

פסחים קט

The פסח סדר should be started as soon as possible in order to keep the children awake and interested (it is for this reason that the סדר plate is removed at the beginning of the סדר). However, the סדר may not start until after dark. There is an ענין of חטופין (grabbing) by the סדר. This can mean grabbing away the סדר plate (as was stated), or according to the רשב"ם, this means the מצה should be “stolen” and hidden (this is the מקור of stealing the אפיקומן).

A person is required to be משמח with his family on יום טוב. Part of this שמחה entails eating meat and drinking wine. Although the main מצוה of eating meat on יום טוב was meat from בשר שלמים, it is still a מצוה בזמן הזה.

When a person goes to the מקוה they must make sure there are no intervening substances on their body (today this applies to women, and perhaps men on יום כיפור). A small חציצה that people in general are not particular about is not considered a חציצה. Something that people are particular about, even if the person who has this חציצה is not particular about it, is nonetheless considered a חציצה. Something that covers over half of the body, even if people are not particular, is also considered a חציצה. The רמ"א notes that לכתחילה, one should not go into the מקוה with any intervening substance because perhaps that will lead to going to the מקוה with a real חציצה.

When going to the מקוה one must make sure their entire body is

immersed in the water at once. One should not close his eyes too tight, or hold their nose etc.

The ליל סדר (and, the רמ"א adds the second night in חוץ לארץ) is called ליל שימורים, a night when we are guarded from מזיקין. Therefore, only the first פרשה of שמע is said before going to sleep, and people are נוהג not to lock their doors.