MOTZI MATZA: BLESS ON/EAT MATZA

MATZA: WHY

Matza: Meaning

Matza represents:

- Food of poor people, and
- The unleavened bread that the Israelites ate when leaving Egypt.

NOTE A pun reflects this dual meaning of poor bread plus the story of leaving Egypt, since "<u>lechem oni</u>" may mean "bread of poor people" or "bread of (many) answers."

MATZA: WHAT KIND

When Shmura Matza Is Necessary

The only time you must use <u>shmura matza</u> is for the four commandments of <u>motzi</u>, <u>matza</u>, <u>koreich</u>, and afikoman.

NOTE You may use any other *kosher* for *Passover matza*, even for the rest of *seder*. There is no need for using *shmura matza* for the other days of *Passover*.

Hand Shmura Matza or Machine Shmura Matza

Hand <u>shmura matza</u> has some advantage in that it was made with the intention of being for a <u>mitzva</u>, but machine <u>shmura matza</u> has the advantage of being less likely to become <u>chametz</u> since it is automated and not touched by human hands.

MATZA: HOW MUCH

How Much Matza To Eat

Motzi, Matza

For <u>motzi</u> and <u>matza</u> together, you must eat at least 1.9 fl. oz. (56 ml) of <u>matza</u> within a 4-minute period from when you begin eating.

Afikoman

For <u>afikoman</u>, you must eat another 1.9 fl. oz of <u>matza</u>; <u>b'di'ayad</u>, at least 1.3 fl. oz. (39 ml, or 1/6 cup) is sufficient.

NOTE This amount is about 1/2 of a machine shmura matza, or 1/3 of a hand shmura matza.

NOTE If your mouth is too dry to eat that quickly, you may drink water with the *matza*.

MOTZI/MATZA: BLESSINGS

Why Two Blessings over Matza

We say two blessings over the matza: ha'motzi lechem min ha'aretz and al achilat matza.

REASON The blessing on *motzi* is one of enjoyment (*nehenin*); the blessing on *matza* is a blessing on a commandment (*mitzva*).

How To Do Motzi and Matza

The <u>seder</u> leader says the blessing "<u>ha'motzi</u>" while holding the three (which are now 2 1/2) <u>shmura</u> matzas, drops the bottom one, and says the next blessing, <u>al achilat matza</u>. Everyone takes a small piece from the two top matzas and eats it, along with enough additional <u>shmura matza</u> to fulfill the minimum requirement.

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