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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/shuf.html](http://www.kimizion.org/shiur/shuf.html)). On the Air presents a sample each week.

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Rosh Chodesh Tammuz – #40

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Questions in this issue.

1. Reciting Tehillim without shoes
2. Quick davening
3. A guard dog
4. "Shehechyanu" for earning a degree
5. Glass dishes for milchig and fleischig

### Reciting Tehillim without shoes

Q: I hurt my feet, and they hurt when I wear shoes. Is it permissible to recite Tehillim without shoes?

A: Yes, it is permissible to pray without shoes aside from the Shemoneh Esrei (see Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chaim 91:5 and the commentaries there).

### Quick davening

Q: What should I do if I do not daven as quickly as the "sheliach tzibbur" (the person leading the davening)?

A: A person must daven with a community. Davening with a community, which is called "Tefillah Be-Tzibbur," means that we begin the Shemoneh Esrei at the same time. You should therefore begin to daven slightly earlier than everyone else – five minutes, ten minutes, etc... – so that you arrive at the Shemoneh Esrei with everyone else. If you are unable to begin earlier, you should skip over certain parts of the davening according to the

rules of which parts may be skipped. For example, in place of reciting all of Pesukei De-Zimrah, one skips and says: "Baruch She-Amar," "Ashrei" and "Yishtabach" and then continues on so that you begin the Shemoneh Esrei with everyone else (note: the parts which were skipped should be recited after davening).

#### A guard dog

Q: It is permissible to have a guard dog in your house?

A: Yes, it explicitly says in the Shulchan Aruch (Choshen Mishpat 409:3). It is forbidden to raise an evil dog...but it is permissible to raise one in a city close to the border. A border city is similar to a situation in which one needs to be guarded. Don't ask me where the border is in Israel today since there are murderers throughout the entire country and it is all like a border. It is certainly permissible to raise a dog which is not evil in any place. An evil dog bites and scares people. There is a story in the Gemara (Shabbat 63b) about a dog who scared a woman and she miscarried. If the dog does not scare people, and does not bother people in the middle of the night, it is permissible and all the more so for protection.

#### "Shehechyanu" for earning a degree

Q: Is it permissible to recite "Shehechyanu" for receiving a degree?

A: Yes, since we recite "Shehechyanu" for good news. While there are many authorities who write that we should not recite "Shehechyanu" at every occasion, if someone is extremely happy, and earning a degree is certainly reason to rejoice, he can recite "Shehechyanu." If one is still concerned, he can buy a new fruit or a new piece of clothing and recite the "Shehechyanu" over it at the same as receiving the degree.

#### Glass dishes for milchig and fleischig

Q: Is it permissible to use glass dishes for milchig and fleischig?

A: Sefardim use glass for both milchig and fleischig based on the assumption that glass is smooth and does not absorb anything. It is not clear that this is such a good idea since there are times when things get out of control in a house and plates and pots and pan can get mixed up. This, however, is a different calculation. The basic Halachah is that it is permissible for Sefardim. Ashkenazim are strict not to use glass for both milchig and fleischig. This is based on the assumption that glass is like earthenware, which is the worst material, since it absorbs everything and is impossible to kasher. This ruling appears for Ashkenazim in the laws of Pesach (Rama, Orach Chaim 451:26). There is a dispute among Ashkenazic authorities as to the status of glass during the rest of the year, but the majority of Rabbis are strict that glass should be used for either milchig or fleischig.