

THE BETH JACOB SHABBOS LEARNING PROJECT

Keeping It Better Together

Muktzeh Quiz 4: *Muktzeh* Base

ANSWERS!

- 1) Disclaimer: The behavior described herein is not condoned. Please do not try this at home. Kreindeleh and Mazal Chayyimtovim are sisters born to Ashkenzai and Sefardi parents. The house is always alive with good-natured Ashkenazi/Sefardi competition. One Erev Shabbos (a.k.a Shabbat) Kreindeleh and Mazal decide to have a cooking competition and let their guests decide which dish is better. Kreindeleh makes the greasiest potato kugel you've ever seen. Mazal makes the spiciest Kibbeh known to man. The moment of truth is set for Friday night, when those at the meal will taste and vote on their favorite. But Kreindeleh doesn't play fair. Right before Shabbis Koidesh, she takes a large rock and puts it on top of Mazal's Kibbeh dish. Ha! Will this work to spoil the competition?
- a) It's a cruel trick, but understandable given the danger of uber-spicy Kibbeh! Yes, it will work to make the Kibbeh a *bosis*.
 - b) Kreindeleh is sneaky, but not quite greasy enough. She can't render someone else's item *muktzeh*.
 - c) It works – but the potato kugel also becomes *Muktzeh* through the *Muktzeh* Penalty Rule.
 - d) It will render the Kibbeh *muktzeh* only if the rock is larger than the Kibbeh.

Answer: B

You cannot render someone's else property *muktzeh* unless they agree.

- 2) On Shabbos day, Kreindeleh is about to put on her coat to go outside. As she reaches for it, Mazal calls out: "Ha! I happen to know you have money in your coat pocket. Nyah nyah, you can't move your coat! Maybe you should wear a Shtreimel to keep warm!"
- a) The Torah forbids bearing a grudge, but it happens to be that Mazal is correct. The coat is a *bosis* for the money.
 - b) Kreindeleh should shake out the money first, but she can wear the coat.
 - c) It depends on how much money is in the pocket.
 - d) If Kreindeleh is going to Beth Jacob, it's fine. If she is going to the Sefardi shul, oy vey, it's *Muktzeh*.

Answer: B

Unless Kreindeleh intentionally placed money in her coat, the money will not make the pocket or the coat into a *bosis*.

(Extra credit: An exception to this would be if she always keeps her money there. Then, that would be the normal storage place for the money and it would create a *bosis*.)

- 3) While the Chayyimtovim is engaging in a *zemiros* competition: Ki Eshmerah Shabbat vs. Boruch Kel Elyoin, there are a loud knock at the door. Why, it's tough Joe Northerner from SLP Quiz #3! "Howdy, Joe! Shabbat Shalom, y'all! How are y'all doing? Y'all need suhmthin'?" exclaim the Chayyimtovims. After Joe Northerner stops twitching

from hearing too many Southern expressions, he smiles politely and explains his situation. He's just sooo hot, not like all the Atlanta wimps. But the problem is that during the week he was quickly putting away his prized baseball signed by the entire New York Yankees. In his haste he threw it into his closet and it happened to land on top of his favorite short-sleeve Shabbos shirt. Since the baseball is sooo cool and sooo expensive, it is a valuable *muktzeh* item and Joe is concerned that maybe the shirt underneath is a *basis*. He wants to know if he can borrow a short-sleeve Shabbos shirt so he can be comfortable when it kinda snows.

- a) Joe's shirt is not a *basis*. He had no intention of resting the baseball on the shirt.
- b) Yup, sounds like a problem. But sorry, Joe. We don't have short-sleeve Shabbos shirts. Maybe try Avenue J or suhmthin'.
- c) Since the baseball will just roll off, it's OK to take the shirt.
- d) Nah, the baseball isn't valuable at all. If it was a Braves baseball, that would be a different story.

Answer: A

There are differing opinions about this case, but the Misha Berura rules that in cases of need one can rely on the lenient opinion who maintains that since the baseball wasn't placed specifically onto the short sleeve shirt, it is not a *basis*.

- 4) At Seuda Shelishit, the Chayimtovim family has recently decided to serve a food item that won't start a fight: Sushi. Dr. Chayimtovim is set to cut the sushi rolls with his fancy sushi knife, but as he reaches for the drawer, he remembers that they usually store some matches in the same drawer. Can he open the drawer, or is it a *basis*?
- a) The drawer is a *basis* for the matches. Try a different knife.
 - b) The drawer is not a *basis* because the sushi knife is more valuable.
 - c) The matches are usually kept in that drawer, but since nobody put them there on purpose, the drawer is not a *basis*.
 - d) Since it's Lekavod Shabbos, it's permissible to open the drawer.

Answer: B

When there are both *muktzeh* and *non-muktzeh* items on a surface, the status of the surface follows whatever is more important. (Note that if something is special for Shabbos, that makes it more important, even if it is not as valuable).

- 5) On Shabbos afternoon, Mazal and Kreindeleh sit down for a game of chess with their family's antique chess set. Toward the end of the game, Mazal cries out "Check-mate" as she proudly moves the right piece into place. In her excitement, she knocks over her antique king, which falls under the coffee table. Uh-oh. "We can't lose that piece", says Mazal, as she begins to move the table. Kreindeleh points to the wallet sitting on the edge. "You can't move the table. It's a *basis*! I guess I win. You don't have a king!"
- a) Correct! The table is a *basis*. But that doesn't mean she wins...
 - b) The table is not a *basis*. The chess piece is worth much more than the wallet!
 - c) It depends why the wallet was placed on the table to begin with.
 - d) Mazal can replace her missing king with a piece of her award-winning Kibbeh.

Answer: C

If the wallet was placed there intentionally by the owner of the table, the table is a *basis*. If the wallet was left there by accident, the table is permissible to move.

