



Zot Ha-Berachah p. 101, for a discussion of why the blessing is not "Borei Pri Ha-Eitz").

#### Netilat Yadayim after Donating Blood

Q: After donating blood should one wash Netilat Yadayim as one would after blood-letting? What about after a blood test?

A: No. Since these are spiritual matters, we only do what is written in the Halachah and do not add to it. Halichot Shlomo 20:19. Some authorities however do say that donating blood is similar to blood-letting, and that it is proper to be strict. Piskei Teshuvot Vol. 1 p. 58. But certainly not after a blood test (And this is also the ruling in the Halachic-Medical Encyclopedia of Rav Steinberg Vol. 2 pp. 525-527, Vol. 3 pp. 429-430. It is also the opinion of Ha-Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv, since the amount of blood extracted when donating blood is equivalent to that in blood-letting while a blood test requires only a minimal amount of blood. Be-Dama'ich Chayi - collection of Halachot regarding blood donation pp. 51-54).

#### Military Discount

Q: I receive a 30% discount from various stores for being a soldier. Is it permissible to use this discount to buy something for a friend?

A: You should ask the army.

#### Utensil in Right Hand when Immersing in Mikveh

Q: When immersing utensils in a Mikveh, should one hold the utensil in his right hand?

A: Yes, just as one holds the food or object in his right hand when reciting a blessing over it or for a Mitzvah. Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chaim 26:2. Mishnah Berurah #17-18 (And this is also the ruling of Ha-Rav Chaim Kanievski in Kuntres Ish Iter #38).

#### Selling Transgressions

Q: I heard of a case where one person was willing to take on another person's transgressions for \$500. Is there such a thing?

A: Nonsense. See Sefer Chasidim, edition of Ha-Rav Reuven Margoliot, p. 591.

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