



Parashat Tzav 5769

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"Next Year in the Rebuilt Jerusalem"

Question: I saw in the Haggadah "Mi-Bet Levi (p. 233) and the Haggadah "Shai La-Torah" (p. 411) that the Griz – Ha-Rav Yitzchak Zev Soloveitchik, Av Bet Din of Brisk – was particular that one should not add the word "Rebuilt" since there is no source for adding this word and it was included by those who claim that the Redemption has begun. Is this a Zionist expression?

Answer: Maran Ha-Rav Kook brings this phrase as the custom of Jerusalem (see Melachim Kivnei Adam p. 221). Ha-Rav Menachem Mendel Kasher included the phrase "Next Year in a Rebuilt Jerusalem" in his Haggadah Shelemah in smaller letters and he writes in his "Eretz Yisrael" Haggadah: "They say in the Land of Israel..." Ha-Rav Yaakov Moshe Charlap in Haggadah "Mei Marom" writes "Rebuilt" in brackets. And this phrase is included in the Haggadah of Tzahal, and Rav Shlomo Goren writes in his notes which appear in the back: "The formula of the Land of Israel." It is clear that this is an expression used in the Land of Israel. Outside of Israel, people say: "Next year in Jerusalem." But in Eretz Yisrael or, most precisely, in Jerusalem, we add "Rebuilt" since we are already here. The Griz is correct that this is a new phrase, but it is not necessarily a Zionist expression. It is not connected to the State of Israel but to the fact that we are in the Land of Israel and Jerusalem. Who was the first to say: "Next Year in the Rebuilt Jerusalem"? This is a question for a researcher in the university.



Text Message Responsa



Ha-Rav answers hundreds of text message questions a week. Some appear in the parashah sheets "Ma'ayanei Ha-Yeshu'ah" and "Olam Ha-Katan." Here's a sample:

Q: Is it permissible to throw away tapes with Divrei Torah on them?

A: Yes, nothing is written there.

Q: Does a non-Jew who cooks kosher food make a pot unkosher?

A: Yes.

Q: What about a Jew who violates Shabbat?

A: No. Yalkut Yosef.

Q: A person picked fruit from a non-Jew's orchard without his permission and he gave it to me. It is permissible to eat it?

A: This is stealing and you should not be a party to it.

Q: Is it permissible to use sunflower seeds in an art project in nursery school?

A: Yes, there is no problem of "Bal Tashchit" (wanton destruction) since this is also using it.

Q: Is it permissible to make a plus sign in math which looks like a cross or should one write it as an upside down capital "T" because of a concern of Christian idolatry?

A: There is no problem, since this is not the use of idol worship at all. See Shulchan Aruch, Yoreh Deah 141:1 and Shut Aseh Lecha Rav 5:21 of Ha-Rav Chaim David Halevy.

Q: At what age should we have our son start wearing a kippah?

A: At the earliest possible age, but without forcing him.

Q: Is it theft if I meet someone in the lobby of a hotel?

A: Yes. You should order a drink.

Q: Do séances have some truth to them or that they complete nonsense?

A: Complete nonsense, and completely forbidden.

Q: Is it permissible to print a verse from the Tanach on an invitation?

A: No. They are generally thrown in the garbage.

Q: What should one do on his birthday to make it holy?

A: "Cheshbon Ha-Nefesh" – a spiritual accounting of his life.

Q: Is it permissible to blow up a balloon on Shabbat?

A: It is permissible, but you must tie it with a rubber band.

Q: Is there a segulah (usually understood as a mystical action which will bring about a particular consequence) to find a spouse?

A: Prayer, repentance and tzedakah.

Stories of Rabbenu — Our Rabbi, Ha-Rav Tzvi Yehudah Ha-Cohain Kook

Pesach

If only my children would be in the Land of Israel

A certain Rav explained the line in the Haggadah, "If we received the Torah, but did not enter the Land of Israel – it would have been enough," that it would have been better for the non-religious pioneers to have remained outside of Israel rather than to commit sins in the Land of Israel. These words caused much consternation and when the students came to class, they told our Rabbi what they had heard. They thought he would discuss this issue at length, but he responded briefly: "See Yalkut Shimoni #1038" and taught the class as usual (The Yalkut Shimoni says: If only my children, my Nation, would be in the Land of Israel, even though they make it impure). (Iturei Cohanim #181)

Our Rabbi was particular to use machine-made matzah since it was decided by the halachic authorities that machine-made matzah is kosher, and there is, in fact, greater care regarding the concern of chametz than with hand-made matzah. (Haggadah with commentary of Rav Tzvi Yehudah arranged by Rav Aviner p. 93).

A student asked our Rabbi: Which is preferable, hand-made matzah or machine-made. Our Rabbi answered: In the same time that we exert ourselves to make one hand-made matzah it is possible to make Reb Noson's (our Rabbi's brother-in-law), his and many other people's matzah for the entire holiday (Iturei Cohanim Nisan 5766 #259 in the name of Ha-Rav Achyah Amitai).



Shut She'eilat Shlomo - Questions of Jewish Law

Cleaning for Pesach

Question: If a person thoroughly cleaned a room (vacuumed, moved furniture etc.) a week or a few days before Pesach so they are certain that there is no chametz, do they have to perform "Bedikat Chametz"?

Answer: The custom is to check a room quickly if one has thoroughly cleaned it on the off chance he missed something.

Question: How far before Pesach does one NOT have to bring chametz into a room for it to be considered chametz-free?

Answer: Thirty days.



Family Matters - Ha-Rav writes weekly for

the parashah sheet "Rosh Yehudi" on family relationships

A Domineering Husband

Question: Even before we were married, I noticed that my husband had a domineering personality: instructions regarding the style of my dress, limits on relations with my friends, directives regarding my studies, demanding that I be available, constantly blaming me for a lack of respect and love. But he was so smart and amazing that I became captivated by his love. We have been married ten years and the situation in getting worse: verbal abuse and occasionally physical abuse. Every time I decide to leave, he quickly asks my forgiveness and the greater the offense the greater the appeasement: gifts, entertainment and hugs. Furthermore, I blame myself to some extent for the situation since if I was okay, none of this would be happening. I therefore search for ways to please him, but to no avail.

Answer: You are in good company. Close to one in four women suffer from some form of violence. This phenomenon crosses all nations, all cultures and all strands of society. Many atheists also fulfill the verse: "And he will lord over you" (Bereshit 3:16) – but it is obviously not a mitzvah rather a curse. Therefore, please go to a counselor to help you in leaving this distressing situation. Do not fool yourself that the problem will be solved with patience. And if you are willing to suffer for the children, you are mistaken: it is to their detriment to see their father causing pain to their mother. It rips them apart. Please go to a counselor. And one more thing: do not ask me if I know you or a woman exactly like you in this country. To our distress, there are hundreds of thousands and the question was just a model.

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