

Yachatz

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Source:

Questions and Answers on Yachatz – Breaking the Middle Matzah

By [Moshe Bogomilsky](#)

"יחצ"

"Breaking the *matzah*."

QUESTION: What is the reason for breaking the middle *matzah*?

ANSWER: The *matzah* is broken before reciting the *Haggadah* because the recital is to be over *lechem oni* – bread of poverty – (the poor can afford only a broken piece – *Pesachim* 115b).

The broken piece is between the two whole *matzot* because the blessing of *Hamotzi* is to be recited over a whole *matzah*, and since there is a rule that "one must not by-pass *mitzvot*." The upper [thus first accessible] *matzah* must therefore be whole, and afterwards the second *berachah* of "*al achilat matzah*," will be made over the middle-broken *matzah*.

(הגש"פ עם לקוטי טעמים ומנהגים)

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Alternatively, Hashem told Avraham of the Egyptian bondage at the *Brit bein Habetarim* – the Covenant Between the Portions. At that time He instructed him to take three heifers, three goats and three rams and split them in half (*Bereishit* 15:9). The three *matzot* commemorate the three animals, and the breaking of the middle *matzah* commemorates splitting them in half.

(הגש"פ מוצל מאש - בית אהרן בפ"י פאר אהרן)