



Halacha For Today: Week In Review

WEEK OF PARASHAS KEDOSHIM 5784



When Reading in Shul, DO NOT Read During Davening or Krias HaTorah



CURRENT TOPIC: HALACHOS OF SEFIRAS HAOMER

Halachos for Sunday, May 5, 2024

1) It is permissible to move into a newly rented apartment during Sefirah.

Although not halachically prohibited, there are those who refrain from moving into a newly built/bought home that they own, as this leads to excessive Simcha.

However, those who are not stringent with this have on whom to rely.

2) If some significant items (such as furniture) are moved into the home prior to Sefirah, then according to everyone there is no issue of moving into the home during Sefirah, as the initial Simcha of the new home has faded. (See Shu"t Yechaveh Da'as vol. 3 Siman 30 and Sefer Hilchos Chag B'chag; Pesach, page 58 quoting Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv and Rav Chaim Kanievsky Zichronam L'Vracha)

One who moves into a new home may celebrate a "Chanukas Habayis" during sefirah.

It is best to speak words of Torah at this celebration to render it a seudas mitzvah.

Singing is also allowed at this Seudah, but not music or dancing. (Psak of Chacham Ovadia Yoseph Zatzal)

Halachos for Monday, May 6, 2024

1) The Talmud (Yevamos 62b) tells us that the holy Tanna Rabbi Akiva had 12,000 pairs of disciples, and all 24,000 of them passed away within a short time period [during the time between Pesach and Shavuot], as a punishment for not treating one another with adequate respect.

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Obviously, these disciples were very exalted individuals, and were held to a very high standard, as Tzadikim are, and thus, on their lofty level it was deemed a sin enough to warrant their deaths.

While we cannot fathom the greatness of these men, we can, and must, learn the lesson of their harsh punishment, and do our best to improve our interpersonal relationships with our friends, family and others we come in contact with in our lives, and work to improve how we respect all people we interact with.

It is especially important to utilize the time period of the Sefiras Ha'Omer for introspection and personal growth, especially to work on improving areas of Bein Adam L'Chaveiro, such as Kavod, Lashon Hara, Rechilus, Dan L'Kaf Zechus, Ona'as Devarim etc.

Thus, over the next few days we will review some important Halachos in Hilchos Lashon Hara (Though we independently covered this topic at length - a quick review of some commonly relevant Halachos is always a good idea!)

2) It is forbidden to relate about another Jew that he/she is not intelligent.

This is the case even if what the intention to relate is that they aren't "worldly", which is still a negative thing to say.

Surely, it is forbidden to relate about someone who is recognized as a "Talmid Chacham" that "he isn't as wise as people think he is" or similar negative comments, such as saying about a Rav of a Shul that "He is only knowledgeable in Halachos relevant to day-to-day operation of the community, but is not so knowledgeable in other areas of Torah".

Similarly, it is forbidden to say about a respected Talmid Chacham in a city that "I know him from when he used to live in a different city... over there they didn't respect him as much..." .

Likewise, it is forbidden to say about a public speaker, "He isn't worth listening to" or " He is not as interesting as people say he is" or " He doesn't know what he is talking about" or any similar negative comment.

Halachos for Tuesday May 7, 2024

1) As a general rule, when it comes to "Midos", there is no one way that is right or wrong for everyone, and no one way that is proper for each situation.

For example, there are times where acting with anger, jealousy, zealousness and the like is highly inappropriate, and times when it is indeed warranted according to the Torah. (The entire Sefer Orchos Tzadikim is based on this premise, where he discusses various Midos, and their appropriate and inappropriate applications)

2) Thus, due to the many variables, based on the individual in question, the circumstances, the venue, the time etc., it is never possible to know exactly what transpired and why an individual acted a certain

way which seemingly was without good Midos, and certainly we may not deem someone a Rasha based on observing him / her behaving with "bad" Midos.

Halachos for Wednesday, May 8, 2024

1) The prohibition to speak Lashon Hara does not only apply to speaking negatively about an individual; it also applies to speaking negatively about a group.

Thus, it is prohibited to say something negative about people from a specific city or community, the crowd in a certain Shul, the lifestyle of a particular faction of Yidden, and the like.

2) Lashon Hara is prohibited regardless if the one being spoken about is a male or female, child or adult, a random person or a friend, a spouse or a distant relative, a Talmid Chacham or an unlearned person.

Halachos for Thursday, May 9, 2024

1) It is prohibited to denigrate and talk disparagingly about a person even after he/she passes away.

2) There is a "Cherem Kadmonin", an ancient rabbinic condemnation leveled against one who speaks negatively about the deceased, and it is recommended to be careful with this at all costs. (See commentary of the Mordechai beginning of 8th Perek of Bava Kama. See also Shulchan Aruch Orach Chaim Siman 606:3)

This applies regarding any deceased people, even if they were not Torah scholars, and all the more so about a Torah scholar.

Furthermore, it also applies to disparaging the Divrei Torah of a Talmid Chacham who has passed from this world.

Halachos for Erev Shabbos Kodesh, May 10, 2024 Double Portion L'Kavod Shabbos Kodesh

Halachos for Erev Shabbos Kodesh

1) Just as it is prohibited to "speak" Lashon Hara about a fellow Jew, so too it is equally forbidden to "write" Lashon Hara about them.

Unfortunately, with the advent of technology, it has become so much easier and more prevalent to relate, read, accept and spread Lashon Hara about people, via email, text message, WhatsApp groups and the like, and this has had terrible and frightening consequences for individuals, families, businesses, communities and for Klal Yisroel at large.

Each and every Yid must be vigilant to avoid having any part in this spread of Lashon Hara at all costs.

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It may take just a second or two to click and share a seemingly harmless story, text, photo, meme or message, but that can set off a chain reaction and literally within minutes it can reach thousands of people and seriously harm or destroy a person's life, reputation, business, Shalom Bayis etc.

2) This is not something to be flippant about; it is crucial to think twice (or 100 times) before reading and believing something received via digital transmission, and surely, we must think deep, hard and honestly, before sharing something that we receive, to make sure it is 100% OK to share.

Once it is shared, it is all but impossible to "un-share", and it takes on a life of its own and gets around the world.

This is a serious concern, and should not be treated lightly or dismissed as "Oh, it's only a harmless meme..." or by thinking "Everyone is doing it" or assuming that since it's already out there, there is no harm in broadcasting it further; nothing can be further from the truth.

May Hashem give us all the strength to overcome this strong 21st century Yetzer Hara, and help us all use technology responsibly and without sin R"L.

Halachos for Shabbos Kodesh

1) The prohibition to relate Lashon Hara is in full effect even if the one it is being related to is a very close relative, including one's spouse.

2) Many people mistakenly believe that it is OK to share negative details about what transpired in Shul, at work or other things that happened to them during the day, with their spouse.

Nothing can be further from the truth. Not only is this 100% Lashon Hara and forbidden, it is also unwise as sharing such negative details with a spouse often leads to machlokes, the spouse harboring feelings of animosity toward them, and other sins.

(Of course, there are certain exceptions to this rule, where relating something to a spouse can be deemed L'Toeles, for a permitted and necessary purpose. The criteria for "To'eles must be studied thoroughly before being utilized).

The aforementioned Halachos also apply to business partners; there is no blanket allowance for them to share negative information with one another, unless deemed necessary according to Halacha.

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