



## On the Air with Rav Aviner - #124

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

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Questions in this issue:

1. Giving a daughter a kiss
2. Looking in the mirror to adjust Tefillin
3. Bulk shopping on a friend's membership
4. SMS Q&A

### Giving a daughter a kiss

Q: Until what age it is permissible for a father to give his daughter a kiss?

A: It is permissible at all ages, even when she is an adult and even when she is married, as the Beit Shemuel wrote on Even Ha-Ezer in the Shulchan Aruch (21:14).

### Looking in the mirror to adjust Tefillin

Q: Is it permissible to look in a mirror to make sure that one's Tefillin is in the right place?

A: The Shulchan Aruch (Yoreh Deah 182:6) writes that it is forbidden to look in a mirror because of "Lo Yilbash" (not to dress or act in a way like a woman). But the Rama (Yoreh Deah 156:2) says that it is permissible to look in a mirror in order to put

oneself together in a place where men have the custom to look in a mirror. It is forbidden, however, for one to make oneself look pretty. This is what Yosef did when he primed his hair and then Satan said: "Now, he is mine" (Rashi on Bereshit 39:6). There are some authorities who rule that a small mirror for Tefillin is a "custom of ignoramuses" (Shut Divrei Chaim vol. 2 Orach Chaim #6, Shut Va-Yoel Moshe Orach Chaim #4 and Shut Tzitz Eliezer 12:6 #2). And other authorities, based on the words of the Rama, rule that it is permissible to look in a mirror to make sure one's Tefillin is in the proper place. It is related in the book "Uvdot Ve-Hanhagot Le-Beit Brisk" (vol. 3, pp. 189-180) that Ha-Griz – Ha-Rav Velevele Soloveitchik – once visited a city and used a mirror to make sure his Tefillin was in the correct place, as was his custom. At his seat, someone placed a copy of Shut Divrei Chaim opened to the Teshuvah which refers to looking in a mirror to adjust one's Tefillin as a "custom of ignoramuses." Ha-Griz said to the people there: "I will use a Chasidic story (since the Divrei Chaim was Chasidic, while he was a Mitnaged). Reb Moshe Leib Sasover once said about the Halachah that one who sits in a Sukkah while it is raining is an idiot (Rama, Orach Chaim 639:7): 'It is worthwhile for me to be called an idiot as long as I fulfill the mitzvah of dwelling in the Sukkah.' I say the same thing: 'It is worthwhile for me to be called an ignoramus as long as the Tefillin sit in the precise spot on my head.'"

### **Shut She'eilat Shlomo - Questions of Jewish Law**

#### Bulk shopping on a friend's membership

Question: It is permissible to buy items in a bulk-shopping store on a friend's membership?

Answer: If the store allows 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" and "Olam Ha-Katan." Here's a sample:

Q: Is it permissible for cousins of the opposite gender to touch?

A: No, it is only permissible for parents/children and grandparents/children. And it is permissible for siblings if it is not for affectionate purposes.

Q: I took money from my brother without permission. How do I return it without shame?

A: Return it secretly.

Q: Does one have to wait 6 hours between meat and milk or is 5 hours enough?

A: 6 hours. Shulchan Aruch, Yoreh Deah 89:1. Unless one has a halachically based tradition to wait 5 hours.

Q: Is it permissible to daven Shacharit at the beach?

A: After the fact, since one needs to daven in a closed area.

Q: Is it permissible to reuse a stamp not crossed out by the post office?

A: No, there is a mitzvah to return a lost object.

Q: Is there a source to keep Eretz Yisrael beautiful?

A: Yes, the end of Ketubot.

Q: Is it permissible to take a towel from a hotel? They charge more money because they know people will take them.

A: It is certainly theft.

Q: What should one do with a ripped flag of Israel – Geniza or garbage?

A: Put it in the garbage. When it is ripped the honor is gone.

Q: Do I have to tell in a job interview that I am pregnant?

A: Depending on the law.

Q: Is it permissible to daven Shemoneh Esrei out loud if it adds to my kavana?

A: Yes, if you are davening alone (Shulchan Aruch Orach Chaim 582:9. Mishnah Berurah #24).

Q: My father has a custom which is not found in Halachah books. Should I change it or continue since it is the custom of my ancestors?

A: Continue it after you inquire among Torah scholars if it is a proper custom.

Special thank you to Fred Casden for editing "On the Air"

