HIDUR MITZVA/MEHADRIN

Hidur Mitzva/Mehadrin

Almost all *mitzvot* may be enhanced by:

- Making them beautiful (hidur mitzva), or
- Observing non-required stringencies (mehadrin).

Hidur Mitzva

EXAMPLES

- Women baking *challa* for *Shabbat* and *Jewish festivals* (and separating *challa* as a remembrance of the *challa* that was given to the priests/*cohanim* in the *Temple*).
- Wearing especially nice clothes and eating special foods on *Shabbat* and *Jewish festivals*.
- Using beautiful fragrances, tastes, textures, colors, and artistry in serving God.

Beautiful

EXAMPLES

- Shabbat/Jewish festival table (set with beautiful challa cover, silver, kiddush cups).
- *Havdala* set and pleasant-smelling spices for *havdala*.
- Sukka and putting your finest things in it.
- Etrog/etrog case.
- Shofar.
- Seder plate, matza holder, and matza cover.
- Illuminated hagadas (hagadot) and megilas (megilot).
- Chanuka candle-holder (menora, chanukiya).
- Torah scroll written with a fine pen and beautiful script and wrapped in beautiful silks.
- Mezuza covers.
- Ketuba.
- Wimple (to wrap baby in prior to <u>brit mila;</u> then donated to hold the two parts of the <u>Torah</u> together).
- Elijah's Chair/Kisei Eliyahu.
- Synagogues.
- Chuppa.

Mehadrin

EXAMPLES

- <u>Chalav Yisrael</u>--When consuming <u>milk</u> and <u>milk</u> products, eating or drinking only those items whose production was supervised by religious Jews;
- <u>Pat Yisrael</u>—When eating bread, only eating bread baked by Jews (not necessarily by religious Jews);
- *Glatt* meat—When eating meat, eating only meat that had no lesions on the animal's lungs;

• Lighting more than one <i>Chanuka</i> candle each night (beginning on the 2nd night) and having more than one person in each house light their own candles.	
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