



On the Air with Rav Aviner - #77

From Ha-Rav's weekly radio programs in Israel

Prepared by Rabbi Mordechai Friedfertig

Visit our blog: www.ravaviner.com

Questions in this issue:

1. Matching up a couple whose fathers have identical names
2. Beshert
3. National Geographic
4. Clothing for a Baal Teshuvah
5. Learning Torah while laying in bed

Matching up a couple whose fathers have identical names

Q: Is it permissible for a groom and bride to marry when their fathers have the same name?

A: Certainly. This is mentioned in the Testament of Rabbi Yehudah Ha-Chasid (#23 and brought in Pitchei Teshuvah, Even Ha-Ezer 2:107 and Yoreh Deah 116:6). There is a dispute whether the Testament of Rabbi Yehudah Ha-Chasid only obligates his offspring or everyone. The Noda Bi-Yehudah (Second Edition, Even Ha-Ezer #79) wrote that this "prohibition" is not mentioned in the Gemara and it is not possible to add prohibitions which are not found in the Gemara. The Rebbe of Sanz did not agree and he said that everything in the Testament of Rabbi Yehudah Ha-Chasid applies to everyone (Shut Divrei Chaim, Even Ha-Ezer #8). Authorities give the advice that one of the fathers can add a name and there is then no issue. Maran Ha-Rav Kook wrote three responsa on this subject at the beginning of Shut Ezrat Cohain (#5-7). He says that being particular about this issue is only when someone suggests a match since it is possible to suggest many other people. If the couple meets on their own, however, this is different since it is not easy to meet someone to marry. Maran Ha-Rav Kook also said that this does not apply in Israel, since the merit of Eretz

Yisrael protects one from such spiritual matters. He mentioned the Gemara in Berachot (44a) that there was one city in Eretz Yisrael called Gufnit and it had eighty pairs of brothers who were cohanim married to sisters, the daughters of cohanim. We see that they were not worried about "pairs" (a spiritual concern) since they were in Eretz Yisrael. In general, one who is not concerned about such matters is not affected by them. Furthermore, if a couple has an inclination and desire to marry, there is no concern. In sum. There is nothing to worry about, and if you add a name then there is no problem according to all opinions.

Beshert (From Ha-Rav's blog)

Q: Does a person have only one Beshert or are there various possibilities and he/she needs to decide who is the right partner?

A: There is one person chosen by Heaven as it says in the Gemara in Sotah (2a) that forty days before one is born, a Divine voice says that the daughter of this person is to be marry to that person. How do we know – after all we do not have prophets? If we act properly, we will have Divine direction, i.e. we choose a spouse first based on intellect and then emotion. There are occasions that one's partner is not here because he was killed in a war or died for another reason but it is still possible to marry. This is what is called: "G-d makes the lonely ones dwell in a house" (Tehillim 68:7 according to Sotah ibid.), i.e. Hashem places the lonely who are not exactly matched into one house and they are a good match in the end. It is possible that it is difficult at first – "It is as difficult to find a match as it was to split the Red Sea (Sotah ibid.) – but they will work it out and live in love, fraternity and friendship. There is therefore no difference in actuality whether one marries his beshert or not. Either way, you must marry with respect and love and then invest energy.

National Geographic

Q: Is it permissible to keep a National Geographic in my house when there is the possibility that it will have immodest pictures?

A: It is impossible to invalidate an entire book or magazine on account of one picture. What you should do is to color over the picture or put a sticker over it. After all, this is a rare occurrence. Destroying a picture on a wall in the street is a communal question, but you can do what you want if it is your own book or magazine.

Clothing for a Baal Teshuvah (a newly-repentant person) (from Ha-Rav's video blog)

Q: What type of clothing should a Baal Teshuvah wear – a black suit like the Charedim or clothing like the Religious-Zionists?

A: There are no laws in the Torah regarding the type of clothing to wear, besides that it is forbidden to wear "Sha'atnez" (a mixture of wool and linen) and that one must wear Tzitzit. Furthermore, not all Charedim dress alike and not all Religious-Zionists dress alike. Clothing is a personal choice. Many men, however, are inclined to wear a uniform, since their clothing broadcast his societal affiliation. If so, the question is not what clothing to wear but one's societal affiliation. If you are Charedi, you can dress like them although there are different types of dress. If you are a Religious-Zionist, you can dress like them although there are different types of dress. A general principle for the newly-repentant: "Get yourself a Rav." This is not an obligation but exalted advice for every Jew and all the more so for a Baal Teshuvah. He will have a personal connection with the Rav who can guide him on all of his paths.

Learning Torah while laying in bed

Q: Is it permissible to learn Torah while laying in bed or on a couch?

A: One must learn Torah in awe, fear and trembling (Berachot 22a). This idea is also found in the Mishnah Sotah (9:15) that we should learn while standing for the honor of Torah (see Megillah 21a). In truth, it is proper to learn Torah only while standing but we do not have the strength and we therefore learn while seated. But even while seated, we must learn in an upright position and with an awe of holiness. One should certainly not learn while lying down. But if someone is sick or tired and needs to lie down, it is permissible to learn while doing so. In other words, when we learn, we do not need to lie down but when we lie down, we certainly need to learn.

Special thank you to Fred Casden for editing "On the Air"



Yeshivat Ateret Yerushalayim P.O.B. 1076 Jerusalem 91009 Tel.02-6284101 Fax.02-6261528

www.ateret.org.il To subscribe, send e-mail to: mororly@bezeqint.net

