
knives Giving Knives as Gifts

Posted by davidbassera...@gmail.com - 2008/09/13 05:45

Dear All, My mother-in-law is a excellent cook, and we have enjoyed many wonderful Shabbos and Yon Tov meals at her house. I recently noticed that her knives are all of a poor quality. I would like to buy her a good set of knives as a gift. I am familiar with the idea that according to Jewish tradition we don't give knives as gifts. I understand that it is acceptable to give knives as a gift, if the recipient of the gift gives the other party a coin in exchange for the gift. I would be grateful if anyone could shed some light on whether: - the practice of not giving knives as gifts is in fact a Jewish tradition; - the practice of not giving knives as gifts only applies to wedding gifts; and - it is acceptable to give knives as a gift, if the recipient of the gift gives the other party a coin in exchange. If anyone could point me to a reference on the internet where this is discussed, that would be most helpful. Thanks in advance. Kind regards, David

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Posted by Giorgies E. Geshahanna - 2008/09/13 05:45

My mother-in-law is a excellent cook, and we have enjoyed many wonderful Shabbos and Yon Tov meals at her house. I recently noticed that her knives are all of a poor quality. I would like to buy her a good set of knives as a gift. I am familiar with the idea that according to Jewish tradition we don't give knives as gifts. I understand that it is acceptable to give knives as a gift, if the recipient of the gift gives the other party a coin in exchange for the gift. I would be grateful if anyone could shed some light on whether: - the practice of not giving knives as gifts is in fact a Jewish tradition; - the practice of not giving knives as gifts only applies to wedding gifts; and - it is acceptable to give knives as a gift, if the recipient of the gift gives the other party a coin in exchange. If anyone could point me to a reference on the internet where this is discussed, that would be most helpful. Thanks in advance. I have heard of this. At one time I made diligent search to find a source, but was unsuccessful. It appears to be a superstition, and not especially Jewish, since other cultures share such superstition. Some say the objection is specifically to give a knife as a wedding gift, but not for other occasion. It is supposed that the knife will sever the bond between the bride and groom. In certain Oriental cultures, sending a knife to someone is understood as the sender requiring the recipient to commit suicide. See <http://forums.randi.org/showthread.php?t=105245> <http://www.wintersteel.com/Weddings.html> says, without citing a source, and therefore may be no more than a legend: In the Jewish tradition, it's bad luck to receive knives as a wedding gift. In case someone should give knives, the bride should transform the exchange into a financial transaction by giving a penny or nominal sum for the knives. In the same page: Interestingly, popular superstition even has a method for a girl to break off an engagement - she should present a knife to her discarded suitor. To cut his throat with, the cynic might ask? Giorgies owning a large collection of kitchen knives, and having no need for gift of such. Wishing all a good Shabbath and happy Lag Baomer

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Posted by Adelle - 2008/09/13 05:45

My mother-in-law is a excellent cook, and we have enjoyed many wonderful Shabbos and Yon Tov meals at her house. I recently noticed that her knives are all of a poor quality. I would like to buy her a good set of knives as a gift. I am familiar with the idea that according to Jewish tradition we don't give knives as gifts. I understand that it is acceptable to give knives as a gift, if the recipient of the gift gives the other party a coin in exchange for the gift. I would be grateful if anyone could shed some light on whether: - the practice of not giving knives as gifts is in fact a Jewish tradition; - the practice of not giving knives as gifts only applies to wedding gifts; and - it is acceptable to give knives as a gift, if the recipient of the gift gives the other party a coin in exchange. If anyone could point me to a reference on the internet where this is discussed, that would be most helpful. I asked for, and recieved, very good chef's knives from my best friend (and maid of honor) as a wedding gift. It was a minor scandal in the family which we laughed it off. Some of it goes back to common law in European countries that possession of a knife used in a crime was strong evidence of guilt - so you never accept a knife from somebody else as you may wind up paying for their crime. The planting a knife used in a crime in someone else's possessions was apparently a common thing. Adelle

