The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
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סימן תקנ"ד סעיף ז'-י'

# Overview

Siman 554 Seif 7:

**It is prohibited to wash on Tisha B'Av, whether in hot or cold water and even putting one's hand in water is prohibited.**

Siman 554 Seif 8:

**Immersing in the proper time in fulfillment of a mitzvah is permitted but nowadays that immersion does not fulfill a mitzvah a woman may not immerse and this is the custom.**

- Since women observe seven clean days after seeing even a drop of blood, their immersion is not a mitzvah so why should they immerse if they will not be able to fulfill the mitzvah of relations on Tisha B'Av. (M.B. 17)

Siman 554 Seif 9:

**If one's hands were filthy with dirt or excrement, it is permitted to wash to remove the filth but one may not wash any part of the hand other than what is necessary to remove the filth. The halacha for washing after relieving oneself on Tisha B'Av is the same as for Yom Kippur, see below siman 613:3.**

- Women who are cooking and must wash the meat may do so even though she will thereby wash her hands as well. (M.B. 19)

Siman 554 Seif 10:

**One may wash his hands in the morning but must be careful not to wash beyond his knuckles.**

- The ruach ra'ah that is on his hands is similar to filth that may be washed away. One should not recite נטילת ידים after washing; rather one should wait until after he relieves himself, wash again and then recite the beracha for davening. Mateh Yehudah permitted washing for mincha. (M.B. 21)

# Halacha Highlight

## Washing on Tisha B'Av

Shulchan Aruch Siman 554 Seif 7
**רחיצה אסורה בתשעה באב**
**Washing is prohibited on Tisha B'Av**

Shulchan Aruch (סעי' ז') begins to elaborate on the prohibition against washing on Tisha B'Av and writes that one may not wash with hot or cold water and it is even prohibited to place one's finger into water. In seif 9, Shulchan Aruch writes that if one's hands are dirty it is permitted to wash off the dirt but one may not wash any more than the part of the hand that is dirty. The reason this is permitted is that the prohibition is limited to washing that is for pleasure and merely washing dirt off of one's hands is not for pleasure (מ"ב ס"ק י"ט). For the same reason, in seif 14 Shulchan Aruch rules that someone who returned from a journey and his feet ache may wash his feet. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק כ"ו) explains that since one's intent is for the therapeutic benefits of washing one's feet rather than for the pleasure of washing one's feet, it is permitted.

In seif 8 Shulchan Aruch teaches that it is permitted for one to immerse on Tisha B'Av if that immersion fulfills a mitzvah being fulfilled in its proper time. However, nowadays since women observe seven clean days any time they become a niddah so the immersion is not a fulfillment of that mitzvah in its proper time and thus women no longer immerse on Tisha B'Av. Although Shulchan Aruch's application is no longer practiced, the principle remains true and has practical application. For example, Poskim write that when kohanim prepare to ascend the platform to bless the people they are obligated to wash their hands. On Tisha B'Av it is permitted and required that the kohanim wash their hands in the normal manner until the wrist. Similarly, someone who is ill and will be eating bread on Tisha B'Av must wash his hands until the wrist (פסקי תשובות אות י"ב).