

בית הוראה דיעטראיט  
**BAIS HORAAH OF DETROIT**  
HALACHA HOTLINE

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF HaRav Shmuel Irons שליט"א VAAD HALACHA Rav Aharon Yoel Sorscher • Rav Yissachar Wolf • Rav Boruch Miller

KITCHEN • SHABBOS • YOM TOV • BRACHOS • AVEILUS • TAHARAS HAMISHPACHA • EVERYDAY SHAILOS

## ISSUE #14 – PURIM FAQs

### Commonly Received Questions and their Answers

Below are some common questions and answers based on psakim from the rabbonim of the Bais Horaah. Please note: in the event one believes they have heard a different opinion in the past, one's family posek should always be consulted. Mareh mekomos for any specific answers below are available by email request to [ask@bhdetroit.org](mailto:ask@bhdetroit.org).

#### • What are the reasons given for the mitzvah of Mishloach Manos?

- There are two well-known explanations for the mitzvah of Mishloach Manos. In practice, we try to satisfy both reasons.
  1. Haman's accusations against Klal Yisroel were based in part on the idea that we are a splintered nation of individuals who do not care for one another. The act of giving Mishloach Manos is intended to promote peace and friendship among Jews, thereby refuting Haman's contention.
  2. To ensure that all of Klal Yisroel will have food for the Purim Seudah. In order not to embarrass those who are needy, we give Mishloach Manos to the poor and rich alike.

#### • What are the minimum requirements for Mishloach Manos?

- One must give a minimum of two different food items to at least one person. See below for which foods qualify.

#### • If I leave Mishloach Manos on someone's porch, am I yotzai?

- Yes. If the following 3 conditions are met, you are yotzai: (a) the recipient will return home before the end of Purim, (b) the Mishloach Manos was left in a safe place, and (c) the package is labeled indicating who sent it

#### • Are women obligated in the mitzvah of Mishloach Manos?

- Yes. Women are obligated in Mishloach Manos. A married woman can be yotzai if her husband gives at least two Mishloach Manos on behalf of the family. However, it is praiseworthy for her to give at least one Mishloach Manos to another woman on her own behalf.

#### • Is there a mitzvah of Chinuch for Mishloach Manos?

- Yes. A child who is mature enough to understand the mitzvah of Mishloach Manos, should be encouraged to give at least one Mishloach Manos.

#### • When should Mishloach Manos be given?

- Mishloach Manos may only be given on Purim during the daytime, not during the night prior or the night following.
- Mishloach Manos should preferably not be performed until after Megilla reading since one should have the mitzvah of Mishloach Manos in mind during the bracha of shehecheyanu at the morning Megilla reading.

#### • May one eat or do other activities before giving Mishloach Manos?

- It is proper to give at least one Mishloach Manos right after megilah reading and before engaging in other activities.

#### • Should Mishloach Manos be sent with a shaliach?

- It is proper to send at least one Mishloach Manos with a shaliach. A child is an acceptable shaliach for Mishloach Manos as long as an adult sees, or otherwise confirms the delivery.

#### • Can I fulfill my obligation by ordering delivery of two food items from Amazon to someone's door?

- This does not fulfill the obligation for several different reasons. See the next question for an acceptable method of ordering delivery for Mishloach Manos.

#### • Am I yotzai if I order a Mishloach Manos package from a frum store to be delivered on Purim?

- For this to be valid as Mishloach Manos, a frum employee (not the owner of the store) would have to acquire the package on behalf of the sender, (e.g. by raising it up 12 inches for the sender) and arrange delivery on Purim day.

#### • Can I be yotzai by giving Mishloach Manos to someone with whom I am not friends?

- Yes. In fact, this fulfills one of the primary purposes of Mishloach Manos which is to promote peace and brotherhood among Klal Yisroel. It is proper to give Mishloach Manos to people that you are not friendly with, and especially to someone with whom you are at odds.

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● **Can multiple people chip in for a single Mishloach Manos package?**

- This is acceptable provided the following conditions are met:
  - The package contains two acceptable items per sender.
  - A list of the senders' names is included.
  - The package is delivered on Purim day.
  - A valid kinyan of the food items is made on behalf of all senders.

● **May an avel give or receive Mishloach Manos?**

- During the 12 months of aveilus for a parent (or the first 30 days from the start of shiva for a spouse, sibling or child), an avel should give a single, plain (i.e. not fancy) Mishloach Manos to one person.
- An avel should not receive any Mishloach Manos unless he is the only other possible recipient in town.
- The family of an avel can give and receive Mishloach Manos.
- If one's Rav, Rebbe, or Morah etc. is in aveilus, the proper procedure is to give a simple Mishloach Manos and enclose a monetary gift for hakaras hatov. This is permitted because the Mishloach Manos is then viewed as a medium for delivering the payment.

● **How different must the two foods be?**

- The foods simply need to have different tastes. They do not need to be different brachos. For example, a chocolate danish and a cinnamon danish would qualify as two different foods.

● **Do drinks qualify?**

- Yes, drinks qualify. However, unflavored seltzer or bottled water are not sufficient. All other drinks are acceptable.

● **How much food must be given?**

- Each item must be equivalent to the amount of that particular food that you would serve to a guest during a meal.

● **Do instant soups or instant coffee qualify?**

- These items would not qualify as one of the two foods for several reasons, primarily because they are not ready to be eaten without preparation.

● **Do dips qualify?**

- A small amount of dip would not qualify. However, a significant amount e.g. a medium size jar of jam or chummus would qualify.

● **Does a multi-part food such as a meat knish qualify as two minim (types of food)?**

- A meat knish would only be considered one min. Even though dough and meat have different tastes, when combined into a knish, the entire item is considered as only one min.

● **Can multiple ingredients in a salad qualify as two minim?**

- If the salad is already mixed together, it only counts as one min. However, if the components of the salad are given separately, and each one is independently a serving size, it counts as two minim.

● **Am I yotzai by giving to someone who will not eat my food due to Cholov Yisroel or Yoshon?**

- It is questionable if you are yotzai. In this scenario it would be best to give at least one Mishloach Manos to someone who is able to eat the food given.

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