

HALACHOS HATZRICHOS

PACKET #31



CHECKING MEZUZOS IN TIMES OF HARDSHIP

According to *halacha*, we check our mezuzos every 3 and a half years, but it is our *minhag* to try our best to check them EVERY year, especially during the month of *Elul*.

It is also brought in *Seforim* that if someone is going through a hard time, it is also appropriate to check the mezuzos again. Since the mezuzah is our protection, we want to make sure our protection is strong.

See “*Mezuzah, Divine Protection and Blessing*” p. 77



CHECKING POCKETS

On Shabbos, we are not allowed to carry things outside without an *eruv*. We aren't allowed to carry things in our hands, and we even can't carry them in our pockets!

So *Erev Shabbos*, there is a *mitzvah* to check our pockets. We make sure that there is nothing inside, so that we won't carry by mistake on Shabbos.

See the Alter Rebbe's Shulchan Aruch, Hilchos Shabbos, 252:20



LOOKING AT THE NEIROS

When a person is making *Kiddush*, he first looks at the Shabbos candles, the *neiros*.

Why?

The *Chachomim* teach us that there are certain things that a person might do which take away *Tof-Kuf* (1/500th) of their eyesight. So a person should look at the two Shabbos candles, since the *Gematria* of “*ner*” (candle) is 250, and two together is 500. Looking at the 500 of the *neiros* is a *segulah* for fixing the 1/500th of a person’s *koach* of seeing!

But we don’t look at the *neiros* WHILE we make *Kiddush* — we need to look at the *kos* of *Kiddush*.

See the Alter Rebbe’s Shulchan Aruch, Siman 271



KRIYAS HATORAH IN SHABBOS MINCHA

Moshe Rabbeinu taught that there should never be three days in a row where we don't *lein* from the Torah. That is why we have *Kriyas HaTorah* on Mondays and Thursdays, and not just on Shabbos.

Ezra added a new *takana*. There were some Yidden who could not come to *shul* to hear the *Kriyas HaTorah* on Mondays and Thursdays, because of their jobs. To help them hear more *Kriyas HaTorah*, Ezra added a special *kriyah* for them on Shabbos, at *Mincha* time. We *lein* at least 10 *pesukim* from the coming *Parsha*!

See the Alter Rebbe's Shulchan Aruch, siman 292 se'if beis



WOMEN AND HAVDALAH

Is it a *mitzvah* for women to say or hear *Havdalah*?

Some *seforim* say that it is a *mitzvah* for women, the same way that *Kiddush* is a *mitzvah* for women. It is part of the *mitzvah* of “*Zachor Es Yom Hashabbos*,” remembering Shabbos, which women also need to keep.

But other *seforim* say that *Havdalah* was a separate *takana* added by the *Chachomim*, and so it's NOT part of the *mitzvah* for women.

So what do we do?

Usually, women do make sure to be *yotzei Havdalah*. They are allowed to make *Havdalah* for themselves or for other women. But since they might NOT have the *mitzvah*, they are not allowed to make *Havdalah* for a man. And if a man already was *yotzei Havdalah*, he is not allowed to make *Havdalah* just for women, because it might be a *Bracha Levatala*.

See the Alter Rebbe's *Shulchan Aruch*, *Siman* 296

