



## On the Air with Rav Aviner ~ #91

From Ha-Rav's weekly radio program in Israel

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### Birthday party on night of Shiva Asar Be-Tammuz

Q: Is it permissible to celebrate a birthday party for a seven year old girl on the night of Shiva Asar Be-Tammuz (a fast day commemorating the beginning of the Babylonian siege which led to the Destruction of Temple)?

A: It is preferable to have it earlier. This is obviously not a time of success. Ha-Rav Moshe Feinstein does not discuss birthday parties on the night of Shiva Asar Be-Tammuz but having a wedding on that night. His conclusion is that he is not thrilled with the idea but he does not forbid it (Shut Igrot Moshe, Orach Chaim 1:168). We therefore as not thrilled with having a birthday party on the night of Shiva Asar Be-Tammuz, but if you really want to, what can we do? I seriously ask: it is really not possible to have it earlier?

### Immersing in a mikveh during the Nine Days

Q: Is it permissible to immerse in a mikveh during the Nine Days?

A: It is certainly permissible for a woman since immersing in a mikveh is not for pleasure but for the sake of a mitzvah. A man may also immerse in a mikveh if he does so on a regular basis since it is also not for pleasure.

### Crocs on Tisha Be-Av

Q: Is it permissible to wear Crocs on Tisha Be-Av?

A: It is a dispute. Some rule that it is permissible since one must not wear leather shoes and they are not leather. Others rule that it is forbidden since even if one wears non-leather shoes, they cannot be comfortable and Crocs are comfortable. May a blessing come to one who is strict. One who is lenient has on whom to rely.

#### Israeli dancing during the Three Weeks

Q: Is it permissible to go Israel dancing during the Three Weeks?

A: Both the dancing and the music are forbidden. Some authorities allow listening to A cappella music during the Three Weeks since it is not music but people singing. Nonetheless, dancing is forbidden (see Mishnah Berurah 551:16). It is permissible, however, to perform aerobic exercise during the Three Weeks and the music is even permissible since the purpose is not to listen to music but to keep the tempo of the exercising.

#### Practicing a musical instrument during the Three Weeks

Q: Is it permissible to practice music instruments during the Three Weeks?

A: Many authorities permit it since when a person practices he does not benefit from the music because his attention is focused on the precision of the actions involved. Some also explain that if someone does not practice for three weeks, he will begin to forget. It is therefore permissible to practice until Rosh Chodesh Av (see Pitchei Teshuvot 493.4 and 551:13).

#### Music on Erev Shabbat during the Three Weeks

Q: Is it permissible to listen to music on Erev Shabbat during the Three Weeks?

A: No, there is no difference between Erev Shabbat, Motzaei Shabbat and Rosh Chodesh – it is forbidden. It is true that it is difficult for us but this is part of mourning.

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