



On the Air with Rav Aviner - #118

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

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Leaving Israel for my sister's Bat Mitzvah

Q: My family wants to celebrate my sister's Bat Mitzvah outside of Israel. Is it permissible to leave Israel to celebrate with them?

A: It is forbidden according to the Rambam (Hilchot Melachim 5:9), who writes that one may only temporarily leave to learn Torah, find a wife, or flee from non-Jews. Tosafot (Avodah Zarah 13b) allows leaving Eretz Yisrael for any mitzvah. But there is no mitzvah to celebrate a Bat Mitzvah outside of Israel. Do not lecture your family about it, simply say: I am sorry to say that I cannot come.

Taking the Mezuzot when one leaves a rented apartment

Q: Can one who put up Mezuzot in a rented apartment take them when he leaves?

A: The basic Halachah is that one may not take the Mezuzot when leaving when a Jew is moving in there. There are, however, some solutions:

1. It is certainly permissible to take the Mezuzah Case.
2. One may replacement the Mezuzot with the least expensive, kosher ones available (Ha-Rav Mordechai Eliyahu on Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 11 #20).
3. One may take a Mezuzah which he put up in a place where a Mezuzah is not a requirement but he wanted to be strict.

4. One can ask the new tenant to pay him for the Mezuzot, but he is not required to do so (see Rama, Yoreh Deah 291 and Be'er Golah ibid.).

Text Message Responsa

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

Q: What did they learn in the Yeshiva of Shem and Ever?

A: The seven mitzvot of Noach, and general ethics.

Q: Is it permissible to eat food I put under my bed?

A: One should not put food there but after the fact it is permissible to eat.

Q: Should we say Tachanun on the holiday of Sigd (celebrated by those who made aliyah from Ethiopia)?

A: Yes, but those who made aliyah from Ethiopia should not.

Q: Should one stand out of respect on the bus for an elderly Arab or Bedouin?

A: Yes.

Q: Does lipstick require kosher certification?

A: It is certainly preferable since it may have fat from non-kosher animals or have absorbed non-kosher fat on the assembly line. The basic Halachah, however, is that it is permissible since lipstick is inedible. If one intentionally eats it is a Rabbinical prohibition.

Q: Does one recite a blessing on a favored cough drop?

A: Yes.

Q: Is it permissible to go to see standup comedy?

A: No, it is "Moshav Leitzim: frivolity. Avodah Zarah 18b.

Q: My In-Laws interfere with everything in our lives and now they want us to use amulets. What should we do?

A: Treat them with respect but do what you want.

Q: Is it permissible to name a child after a non-Jew?

A: There is no prohibition, but it is certainly preferable to name after a Jew. As is known, our ancestors in Egypt were praised because they did not change their names but kept their Hebrew names. Similarly, it is certainly proper to Hebraicize a non-Hebrew name, but one is not required to do so.

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