

# KAPPAROT

סדר  
כפרות  
ORDER OF  
KAPPAROT



*Excerpt from*  
**MACHZOR FOR YOM KIPPUR**  
WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATION  
ANNOTATED EDITION  
Copyright © 2004

by  
MERKOS L'INYONEI CHINUCH, INC.  
770 Eastern Parkway / Brooklyn, New York 11213  
(718) 774-4000 / FAX (718) 774-2718  
editor@kehot.com

All rights reserved, including the right to reproduce this book  
or portions thereof, in any form, without prior permission,  
in writing, from the publisher.

The Kehot and Merkos logos are trademarks  
of Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch, Inc.



EREV YOM KIPPUR  
KAPPAROT

It is the custom on Erev Yom Kippur to ritually slaughter a white rooster during the morning “watch” after Selichot,<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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].<sup>4</sup>

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.



EREV YOM KIPPUR  
KAPPAROT

It is the custom on Erev Yom Kippur to ritually slaughter a white rooster during the morning “watch” after Selichot,<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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 (בְּנֵי אָדָם through וּלְשֵׁלוֹם) 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.  
וּצְיָאִים מִחֹשֶׁךְ וְצַלְמוֹת, וּמוֹסְרוֹתֵיהֶם יִנְתַּק.  
אוֹלָיִם מִדְּרֹךְ פֶּשַׁעַם, וּמַעֲוֹנוֹתֵיהֶם יִתְעַנּוּ. כָּל אֹכֵל  
תִּתְעַב נַפְשָׁם, וַיִּגְעוּ עַד שַׁעֲרֵי מוֹת. וַיִּזְעֲקוּ אֶל יְיָ  
בְצָר לָהֶם, מִמַּצְקוֹתֵיהֶם יוֹשִׁיעֵם. יִשְׁלַח דְּבָרוֹ  
וַיִּרְפָּאֵם, וַיִּמְלֹט מִשְׁחִיתוֹתָם. יוֹדוּ לַיְיָ חַסְדּוֹ,  
וְנִפְלְאוֹתָיו לְבְנֵי אָדָם. אִם יֵשׁ עָלָיו מִלְּאֵךְ מִלְּיָן  
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 וּלְשֵׁלוֹם:

Males continue:

זֶה חֲלִיפָתִי, °זֶה  
תְּמוֹרָתִי, °זֶה כְּפָרְתִי, זֶה  
הַתְּרַנְּגוּל יֵלֶךְ לְמוֹתָהּ,  
וְאֲנִי אֵלֶיךָ לְחַיִּים טוֹבִים  
אֲרוּכִים וּלְשֵׁלוֹם:

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.