



## YOM KIPPUR

It is no secret that this coming Shabbat is Yom Kippur. When Yom Kippur falls on Shabbat, it creates an interesting situation. Yom Kippur is the only holiday that "trumps" Shabbat on the calendar. It is known by the name "Shabbat Shabbaton," "The Ultimate Shabbat."

This holiday essentially pushes aside the main mitzvot of Shabbat. This Friday night, there will be no Kiddush, because it is Yom Kippur.

There will be no HaMotzi, or soup and Matzoballs, because it is Yom Kippur.

There will not be a leisurely Shabbat nap, nor an obligation to eat three special meals, because it is Yom Kippur.

We will not read the regular Parshat Hashavua, because it is Yom Kippur.

And yet, it is interesting to note that this holiest of days "makes some allowances" in honor of the fact that it is Shabbat. Usually, we recite the famous prayer of "Avinu Malkeinu" ("Our Father, our King") FOUR times on Yom Kippur. This year, we will only recite it once, at the very end of Ne'ilah, because it is Shabbat.

Usually, six people are called up to the Torah on Yom Kippur; it is the only holiday on which we have six Aliyot. This year, we will call up seven people, because it is Shabbat.

Usually, we recite the 13 Attributes of G-d's Mercy when taking the Torah out of the Ark. This is the prayer which G-d Himself taught Moshe to use when begging for forgiveness. But this year, most congregations will not recite it, because it is Shabbat.

We see from these examples that our two holiest days in the calendar are each "making room for the other." Each is giving up some essential elements of its day in honor and recognition of the other.

I believe there is a message for us here as well. How often do we stand firmly on our principles, and not make way for the opinions, thoughts, or needs of others? Are we willing to be flexible? Can we give some space to someone whose ideology is somewhat different from our own? While it may be true that there are indeed times to be rigid and unbending, there are many other times when we need to "give a little."

Perhaps if we can put this idea into practice; and make some room for each other that way Yom Kippur and Shabbat are doing for one another this year, we will merit atonement for our misdeeds.

May we all be sealed for a life of goodness, happiness, and health.

G'mar Chatima Tova.  
Rabbi Cohen