LULAV: HOLD, BLESS, SHAKE

Lulav: Hold, Bless, Shake

To fulfill the commandment of *lulav* and *etrog*, you must hold them together the way they grow: stems down. But since you fulfill the commandment as soon as you hold the *Four Species* together this way, you must first pick up the *etrog* inverted (stem up) and then say the blessing, as follows:

- Hold the *lulav* with the spine facing you and the myrtle on the right, willows on the left, and the *etrog* with the *pitom* (opposite the stem) down;
- Say the blessings for the *lulav;*
- Turn the *etrog* right side up (stem-side down) and hold the *lulav* and *etrog* together; and
- Shake the *Four Species* together.

NOTE Waving (or shaking) the *lulav* is a universally accepted custom with the force of *halacha*. We show that God is present in all directions by waving the *lulav* in the four compass directions, plus up and down. There are various customs of the sequence in which to wave the *lulav*. One common sequence is east; south; west; north; up; down. Wave the *Four Species* three times in each direction.

NOTE Although the *lulav's* spine should face you as you hold it, you have still fulfilled the requirement of *lulav* if the spine was facing away or if the willows and myrtles are on the incorrect sides of the *lulav*.

Lulav: Hallel at Home or in Synagogue

Ideally, take your *lulav* and *etrog* to *synagogue* and say *hallel* with the *minyan*. *B'di'avad*, it is OK to say *hallel* and the blessings and wave the *lulav* at home.

Lulav: How To Wave During Hallel

Wave the *lulav* in all six directions each time when saying *Hodu l'Adonai*… and, later, *Ana Adonai*… and again in the final *Hodu* in *Hallel*:

- Hold together the *lulav* and *etrog* during the entire procedure, *pitom* up, *etrog* in left hand.
- At each word in *Hodu l'Adonai*… and at each syllable in *Ana Adonai*, shake the *lulav/etrog* together three times, advancing through the sequence of east, south, west, north, up, down.

  For *Hodu l'Adonai*:

  - At *Hodu*, shake three times to the east;
  - At *l'Adonai*, don't shake but hold the *lulav* and *etrog* up while standing straight;
  - At *ki*, shake three times to the south, etc..

  For *Ana Adonai*,

  - At "A," shake three times to the east*;*
  - At "na, shake three times to the south;
  - At *Adonai*, stand straight and hold the *lulav* and *etrog* up*;*
  - At "ho," shake three times to the west;
  - At "shi," shake three times to the north, etc.

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