

Daf HaYomi B'Halacha



Hilchos Tefila 89 (page 240) מסעיף ה עד סעיף ח

Today's TOPICS

Studying Torah before *Davening* Eating in the Middle of the Night Showering before *Davening*



Studying Torah davening

According to some *poskim*, once the horizon lights up it is forbidden for someone who typically *davens* alone to commence learning Torah at home or in a shull that will not have a *minyan*. It is possible that he will get involved in his studies and neglect *davening*. Other *poskim* hold that this rule goes into effect only close to sunrise, the prime time for *davening*. A person in this situation is permitted to start learning if he appoints someone to remind him about

davening. It is permissible to learn before davening Ma'ariv. (41 ביאורים ומוספים ומוספים דרשו, 39 ו־21) סעיף ו וס"ק ל, לב ו־לד; ביאורים ומוספים ומוס



Eating in the middle of the night

It is forbidden to start a meal (i.e. bread or cake larger than an egg or intoxicating drinks) from a half an hour before dawn until one dons *tefillin*, recites *Shema* and *davens Shemoneh Esrei*. A meal started earlier than that may be continued until *alos*. It is likely that a meal which started during the forbidden time must be stopped before *alos*. According to the Zohar, once a person has slept at

night he should not eat unless he needs the energy for *davening* or learning. (38 ו 36, 35 ביאורים ומוספים דרשו, 35, 18 ביאורים ומוספים דרשו, 36, 36 ו



Showering before davening

After *alos*, it is forbidden to enter a bathhouse to bathe until one has *davened*. Many contemporary *poskim* include modern showers in the prohibition. According to some, showering is permitted only in preparation for *tevila* in a *mikva*. Other *poskim* do not link showering with the *mikva*, but they forbid the use of soap. A third opinion permits bathing only in the case of someone who would find it difficult to *daven* without bathing first, while a fourth

opinion permits only washing the face, hands and feet (though other parts of the body may be washed - even with soap -in cases when doing so is necessary).

(42 סעיף ז וס"ק לו; ביאורים ומוספים דרשו,

Mesterday's HIGHLIGHTS

- It is generally forbidden to eat before *davening*. The famished and infirm may eat before *davening*, as can those who are eating for health or taking medications (including vitamins).
- It is forbidden to drink before davening. It is permissible to drink water or coffee /tea, but according to the early poskim, one should not add milk or sugar. Later poskim permitted using milk and sugar, since it is difficult for us to tolerate these drinks without them.
- Traveling before davening Shacharis, Mincha or Ma'ariv is forbidden because it is wrong to get involved in one's own needs before davening. Travel also has the potential to overwhelm people and cause them to neglect davening.

Tomorrow's TOPICS

- Davening early versus davening in transit while seated
- The earliest times for the parts of davening
- · Standing on a raised area

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Important Note: The halachic summaries are to assist you with your learning.

Before implementing halacha in practice, please refer directly to the Mishna Brura and Mussaf Dirshu.

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