

KAPPAROT

סדר
כפרות
ORDER OF
KAPPAROT



Excerpt from
MACHZOR FOR YOM KIPPUR
WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATION
ANNOTATED EDITION
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by
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EREV YOM KIPPUR
KAPPAROT

It is the custom on Erev Yom Kippur to ritually slaughter a white rooster during the morning “watch” after Selichot,¹ for then a thread of divine grace prevails in the world. We slaughter it to subdue the supernal severities, and take out its blood to “sweeten” the severities. It is called Kapparah (expiation), as was the scapegoat.² Each member of the household should have a Kapparah—a rooster for each male and a hen for each female. A pregnant woman should have three fowls: a hen for herself, and a rooster and a hen for the unknown gender of the child.

The following two paragraphs (*Children* through *peace*) are recited three times. While saying each of the words marked * in the second paragraph, turn the chicken around your head (for a total of nine rotations).

בְּנֵי Children of man who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, bound in misery and chains of iron—He will bring them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and will sunder their bonds. Foolish sinners, afflicted because of their sinful ways and their wrongdoings; their soul loathes all food and they reach the gates of death—they cry out to the Lord in their distress; He saves them from their afflictions. He sends forth His word and heals them; He delivers them from their graves. Let them thank the Lord for His kindness, and [proclaim] His wonders to the children of man.³ If there be for a man [even] one interceding angel out of a thousand [accusers], to speak of his uprightness in his behalf, then He will be gracious to him and say: Redeem him from going down to the grave; I have found expiation [for him].⁴

Males continue:

זֶה *This is my exchange,
*this is my substitute, *this
is my expiation. This rooster
shall go to its death and I
shall proceed to a good, long
life and peace.

Females continue:

זֹאת *This is my exchange,
*this is my substitute, *this
is my expiation. This hen
shall go to its death and I
shall proceed to a good, long
life and peace.



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The following two paragraphs (בְּנֵי אָדָם through וְלָשׁוּם) are recited three times. While saying each of the words marked ° in the second paragraph, turn the chicken around your head (for a total of nine rotations).

בְּנֵי אָדָם, יֵשְׁבֵי חֹשֶׁךְ וְצַלְמוֹת, אֲסִירֵי עֵינַי וּבְרָזָל.
יֹוצִיאֵם מִחֹשֶׁךְ וְצַלְמוֹת, וּמוֹסְרוֹתֵיהֶם יִנְתֵּק.
אוֹלָיִם מִדְּרֹךְ פֶּשַׁעַם, וּמַעֲוֹנוֹתֵיהֶם יִתְעַנּוּ. כָּל אֲכָל
תִּתְעַב נַפְשָׁם, וַיִּגְעוּ עַד שַׁעֲרֵי מוֹת. וַיִּזְעֲקוּ אֶל יְיָ
בְצַר לָהֶם, מִמַּצְקוֹתֵיהֶם יוֹשִׁיעֵם. יִשְׁלַח דְּבָרוֹ
וַיִּרְפָּאֵם, וַיִּמְלֹט מִשְׁחִיתוֹתָם. יוֹדוּ לַיְיָ חַסְדּוֹ,
וְנִפְלְאוֹתָיו לְבְנֵי אָדָם. אִם יֵשׁ עָלָיו מִלְּאָךְ מִלִּיץ
אֶחָד מִנֵּי אֵלֶיךָ, לְהַגִּיד לְאָדָם יִשְׂרָאֵל. וַיִּחַנְּנוּ וַיִּיאָמְרוּ:
פְּדֵהוּ מִרְדַּת שַׁחַת, מִצְּאֵתִי כִפָּר:

Females continue:

זֹאת חֲלִיפָתִי, °זֹאת
תְּמוֹרָתִי, °זֹאת כְּפָרְתִי,
זֹאת הַתְּרַנְּגוּלַת תִּלְדִּי
לְמוֹתָהּ, וְאֲנִי אֵלֶיךָ לְחַיִּים
טוֹבִים אֲרוּכִים וְלָשׁוּם:

Males continue:

זֶה חֲלִיפָתִי, °זֶה
תְּמוֹרָתִי, °זֶה כְּפָרְתִי, זֶה
הַתְּרַנְּגוּל יִלְדֵךְ לְמוֹתָהּ,
וְאֲנִי אֵלֶיךָ לְחַיִּים טוֹבִים
אֲרוּכִים וְלָשׁוּם:

1. It is not the Chabad custom to recite Selichot on Erev Yom Kippur. 2. V. Leviticus 16:5-22.
3. Psalms 107:10, 14, 17-21. 4. Job 33:23-24.