



On the Air with Rav Aviner ~ #75

From Ha-Rav's weekly radio programs in Israel

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Boys in women's clothing on Purim

Q: Is it permissible for a boy to wear a woman's wig on Purim?

A: In general, it is forbidden for a boy to wear women's clothing. On Purim, there is a dispute regarding this question (see Rama, Orach Chaim 696.8 with the commentators of the Shulchan Aruch). Some permit it since it is for enjoyment, while others forbid it. It is therefore better not to wear it, but someone who wants to wear it has on whom to rely.

Q: What about a boy wearing a skirt?

A: Same answer.

Canceling a date

Q: It is permissible for me to cancel a first date with a young man after I heard information which makes him inappropriate for me?

A: If you are not interested, there is no reason to meet. It is clear that there was an error in not checking thoroughly enough before the first meeting but just because there was one error does not mean that there needs to be a second error. Meeting with him when you are not interested will simply cause him distress and it is "ona'ah" (allowing someone to believe something which is not true and will cause distress). It is similar to a person entering a

store when he has no intention of buying. If he is unsure and he is looking around, it is permissible, as there is no obligation to buy. But if he knows that he is not going to buy, it is forbidden to enter since the seller will have his hopes raised and then it will cause him distress when you do not buy. This applies all the more so here when the young man might be interested and he will have hopes, and he will be hurt when you tell him "no." Therefore, it is permissible to cancel the meeting. But you need to put the blame on yourself. Do you say that you do not want to meet because you checked and found something that you do not like. He will be hurt. You should rather say: I am sorry. I thought I could meet but I am currently in a sensitive state which is not good for meeting or some responsibility suddenly came up at home or at work. You take the blame and ask his forgiveness that you are canceling the meeting so that he will not be hurt. And we pray that he will find someone and you will find someone and you will each build a faithful house among the Jewish People.

Lashon Ha-Ra on Chaim Nachman Bialik

Q: Is it permissible to speak Lashon Ha-Rav about Chaim Nachman Bialik?

A: No, it is forbidden to speak Lashon Ha-Ra about a Jew. It is true that this Jew learned in the Volozhin Yeshiva and later did not observe the mitzvot, but he did believe in Hashem. In Tel Aviv, he battled to give the city a Shabbat atmosphere. He said that it is not enough to excommunicate others and throw stones, so he organized Shabbat get-togethers and he would not smoke there. His "Sefer Aggadah," in which he collects and organizes the midrashim, is very good. He also felt a great responsibility for the Nation of Israel to the extent that people refer to him as the "National Poet." He did not write to make a name for himself or for the mere pleasure of writing, but he worked to be a mouthpiece for the serious national problems with the aid of his writing and poems. He was a complex person and included both lights and shadows, and why should we speak Lashon Ha-Ra about him?

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