



On the Air with Rav Aviner ~ #105

From Ha-Rav's weekly radio program in Israel and more

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"Maaser Kesafim" from absorption package

Q: Does an Oleh Chadash who receives an absorption package have to give "Maaser" from it?

A: One must give "Maaser" from any money he receives: salary, found money, inheritance, gift, etc. An Oleh Chadash must therefore give "Maaser" from the absorption package.

A kosher concern

Q: How should one act in a house in which there is a concern that the food is not kosher because the family is not observant but they say that they keep kosher?

A: It is impossible to rely on them for two reasons:

1. Perhaps there are halachot of which they are unaware.
2. Perhaps there are halachot of which they heard but they think they are stringencies.

It is possible that it is 100% kosher, but you cannot be certain.

There are therefore a few options: You can do your homework and gently check with them or you can act like Ha-Rav Eliyahu Lopian (brought in "Lev Eliyahu" vol. 1, p. 18 in the introduction) in which he was invited to eat a few times and he did not want to embarrass the one inviting him, he therefore said that the doctor forbade him from eating the particular food. And he explained to his students with a smile that he was not lying, G-d forbid, since the Rambam was a doctor! There are also many doctors in the State of Israel who say that there are all sorts of problems of overeating.

Bircat Ha-Gomel for women

Q: I was ill in the hospital. As a woman, am I obligated to recite Bircat Ha-Gomel?

A: One who is laid-up in bed because of an illness is required to recite Bircat Ha-Gomel since the illness could lead to other complications. When men recite it, they do so when receiving an aliyah to the Torah. What should women do? There are three possibilities: 1. At some opportunity, like at a class, when there are ten men, she should recite it. 2. Someone should tell the Gabbai, he asks for quiet and she recites it from the women's section in shul. 3. Some women do not recite it because of the complications surrounding the issue of modesty.



Shut She'eilat Shlomo - Questions of Jewish Law

"The souls they made in Charan"

Question: What happened to all of the people that Avraham and Sarah converted? Were they integrated into B'nei Yisrael or disregarded as soon as Yitzchak was born?

Answer: These people were and are the righteous non-Jews of the world. For example, there was Rachav who helped the Nation of Israel during the time of Yehoshua. They were not converted in the halachic sense since people - beside the Forefathers and Foremothers - could not become Jews during that time. Rabbi Tzadok Ha-Cohain of Lublin points out in his

book "Takanat Ha-Shavim" that if this was not the cause than Yishmael and Esav would also have been Jewish. They therefore remain spread out among the world.



Text Message Responsa

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

Q: Is it permissible for a convert to recite Kaddish for his biological father?

A: Yes. Shut Yechaveh Daat.

Q: Is it permissible to daven Shacharit on a beach?

A: Only when there is no choice since it is forbidden to daven in an open area.

Q: Is it permissible to use a stamp which was not marked by the post office?

A: Certainly not, it is included in the mitzvah of returning a lost object.

Q: Is it permissible to listen to a secular singer sing cantorial music?

A: No, it requires fear of heaven.

Q: Is it permissible to take a towel from a hotel? After all they charge more money since they know people do it.

A: It is certainly theft.

Q: My wedding ring was stolen. Is it a bad sign?

A: No, it is not a bad sign. If you want, your husband can buy you a new ring and make you happy.

Q: If I donate a book in someone's memory but do not write "In memory of..." is it still in their memory?

A: Definitely. The Master of the Universe knows.

Q: Is it permissible for a woman to have a nose ring?

A: It is forbidden in our days because of "Chukot Ha-Goyim" (following non-Jewish practices) which includes acts of arrogance and drawing attention to oneself.

Q: Is it permissible to name a baby after a grandmother who has killed when young?

A: We do not generally name a child after a person who died young, but it is permissible for a grandparent since it is included in the mitzvah of honoring father and mother.

Q: Is it permissible to use a friend's pen without his permission?

A: If you are completely certain that he would agree.

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