



## הלכה of the Week

### ~ נטילת ידים Reasons for Washing ~

The Rabbis teach us several reasons for washing נטילת ידים.

1. In the המקדש בית the כהנים would make their hands pure and holy by washing them before beginning to bring the offerings to Hashem. When we arise in the morning it is as if we have just been created and are about to begin serving our Creator. Therefore, we wash our hands and say the berachah, על נטילת ידים, at the start of the day, before we begin to do mitzvot.
2. Another reason for this נטילת ידים is that, while sleeping, one's hands probably touched parts of the body that are normally covered; this would make the hands 'unclean'. After touching these parts of the body we would normally be required to wash our hands before davening, so the Rabbis taught that we should wash our hands upon arising every morning.
3. A spiritual impurity rests on a person after he has slept. We remove it by pouring water three times on each hand.

## פירוש of the Week

פרק א

ד יוסי בן יועזר איש צרדה ויוסי בן יוחנן איש ירושלים קבלו מהם. יוסי  
בן יועזר איש צרדה אומר, יהי ביתך בית ועד לחכמים, והוי מתאבק  
בעפר רגליהם, והוי שותה בצמא את דבריהם:

Yose Ben Yoezer, leader of Tz'redah and Yose ben Yochanan, leader of Jerusalem, received the tradition from them.

Yose Ben Yoezer, leader of Tz'redah, says:

**"Let your house be a meeting place for great Rabbis; sit in the dust of their feet, and drink their words thirstily."**

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