CHOL HAMOED

INTRODUCTION TO CHOL HAMOED

Introduction to Chol HaMoed

The intermediate days of *Passover* and *Sukkot* (between the first and last days, which are festival days) are called "*chol ha'moed*." *Passover* has four *chol ha'moed* days outside of *Eretz Yisrael* and five days in *Eretz Yisrael*. *Sukkot* has five *chol ha'moed* days outside of Israel and six inside *Eretz Yisrael*.
The restrictions that apply to the *Jewish festival* days generally do not apply to the *chol ha'moed* days (see below for exceptions).

CHOL HAMOED: EXPERT WORK

Chol HaMoed: No Expert Work

You may not do "expert" or "professional" work of certain types on *chol ha'moed*, and some types of expert craftsmen/women may not do their trades on *chol ha'moed*.

EXAMPLES

- You may sew or lay bricks or other such labors, but not if you are an expert or professional in those fields and you are doing expert work.
- Skilled writers and artists may not do their professional writing, calligraphy, or drawing (even for free!) on *chol ha'moed*. They may not do calligraphy or *sofer* work (*Torah*, *tefilin*, *mezuza*), but they may write normally.
- If you are not a professional writer or expert craftsman/artist, you may write on *chol ha'moed* but the preferred practice is to use a *shinu'i* --an altered method of writing, such as:
    - Using your other hand,
    - Holding the pen/pencil differently from normal, or
    - Writing diagonally across the paper.

CHOL HAMOED: SHAVING AND HAIR CUTS

Shaving/Hair Cuts and Jewish Festivals

You should not shave or cut your hair on *chol ha'moed*.

REASON *Chazal* made a *takana* so people would do those types of grooming before each holiday and not wait until *chol ha'moed*.

Chol HaMoed: Exceptions for Shaving

It is best not to shave during *chol ha'moed*. You MAY shave if:

- You normally shave every day, and
- You shaved before the *Jewish festival* began.

NOTE Even if you only shave 2 or 3 times per week instead of every day, it is still considered as if you shave regularly.

NOTE You may shave during *omer* if not shaving might cause you to lose your job or otherwise incur financial loss. A large financial loss is subjective to the individual's actual wealth and also to that person's perception of what is a large loss.

CHOL HAMOED: CUTTING NAILS

Chol HaMoed: Cutting Nails

You may not cut your nails (fingernails or toenails) during *chol ha'moed.*

EXCEPTION Women before going to *mikva* may cut their nails on *chol ha'moed*.

CHOL HAMOED: LAUNDRY

Laundry before Jewish Festivals

You should not do laundry on *chol ha'moed.*

REASON Due to a *takana* so people would do their laundry before each holiday and not wait until *chol ha'moed*.

NOTE If you had already done the laundry before the *Jewish festival* began and now no clean clothes remain:

- You may do laundry for babies and small children (3 years old or less) on *chol ha'moed.*
- You may not do laundry for adults.

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