

WEDDING: STEPS OF MESADER KIDUSHIN

The First Blessings

The mesader kidushin (organizer of the wedding ceremony) makes sure that all procedures are done properly. He says the blessing on the cup of wine and fulfills that requirement for both the bride and groom. He says the second blessing and fulfills it for the groom. In both cases, the bride and groom must have the intention that the mesader kidushin is saying those blessings on their behalf. The groom and bride drink some of the wine.

Confirming the Witnesses

The mesader kidushin asks the witnesses if they are related to either the bride or groom or each other. He then asks the bride and groom if they want these and only these witnesses to be their witnesses.

Checking the Ring

The mesader kidushin then takes the ring and asks the groom "Is this your ring? If so, how did you acquire it?" It must have been acquired in accordance with Jewish law. He shows the ring to the witnesses and asks if it is worth at least a pruta. If they say yes, the groom takes the ring and says "Harei at mekudeshet li..." and places the ring on the bride's index finger of her primary hand. The witnesses must hear the groom say "Harei at mekudeshet li..." and must see him place the ring on her hand. The wife should not take the ring off of her index finger until after they leave the chuppa. The couple is now married!

Importance of Ring

The wedding ring given by the groom to his bride is important since it represents his "acquisition" of his bride; after giving the ring, they are married.

Modifying the Ring

The wedding ring may be modified after the wedding, such as for size.