



סדר כפרות KAPAROT



KAPAROT is a custom that dates back to the time of the Gaonim. Traditionally, one uses a chicken - rooster for a male, hen for a female, one of each for a pregnant woman. Through the years, there were problems with improper attention paid to the slaughter of the chickens due to the large demand for slaughter on Erev YK. Since Kaparot chickens were to be prepared and given to poor people, there developed - in some communities - the practice of using money instead, which is given to TZ'DAKA, thereby seeing to the needs of the poor and alleviating the abovementioned problems.

KAPAROT is often misunderstood. It is NOT a shortcut to atonement. For real atonement, we must approach HaShem with sincere repentance, mitzvot and good deeds, prayer and fasting. KAPAROT is a sobering reminder of the frailty of life, an inspiration to T'SHUVA, AND a way of involving us in G'MILUT CHASADIM before YK.

Ideally, "do" Kaparot on Erev Yom Kippur in the morning. The text on this page is meant for those who use money for tzedaka rather than chickens. Those who use chickens (or fish) can find the standard text in a Machzor or Siddur.

Many people use a multiple of CHAI, such as 1.80, 3.60, 5.40... 18.00₪, etc. (each family member should do kaparot.) Some suggest that the amount taken for KAPAROT (by adults) should at least be the cost of a chicken (30ish₪). The money should ideally be given to TZ'DAKA before Yom Kippur. Shuls provide collection plates at Mincha on Erev Yom Kippur for that purpose.

Hold the money in your right hand and say the following passage 3 times:

בְּנֵי אָדָם,	
יוֹשְׁבֵי חֶשֶׁךְ וְצִלְמוֹת אֲסִירֵי עֲנִי וּבְרָזָל:	תהלים קיז
יוֹצִיאֵם מִחֶשֶׁךְ וְצִלְמוֹת וּמוֹסְרוֹתֵיהֶם יִנְתֵּק:	תהלים קיז
אֲוִלִים מִדֶּרֶךְ פֶּשַׁע וּמַעֲוֹנוֹתֵיהֶם יִתְּעֲנוּ: כָּל אֶחָד תִּתְּעַב נַפְשָׁם וַיִּגְּעוּ עַד	
שַׁעֲרֵי מָוֶת: וַיִּזְעַקוּ אֶל ה' בְּצָר לָהֶם מִמִּצְקוֹתֵיהֶם יוֹשִׁיעֵם: יִשְׁלַח דְּבָרוֹ	תהלים קז יו-כא
וַיִּרְפָּאֵם וַיַּמְלֵט מִשְׁחִיתוֹתָם: יוֹדוּ לֵה' חֲסִדוֹ וְנִפְלְאוֹתָיו לְבְנֵי אָדָם:	
אִם יֵשׁ עָלָיו מִלֶּאךָ מְלִיץ אֶחָד מִנִּי אֶלֶף לְהַגִּיד לְאָדָם יִשְׂרָאֵל:	איוב לג כג-כד
וַיַּחֲנֲנוּ וַיֹּאמְרוּ פְדֵהוּ מִרְדֵּת שְׁחַת מִצְּאֵתִי כִפֹּר:	

Next, wave your hand with the money in a circles over your head while saying the first 3 word-pairs below, then finish the statement. Repeat a second and third time.

זֶה חֲלִיפָתִי, זֶה תְּמוּרָתִי, זֶה כִּפְּרָתִי, זֶה הַכֶּסֶף יֵלֶךְ לְצַדָּקָה,
וְאֲנִי אֶכְנֵס וְאֵלֶךְ לְחַיִּים טוֹבִים וּלְשָׁלוֹם.