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Yeshivat Ateret Yerushalayim

IN THE HEART OF THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

On the Air with Ha-Rav Shlomo Aviner

Rav Aviner answers questions of Jewish Law and faith on the radio in Israel on Tuesday & Thursday nights (To listen: www.kimizion.org/shiur/shut.html). On the Air presents a sample each week.

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Questions in this issue.

1. Announcing a found object on the internet
2. Saying "Le-ilui Nishmat..." (for the ascension of the soul of...) before Kaddish
3. Sleeping in Tzitzit
4. Removing dishes from the dishwasher on Shabbat
5. A mourner eating his own food
6. Placing a completely-cooked, solid food on the blech on Shabbat

Announcing a found object on the internet

Q: Is a person who finds a lost object required to announce that he has found it on an internet site which was created for this purpose?

A: We cannot say that it is a requirement, since this is only one of the ways in which to locate the owner. It is, however, a mitzvah. Before this internet site, many people brought found items to the police station, and the halachic authorities discussed this same question. They said that it is not a requirement, but it is certainly praiseworthy. If our great Rabbis decide that this is the way to act then it will be different. Today, however, our great Rabbis are not enthusiastic about using the internet in general.

Saying "Le-ilui Nishmat..." (for the ascension of the soul of...) before Kaddish

Q: My friend died and she did not have any relatives. I am reciting kaddish for her. Do I have to say "Le-ilui nishmat..." each time I recite Kaddish?

A: There is no need since you have taken this act upon yourself and it is known in Heaven.

Sleeping in Tzitzit

Q: Is it permissible to sleep in tzitzit?

A: It is not only permissible, but some people are strict to sleep in their tzitzit. We are not obligated, but it is an act of piety. One who sleeps in tzitzit cannot recite the blessing on this pair of tzitzit in the morning. He should therefore recite the blessing on another pair of tzitzit or on his talit.

Removing dishes from the dishwasher on Shabbat

Q: Is it permissible to remove dishes from the dishwasher on Shabbat which we placed there on Friday?

A: It is permissible since when the dishwasher is off, the tension button is ineffective. In fact, there are Jews who place dirty dishes in the dishwasher on Shabbat. They do not do this in order to save time since it is forbidden to prepare on Shabbat for a weekday, but in order to keep the kitchen clean. It is permissible to take them out and put them in.

A mourner eating his own food

Q: May a mourner eat his own food during "shiva"?

A: Ashkenazim: It is only forbidden during the first meal after the funeral. The neighbors bring the food and it is called "seudat havra'ah – the meal of consolation."

Sefardim: There are different customs. Most do not eat their own food during the entire week of "shiva."

Placing a completely-cooked, solid food on the blech on Shabbat

Q: Is it permissible to place a completely-cooked, solid food on the blech on Shabbat?

A: The basic Halachah is that a completely-cooked, solid food may be placed on the blech on Shabbat. Some authorities say that it should be placed there with a "shinui" – in a different way so it does not appear as if one is cooking. Therefore, many place the food on an upside-down pot or pan. Other authorities do not require a "shinui" since one does not generally cook on a blech and it does not look like cooking. It is proper to place the food on the upside-down pot or pan, but if one does not do so he has on whom to rely and the food is completely kosher.