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Posted by bac...@vms.huji.ac.il - 2008/09/13 05:45

Kind regards, David

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Posted by Eliyahu - 2008/09/13 05:45

My mother-in-law is a excellent cook, and we have enjoyed many wonderful Shabbos and Yon Tov meals at her house. I recently noticed that her knives are all of a poor quality. I would like to buy her a good set of knives as a gift. I am familiar with the idea that according to Jewish tradition we don't give knives as gifts. I understand that it is acceptable to give knives as a gift, if the recipient of the gift gives the other party a coin in exchange for the gift. I would be grateful if anyone could shed some light on whether: - the practice of not giving knives as gifts is in fact a Jewish tradition; - the practice of not giving knives as gifts only applies to wedding gifts; and - it is acceptable to give knives as a gift, if the recipient of the gift gives the other party a coin in exchange. If anyone could point me to a reference on the internet where this is discussed, that would be most helpful. Thanks in advance. Kind regards, David

It's a popular superstition with no halachic basis AFAIK. That said, a set of Wusthof, Henckel, Kershaw or Sabatier cutlery will last a lifetime with reasonable care and make the work in the kitchen much easier. It also make a kitchen a safer place, as accidents are far more likely to occur with dull knives than sharp ones. (Dull knives have to be forced, and a person doesn't have as much control over the blade when forcing a knife as when it cuts properly without the need for force.) And it's much better to have a small set of quality knives than a large set of cheap ones. Eliyahu (Whose dear wife has delegated to him the responsibility for selecting and maintaining the cutlery...)

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Posted by Shmaryahu b. Chanoch - 2008/09/13 05:45

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So have her give you a penny in payment! Then it is not a gift .

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Posted by Dvora L - 2008/09/13 05:45

I never relized how important really good knives were

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Posted by Craig Winchell - 2008/09/13 05:45

Thanks in advance. Kind regards, David

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Posted by Craig Winchell - 2008/09/13 05:45

(Whose dear wife has delegated to him the responsibility for selecting and maintaining the cutlery...)

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Posted by bac...@vms.huji.ac.il - 2008/09/13 05:45

for using them. Could be wrong, but perhaps it's worth a look-see. A reliable rav with much knowledge of hilchos tevilah told me that, and although he never quoted me chapter and verse, I believe him. Craig Winchell Josh
Thanks in advance. Kind regards, David

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Posted by Giorgies E. Geshahna - 2008/09/13 05:45

BTW while during a search on Google a few hours ago, I accidentally found out that there's an Israeli manufacturer of silicon pans (which is sold in stores here. We had assumed it was imported from China) and thus exempt from Tvilat Keylim since it was produced by a Jewish owned company. Silicone, or silicone coated? I would imagine that pans made of all silicone do not require tewila. You speak here of a Jewish manufacturer. What actually controls the requirement for tewila, the religion of the manufacturer, or the religion of a prior owner? If manufactured by a Jew, but then sold to a wholesale distributor or retail store owned by gentile, and then purchased by the consumer from the gentile, is tewila required because of the intervening Jewish ownership? GEG

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Posted by Giorgies E. Geshahna - 2008/09/13 05:45

