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Hayom Yom: 14 Nissan, The Day Preceding Pesach

בָּדִיקַת חָמֵץ אַחַר תִּפִלַּת עַרְבִית.

The search for chametz1 takes place after the Evening Service.2

ּבְּבִית רַבַּנוּ נוֹהֲגִים שֶׁלֹּא לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת הָרַב לְמוּרְשֶׁה, אֶלָּא לִמְכּוֹר לוֹ אֶת הֶחָמֵץ וּבְעָרֵב קַבְּלָן.

בַּאֲפִיַּת הַשְּׁמוּרָה עֶרֶב פֶּסַח אַחַר חֲצוֹת, הָיָה אַאַמוּ"ר נוֹכֵחַ, וְאוֹמֵר גַּם כֵּן הַלֵּל, וְהָיָה מַפְסִיק – גַּם בְּאֶמְצַע פֶּרֶק – לְהוֹרוֹת בְּהַנּוֹגֵעַ לְהַלִּישָׁה, אֵפִיָּה וּכְהַאי גַּוְנָא.

In the household of the Rebbe, it was customary not to appoint the rav as an agent to sell the chametz, but rather to sell him the chametz, [confirming the transaction even in such a case by] a fully-responsible guarantor.3

My revered father, the Rebbe [Rashab], used to be present when the shemurah-matzah4 was baked after midday on the eve of Pesach. He would join in the Hallel [that is customarily recited at that time],5 but would interrupt his recitation — even in the midst of a chapter — to give directions regarding the kneading, the baking, and the like.