night April 11 (which should begin *no earlier* than forty minutes after sunset. Holding a Seder service earlier than that time or on another day does not fulfill the Biblical and Rabbinic obligations. The Seder meal includes ritual events that require participants to recount the story of the Exodus from the Haggadah, drink four cups of Kosher for Passover wine or grape juice, eat Matzo and Marror (bitter herbs), and eat a festive meal.

P. S. Check out www.jewish.tv www.theyeshiva.net www.torahcafe.com

Wishing you a Kosher and Happy Passover

Rabbi Menachem M. Katz

The Aleph Institute



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