



On the Air with Rav Aviner - #86

From Ha-Rav's weekly radio program in Israel

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Questions in this issue:

1. Renting an apartment to a secular Jew
2. Someone who plays soccer on Shabbat serving as "sheliach tzibbur"
3. Mezuzah on shoe store
4. Sleeping in your kippah

Renting an apartment to a secular Jew

Q: Is it permissible to rent an apartment to a non-observant couple or does it have to be a religious couple?

A: It is obviously good to rent an apartment to religious people, but there is no problem in renting to a non-religious couple since even though they are transgressing, they are not doing so with the apartment itself. They can be eating non-kosher food or desecrating Shabbat, but it is nonetheless permissible to rent an apartment to them.

Someone who plays soccer on Shabbat serving as "sheliach tzibbur"

Q: There is someone who plays soccer on Shabbat on asphalt (not grass). Can he serve as the "sheliach tzibur" (the one who leads the davening) and read the Torah?

A: There are authorities who permit playing soccer on Shabbat on asphalt since the problem of playing on grass is filling in the holes, which is included in the forbidden

labor of plowing. Some authorities say that it is forbidden to play soccer on asphalt so that people will not come to play on grass, but others say that there is no such overarching prohibition. This man therefore has authorities on whom to rely. While it may be acceptable for him to play soccer, a community should take a person of sterling character to serve as "sheliach tzibur." The major question is: what is the alternative? Thus, if this man's behavior is deviant, compared the rest of the community, it is not appropriate for him to serve as "sheliach tzibur," but if his behavior is more-or-less the norm in this regard, it is fine.

Mezuzah on shoe store

Q: Does a shoe store need a mezuzah?

A: There is no obligation to have a mezuzah on a store. A mezuzah is a requirement on a place where people live. But if a person sometimes rests or eats in his store – which are acts performed in a place where people live – there is a requirement for mezuzah. In such a case, a store does need a mezuzah.

Sleeping in your kippah

Q: Is there an obligation to wear a kippah while sleeping?

A: No, there is no obligation. The Shelah – the book "Sheni Luchot Ha-Brit" by Rabbi Yeshayahu Horowitz – mentions this as a proper custom, but not as an obligation. The Shulchan Aruch (Orach Chaim 2:6) wrote that we should not walk four amot (6 feet) without a kippah, so we do not even sit without a kippah. Sleeping with a kippah, however, is an act of piety mentioned by the Shelah.

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