

Drinking Problem

March 16, 2023

Q It is difficult for me to drink alcohol. What is the minimum I must imbibe for *dalet kosos*, and may I use grape juice instead?



A The cup must hold at least a *revi'is* and be filled to capacity (O.C. 271:9, 472:9). According to the Chazon Ish, a *revi'is* is 5.07 fl. oz., and according to R' Moshe Feinstein, for a mitzvah *deRabanan* like this one it is 3.3 fl. oz. *Lechat'chilah* the full *revi'is* should be downed. *Bedi'eved*, most of a *revi'is* is enough (Mishnah Brurah 472:30), provided it is also a cheekful. (The average man's cheekful is this amount, but a larger man would require more; see Biur Halacha ibid. s.v. *Veyishteh*.)

Some *poskim* (quoted in Shulchan Aruch 472:9) say that if the cup is larger than a *revi'is*, the majority of the cup must be drained, so the Mishnah Brurah (ibid. 33) suggests not using a large cup if one wishes to minimize his consumption. If a small cup is not available, one may be lenient, as the halacha follows the other view (ibid.).

Some *poskim*, including R' Moshe and Rav Elyashiv, consider grape juice an inferior option for *dalet kosos* because, not being an intoxicant, it lacks the quality of *derech cheirus* (the manner of freedom). Others accept it *lechat'chilah* (see Teshuvos Vehanhagos 2:243), but all agree that it is best to mix in some wine (ibid.).