

Deserted Wine

Dayan Yehoshua Grunwald

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Q We are making a *shalosh seudos sheva brachos* that will go until the time for Ma'ariv. Who, if anyone, should drink the *kosos* of *sheva brachos*?

A One may not eat or drink anything but water at the end of Shabbos before havdalah. When a Shabbos *sheva brachos* concludes well past sunset, this prohibition conflicts with the imperative, or at least the *inyan*, to drink the *kosos* of *sheva brachos*. What to do?



Numerous suggestions are given by the *poskim*. R' Moshe (Igros Moshe O.C. 4:69) writes that because *bentching* at a *sheva brachos* requires a *kos*, at least *melo lugmav* must be drunk by someone. And there is a well-established minhag of several hundred years' duration that the *chassan* and *kallah* drink from the *kos eirusin venisu'in*, which R' Moshe says was actually the minhag for all seven days of *sheva brachos*. Because it isn't necessary that the entire *shiur* be drunk by a single person, the *chassan* and *kallah* should each drink half a *melo lugmav*. Many follow R' Moshe's *psak*.

Preferably, the *mezamein* shouldn't drink any of the wine of *bentching*, but if he wishes, he may have a drop. A better solution would be for the *chassan* to be the *mezamein*, so as not to require an additional person to drink. (The remaining *brachos*, however, should be made by others.) Drinking the other *kos* is less obligatory, so in this scenario it should not

be done.