



On the Air with Rav Aviner - #109

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

Prepared by Rabbi Mordechai Friedfertig

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The Law of Return (Shut Blog)

Q: What is Ha-Rav's opinion about the Law of Return (allowing all Jews to immigrate to Israel)? Two Olim Chadashim recently performed horrible crimes.

A: The Law is certainly a great mitzvah. This Land belongs to the entire Jewish People. We must allow all Jews to return and aid them. It is true that sometimes problematic Jews come to Israel, but everything must be judged by its majority, and we should not belittle this great and holy law on account of a few people.

Blessing one's children (Shut Blog)

Q: Is it permissible to bless one's children before Shabbat if they will not be with us on Shabbat?

A: It is certainly permissible to do so before hand.

One sink

Q: How should one act if he only has one sink?

A: There are three options: 1. Wash dishes in the air. 2. Place a rack on the bottom of the sink – one for milchig and one for fleischig – and wash the sink in between. Be careful not to have the utensils touch the bottom or sides of the sink. 3. Place a plastic tub in the sink – one for milchig and one for fleischig – and punch holes in the bottom to allow the water to flow out. Be careful to line up the holes with the drain so that the water which touches the sink does not flow back into the tub.

Trying perfume in a store

Q: Is it permissible to put on perfume in a store if you know that you are not going to buy there?

A: It is certainly stealing. They allow people to try a little of the perfume to check whether they are interested in buying it. If you know that you will not buy it, they do not grant you permission. Furthermore, if one enters a store and takes interest in item but does not want to buy it, he violates "genivat da'at" (deception), since the salesperson has false hopes that you will buy it. It is permissible, however, if the salesperson insists that you try the perfume. There are often people in the supermarket offering tastes of food or drinks. If someone offers and you say: "I am not interested. I am not going to buy it," and they say: "Try it anyway," there is no problem since they hope you will like it. It is, however, forbidden if it is on your initiative but you do not plan to buy it.

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 to knit words on a kippah?

A: As long as it does not draw attention and not verses from the Tanach.

Q: A bride found out a few days before the wedding that the groom had emotional difficulties and canceled the wedding. Is she obligated to pay the financial damages?

A: No, it is obvious that she would not have agreed if she had known. On the contrary, the groom's family should pacify her and compensate her for her pain and suffering.

Q: What should I do if my aunt wants to kiss me?

A: Avoid it, using wisdom.

Q: Is it permissible to repent on Shabbat? Perhaps it impinges on the joy of Shabbat?

A: It is certainly permissible.

Q: Is it permissible to visit the Temple Mount.

A: No. The Chief Rabbinate forbids it.

Q: Is it permissible to have a male coach for girls' basketball?

A: Certainly not, and we see that Religious girls' school have female gym teachers.

Q: Does a husband have to be taller than his wife?

A: No.

Q: If a Brit Milah is on Shabbat and many of the guests will drive, should it be postponed until Sunday?

A: Yes. Yalkut Yosef.

Q: Does Halachah require one to wear a seatbelt?

A: One is obligated according to the Halachah and the law.

Q: But Hashem protects...

A: This is a nonsensical claim, dangerous nonsense.

Q: Is it permissible to write on one's hand in order to remember something or is it like a tattoo?

A: It is permissible, since it is not deep in the skin and it is temporary.

Q: Is it forbidden to smoke light drugs?

A: There is no such thing as light drugs. All of them are heavy. It is forbidden according to Halachah: Rambam, Hilchot Deot chap. 4 and the law: one can be put in prison.

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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

