

February 15, 1974

Mr. Morris Green
101 Central Park West
New York, N.Y. 10024

Dear Morris:

It has come to my attention that several members of the Hebra Kadisha were unhappy about the custom followed by the Hebra, of applying the egg to parts of the body after it has been cleaned, and considered it unesthetic and counter-productive to the whole purpose of the taharah.

After pondering the matter, I find that I cannot permit the Hebra to dispense with this custom altogether. However, I have no objection to reversing the usual order we have followed, and performing the application of the egg before the washing.

In this manner, we will have satisfied the esthetic sensibilities of some of our people, without in the least sacrificing either the halakhic or traditional integrity of the ceremony.

Cordially,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

NL:cw

Same letter: Dr. Offenbacher, Mr. H. Assenberg, R. Weismann