JEWISH FESTIVAL: ONE DAY OR TWO

Jewish Festival: One Day or Two

Outside of *Eretz Yisrael*, *Jewish festivals* are observed for two days instead of one.

REASON In ancient Jerusalem, the *Sanhedrin* declared the new month based on testimony of at least two witnesses. Since Jews who lived far from Jerusalem did not find out when the *Jewish festivals* began until as much as two weeks after the fact, a two-day festival was declared and we continue to observe that two-day holiday outside of *Eretz Yisrael*.

SITUATION You are in *Eretz Yisrael* for any of the *Jewish festivals*. You want *melacha* done for you on the second day of the festival.

WHAT TO DO You may ask a resident of *Eretz Yisrael* to do *melacha* for you. (You may not ask a non-Jew to do *melacha* for you!)

REASON It is no longer a *Jewish festival* for him/her.

NOTE If you are outside of *Eretz Yisrael,* you may not ask a resident of *Eretz Yisrael* (who is visting you) to do *melacha* for you on the second day of the *Jewish festival,* even though he/she is no longer observing the festival.

REASON He/she may not do any *melacha d'oraita* even in private and not even for him/herself.

Jewish Festival: One Day in Eretz Yisrael

To keep one day only of a *Jewish festival* in *Eretz Yisrael,* you must live most of year in *Eretz Yisrael* and fulfill certain other requirements. Consult a *rabbi* for details.

Jewish Festival: One Day for a Year Plus in Eretz Yisrael

If you are living in *Eretz Yisrael* for one year and might stay longer, ask a *rabbi* if you must keep one or two days of the *Jewish festival.*

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