

Chosson Teacher Training

Laws of Harchakos

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Introduction to Harchakos

Fundamental Categories

Min haTorah

- Physical intimacy is forbidden
- Any affectionate touch is forbidden

Miderabanan

- The chachamim established additional restrictions for the couple during time of nida



Introduction to Harchakos

Reason

Yichud with a nida

Yichud with one's wife during nida is permitted because...

He was intimate with her previously

Her nida prohibition is temporary

Therefore, if she became nida before they were ever intimate — e.g. chupas nida — yichud is forbidden

Introduction to Harchakos

Reason

| Another woman | | His wife during nida | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Yichud is forbidden | Harchakos don't apply | Yichud is permitted | Harchakos apply |

Since the couple may be secluded during nida time, the chachamim saw a need for more restrictions than what applies by other forbidden relatives.

Introduction to Harchakos

Frequency of Application

Harchakos govern all areas of day-to-day conduct.
During nida time, they come up at every step.

Study them thoroughly

Review before wedding

Review after wedding

Review after extended period of non-nida time



Introduction to Harchakos

Importance of Keeping Meticulously



Harchakos are meant to save us from stumbling, G-d forbid.

We must keep every detail and not treat any aspect lightly – even if it appears to us insignificant



Couples who weren't careful with harchakos ultimately stumbled

Embarrassment in front of others is not grounds for leniency

Introduction to Harchakos

Love and Respect

Even during time of harchakos,
the couple should display
love and respect to each other
in permissible manners.

Introduction to Harchakos

Stringencies

By the laws of harchakos, we generally try to act stringently!



Most laws apply equally to husband and wife

Whenever there are differences – we will note this clearly

Introduction to Harchakos

Benefits of Harchakos

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תניא היה ר"מ אומר מפני מה אמרה תורה נדה לשבעה מפני שרגיל בה וקץ בה אמרה תורה תהא טמאה שבעה ימים כדי שתהא חביבה על בעלה כשעת בניסתה לחופה שאלו תלמידיו את רבי הוסיף ברבי ינאי מפני מה איש

It is **because** if it would be permitted all the time, her husband would be too **accustomed to her, and** would eventually be **repulsed by her**. Therefore, **the Torah says** that a nida **shall be ritually impure** for **seven days**, during which she is prohibited to her husband, **so that** when she becomes pure again **she will be dear to her husband as at the time when she entered the wedding canopy** with him.

Nida, 31b

It is taught in a *beraisa* that **Rabbi Meir would say: For what reason does the Torah say** that a **nida** is prohibited from physical intimacy with her husband **for seven days?**



Section 1

Touching and Passing



Touching and Passing

Direct and Indirect Touch

Forbidden:

Direct touch

Indirect touch by
means of object

Touching
an item
the other
is holding

Touching the other's
clothing

Both of their clothing
touching

Touching and Passing

Holding Something Together

They may not pull or push
an item together



They are permitted to both touch the same item
if neither one is holding or moving it

Touching and Passing

Passing or Throwing

They may not pass or throw an item to each other

One spouse may not place an item into a bag the other is holding

The permitted way is if one puts it down and then the other picks it up

Touching and Passing

Other Forms of Touch

One may not blow off dirt from the spouse's clothing

He may not warm his hands by a flame she is holding
He may not smell perfume found on her or her clothing



He is permitted to look at his fingernails to the light
of havdala candle she is holding

Perfume and Makeup

Perfume



Minimize as much
as possible

Makeup



Proper to not
overdo