



## On the Air with Rav Aviner ~ #88

From Ha-Rav's weekly radio program in Israel

---

Prepared by Rabbi Mordechai Friedfertig

Visit our blog: [www.ravaviner.com](http://www.ravaviner.com)

Questions in this issue:

1. Sanctification of the new moon when the Temple is rebuilt
2. A cup with a picture of an animal
3. Embroided verse of a Talit
4. Hiring Arabs to build houses

### Sanctification of the new moon when the Temple is rebuilt

Q: Will they return to sanctifying the new moon by the testimony of witnesses when the Temple is rebuilt?

A: Yes, when the Sanhedrin is reconstituted. But when the Sanhedrin sanctifies the new moon, they also take the calendar into consideration. You can see this in the Laws of Sanctification of the New Moon of the Rambam. For example, if witnesses arrive, they examine them, and if they truly saw the new moon, the Sanhedrin fixes the new month. But if no witnesses arrive, there will not be a Rosh Chodesh?! Of course, there will be. How will they accomplish this? By the calendar. This means that the sanctification of the moon will be comprised of sightings and the calendar.

### A cup with a picture of an animal

Q: Is it permissible to recite a blessing in front of a cup with a picture of an animal?

A: It is permissible. It is not idol worship and you are not reciting a blessing to the animal. It is a picture.

### Embroidered verse of a Talit

Q: Is there any limitation or prohibition of embroidering the Bircat Cohanim on the "atara" (collar) of a Talit?

A: It is permissible to embroider the Bircat Cohanim of a Talit, and there are some Talises which have the blessing for the Talit embroidered on them. The problem arises when the Talit is sent to the laundry, since it is not proper for the holiness of the verse or blessing to be in the laundry. The best advice, therefore, is to embroider the "atara" in a manner that it may be removed when the Talit is washed, and you can clean the "atara" in an appropriate manner.

### Hiring Arabs to build houses

Q: The settlement where I live recently voted to allow Arabs to build houses. What is the Rav's opinion?

A: If you are concerned about safety, there is no problem. The Arabs who have jobs working for Jews generally want to ensure that they retain their livelihood and usually keep others Arabs quiet as well. The issue is that instead of hiring Arabs, we should give money to Jews. If we provide a livelihood for the Arabs, they will have a holding in the Land of Israel. If they do not have a livelihood, they will leave. We want to strengthen ourselves. At the same time, some of the settlements will not be able to build without Arabs. They will not be able to expand for growing families or accommodate new residents. The only calculation is whether the mitzvah of settling the Land benefits or not. The general principle is that we should hire Jews, but if settling the Land is encouraged by hiring Arabs, it is permissible to do so.

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](mailto:mororly@bezeqint.net)

