

Q: Should one refrain from naming his children: Avraham, Yitzchak, Yaakov and Moshe as is mentioned in the last testament of Rabbi Yehudah Ha-Chasid (Azharot Nosafot #2)?

A: Some authorities hold that this testament is only for his children. Nonetheless, the custom in this case is to permit it (and this is also the ruling in Shut Minchat Yitzchak 9:137).

Pre-Torah Writings

Q: Ancient writings, which precede the Torah, had been found with stories and laws similar to the Tanach. If so, is the Tanach copied from them?

A: The existence of these is known. 1. There were prophets which preceded the giving of the Torah. 2. There are certain ideas which are relevant to the universal human spirit. 3. The Master of the Universe included proper and Kosher ideas within the Tanach. Sefer Eder Ha-Yakar of Maran Ha-Rav Kook.

E-mail on Shabbat

Q: Can I read an e-mail after Shabbat that was sent on Shabbat?

A: After the fact, it is permissible to benefit from it. Shulchan Aruch Orach Chaim 318:1.

Buying before Birth

Q: Is there a problem with buying clothing and furniture for a baby before the birth, or is there a problem of the evil eye?

A: There are some who refrain from doing so, but there is absolutely no halachic prohibition. On the contrary, it is a sign of trust in Hashem (Ner Ne-Ishon Laila p. 123. Unlike what Ha-Rav Chaim Kanievski said: The world is particular [not to do so] because of the evil eye. She'eilat Rav vol. 2 p. 58).

Forgot to Count Sefirat Ha-Omer

Q: If someone forgot to count Sefirat Ha-Omer for an entire day and is extremely sad and embarrassed, can he continue to count with a blessing?

A: No. There is an opinion which permits it, but it is a lone view. Shaarim Metzuyanim Ba-Halachah (120:7).

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