

Prayers to make Your Pesach Cleaning More Meaningful:

On Shabbos Morning, March 24th, Rabbi Yossi Michalowicz spoke about how one can turn Pesach cleaning into a happy, meaningful, religious experience, by focusing on the connection to G-d that is meant to happen while cleaning. Here are some suggested prayers one can say in order to help you keep focused on the ultimate goal of this Mitzvah instead of just mindlessly cleaning by habit. Feel free to create some of your own:

PRAYER BEFORE CLEANING

Master of the Universe: why am I going to clean? If it were up to me, I would be learning Torah, or resting etc. The reason that I am going to clean is because You, Master of the Universe, commanded me that *chometz* not be seen in my home. Therefore, in order to give You *nachas*, I am now about to toil to clean my home!

PRAYER BEFORE CLEANING THAT IS NOT SPECIFICALLY FOR PESACH

Master of the Universe: why am I going to clean? For my part, I don't feel a need to clean. [or sort out clothes, repair broken closets, spring clean, etc.] The only reason I am going to clean is to fulfil the mitzvah of doing loving-kindness. [with my spouse who is asking me to do this]

In the middle of this type of cleaning, you may add the following:

Master of the Universe: my will is to do Your Will. One of the three pillars upon which the world rests is performing acts of loving-kindness, and it is this that I am involved in now in order to bring You *nachas*.

PRAYER FOR ONE WHO IS UNUSUALLY BOTHERED BY DIRT BEFORE CLEANING

Master of the Universe: this dirt bothers me. Looking at it annoys me in my soul. Who gave me this characteristic? Who gives this life at this very moment? You, may Your Name be blessed!! Where is this characteristic rooted? It is from the depths of my soul, from the natural purity of the soul [which is naturally repulsed by the spiritual filth of sin], and the revelation at this moment is happening at a physical level where it is hard for me to look at physical dirt. Master of the Universe, is it Your Will that I break myself of this characteristic, as it were, and continue to suffer looking at the dirt? Or is it Your Will that my soul will live in purity and spiritual cleanliness? Since it is obvious to me that Your Will is that the soul shall live both internally and externally, in the body - with cleanliness, I am preparing to clean in order to come closer to You [by cleaning the physical dirt which is a symbol for the spiritual dirt that I need to clean as well] and to give You *nachas*.