

THE BETH JACOB SHABBOS LEARNING PROJECT

Keeping It Better Together

Muktzeh Quiz 2: *Valuable Objects*

For discussion at the Shabbos meals. After Shabbos, go online and fill in the answers to be entered in a raffle to win our weekly prize. Last week's winners: the Winer family!

This week's prize: Shabbos meal from EB Catering!

These questions are based upon principles of the laws of Muktzeh that are summarized in our weekly podcast. This week's category: **Valuable Objects** (טומץ' מוגנת טורן כ"ז). The questions below are about what fits that category and in what ways it is permitted to handle these objects.

- 1) Yes, it's election season, and all eyes are on us here in Georgia. On Shabbos you actually witness a voting irregularity! Your absentee ballot that will shape world politics for the next few years fell off your desk and is now lying on the floor – in the direct path of your baby, crawling on a collision-course with active cholent-hands! Can you pick up the ballot and move it to a safe place?
 - a) No need. They can't possibly invalidate cholent. It will be fine.
 - b) Pick up the ballot and use it as a "bookmark".
 - c) It depends who you voted for....
 - d) You can't move it.

- 2) Your overly wealthy friend just purchased the Mona Lisa. He decided that in this day and age it doesn't make sense to have the Mona Lisa displayed without a mask. It's just not realistic anymore. So, he hires a world-famous artist to attach a blue surgical mask at exactly the right angle onto the famous portrait. Your friend invites you to join him for a Shabbos meal and you jump at the opportunity to get a peek at the newly masked masterpiece. He leads you into the dining room where he has it displayed and excuses himself for a moment to greet another guest. As you walk forward to take in this beautiful and unusual sight, you trip on your untied shoelace, stumble forward and crash into the painting! Fortunately, you caused no damage – but the most famous painting in the world is now crooked and...unmasked! Can you gently push the painting back in place?
 - a) Yes.
 - b) No, you cannot. Tell your host she has antibodies.
 - c) No, but you can save yourself by moving the mask so it sits in the right place.
 - d) Run!

- 3) It's a legal holiday weekend and your kids are engaged in all sorts of creative art projects. You are relieved that the "art" remains on papers and not on walls and furniture and are therefore content to let things be. As Shabbos approaches, relaxed vacation mode turns into frantic Shabbos prep mode and in your haste you don't have time to pick up all the papers. Completed drawings and blank papers blanket your house when you come home on Friday night. You go to take out your Kiddush cup – and there is a blank paper perched on top of it. Is paper *muktze*? You shrug, go to take out the Challah board – same thing. You take a deep breath and survey the paper landscape around you, wishing you had listened to the Shabbos Learning Project podcast this week. If you did you would realize that:
- a) Blank paper is definitely *muktze* and is deemed a "valuable item". This is going to require some creativity.
 - b) True, paper is *muktze* but that's because it's used for writing or drawing. That makes it an item of prohibited use and you can move it to get to your thing.
 - c) These questions are getting stranger and stranger. Paper? *Muktze*?
 - d) Huff and puff and blow all the papers down.
- 4) Looking for a new hobby after you've completed your Corona-era herb garden, you decide it's time to start woodworking. After building up your skills, you've begun to design Challah boards that are good enough to sell on Amazon (is that good?). So, when you encounter your Challah board under paper, you decide to get around the issue and fetch one of your newly crafted wood Challah boards. Even though it will be used once, you can still sell it with "artistic knife grooves." Is this OK?
- a) Yes, it's fine. I've seen your Challah boards and nobody is going to buy them anyway. Stick to gardening.
 - b) No – merchandise is *muktze* as something valuable and you can't use it at all!
 - c) Yes, it's OK because you are allowed to use *muktze* for a permissible purpose.
 - d) You can use it, but you have to have in mind to return it and keep your hand on it the whole time.
- 5) It's almost Chanukah and you want to take out your menorah to get it ready. Unfortunately, you left it on your kitchen counter before Shabbos. What can you do now?
- a) Move the menorah to a safe place so you can use your counter.
 - b) "Use" the menorah as an air-guitar as you practice your favorite "Yevanim Yevanim" song.
 - c) It depends on what the menorah is made out of. If it's silver, you're stuck. But if it's other materials, you can move it.
 - d) You can't move it, but that's ok - it will get people into the Chanukah spirit!

Submit your answers at www.bethjacobatlanta.org/slp, or click the link on our home page.

Answers received by Monday at noon will be entered into the raffle drawing.

