

Hand Washing (and Feet) of Priest

Ref: *Sefer Avodah, Hilchot Biat Hamikdash, Chapter 5*

📖 | Ministering Priest had to wash his hands and feet before serving.¹¹

Punishment for not washing is Death at the Hand of Heaven and the service is invalid.

This must be done once a day (day includes night and starts from daybreak) unless there has been an interruption of leaving Temple, urination, defaecation or sleeping.

There was a general principle that no person would enter Temple Courtyard for service without immersing in a *mikveh*, even although he was pure.

The sanctification had to take place with

- sanctified vessel
- water

VESSEL

Kiyor was made for this purpose.

Any sanctified vessel could be used however.

WATER

- Any water, provided its appearance has not changed, can be used for the *Kiyor*.
- *Kiyor* should contain enough water for 4 Priests.
- Water disqualified if it stayed overnight.

HOW PERFORMED

Done standing by oneself or by a fellow Priest.

Right hand placed on right foot and left hand on left foot and water poured over them.

There should be no intervening substance between flesh, vessel and water.

Generally, Temple service must be performed with right hand, standing, and with no interventions between feet and Temple and hands and the Service.

🔔 Reminder:

Hand-washing *Mikvaot*. Ref: *Sefer Taharah, Hilchot Mikvaot, Chapter 11*.
Pack on Purification