In some stores in Israel, you can purchase pre- toyveled pots and pans. It saves the *shlep* to the Keylim Mikva which is a 10 minute taxi ride away in Baka next to the train tracks :-). In America, New York at least, many hardware stores have a keilim mikva on the premises where you can tavel your keilim at purchase time without having to *shlep* them anywhere. As a courtesy, most such shoppes will let you bring keilim purchased elsewhere and use their mikva. A caution is that not all of these mikvas are regularly, or even occasionally, inspected by a knowledgeable rabbi, and may not in fact be kosher for tewila. One needs to enquire. BTW while during a search on Google a few hours ago, I accidentally found out that there's an Israeli manufacturer of silicon pans (which is sold in stores here. We had assumed it was imported from China) and thus exempt= from Tvilat Keylim since it was produced by a Jewish owned company. Silicone, or silicone coated? I would imagine that pans made of all 100% silicon. silicone do not require tewila. You speak here of a Jewish manufacturer. What actually controls the requirement for tewila, the religion of the manufacturer, or the religion of a prior owner? If It depends on the manufacturer (see: Igrot Moshe YD 39; Igrot Moshe OC III 4 who doesn't require tevilat keylim for any food utensil manufactured in Israel) manufactured by a Jew, but then sold to a wholesale distributor or retail store owned by gentile, and then purchased by the consumer from the gentile, is tewila required because of the intervening Jewish ownership? You mean intervening ****gentile**** ownership. Yes, it would need tevila. Yes, I did mean gentile ownership. But you quote Igrot Moshe as not requiring tevilat keylim for any food utensil manufactured in Israel. Does that mean even if it was sold to a gentile distributor? What about an Arab manufacturer whose factory is in Israel? GEG

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Posted by bac...@vms.huji.ac.il - 2008/09/13 05:45

In article <c63047c7-82b4-4bba-a643-b4506f9ad...@26g2000hsk.googlegroups.c= om, Giorgies E. Geshahna

<geshah...@saintly.com writes: In some stores in Israel, you can purchase pre- toyveled pots and pans= . It saves the *shlep* to the Keylim Mikva which is a 10 minute taxi ride= away in Baka next to the train tracks :-) In America, New York at least, many hardware stores have a keilim mikva on the premises where you can tawel your keilim at purchase time without having to *shlep* them anywhere. As a courtesy, most such shoppes will let you bring keilim purchased elsewhere and use their mikva. A caution is that not all of these mikvas are regularly, or even occasionally, inspected by a knowledgeable rabbi, and may not in fact be kosher for tewila. One needs to enquire. BTW while during a search on Google a few hours ago, I accidentally fou= nd out that there's an Israeli manufacturer of silicon pans (which is sold= in stores here. We had assumed it was imported from China) and thus exe= mpt=3D from Tvilat Keylim since it was produced by a Jewish owned company. Silicone, or silicone coated? I would imagine that pans made of all 100% silicon. silicone do not require tewila. You speak here of a Jewish manufacturer. What actually controls the requirement for tewila, the religion of the manufacturer, or the religion of a prior owner? If it depends on the manufacturer =A0(see: Igrot Moshe YD 39; Igrot Moshe OC III 4 who doesn't require tevilat keylim for any food utensil manufactured in Israel) manufactured by a Jew, but then sold to a wholesale distributor or retail store owned by gentile, and then purchased by the consumer from the gentile, is tewila required because of the intervening Jewish ownership? You mean intervening **gentile** ownership. Yes, it would need tewila. Yes, I did mean gentile ownership. But you quote Igrot Moshe as not requiring tevilat keylim for any food utensil manufactured in Israel. Does that mean even if it was sold to a gentile distributor? What about an Arab manufacturer whose factory is in Israel? The Igrot Moshe obviously refers to a Jewish manufacturer in Israel selling directly to a Jewish distributor or end user. Josh - Hide quoted text -- Show quoted text - GEG

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Posted by mos...@mm.huji.ac.il - 2008/09/13 05:45

- it is acceptable to give knives as a gift, if the recipient of the gift gives the other party a coin in exchange. I have seen that done. By giving the coin, it becomes a sale rather than a gift. May you continue to enjoy your mother-in-law's cooking for many years to come. Moshe Schorr It is a tremendous Mitzvah to always be happy! - Reb Nachman of Breslov The home and family are the center of Judaism, *not* the synagogue. May Eliezer Mordichai b. Chaya Sheina Rochel have a refuah shlaimah btloch sha'ar cholei Yisroel. Disclaimer: Nothing here necessarily reflects the opinion of Hebrew University

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Posted by Eli Grubman - 2008/09/13 05:45

Dear All, My mother-in-law is a excellent cook, and we have enjoyed many wonderful Shabbos and Yon Tov meals at her house. I recently noticed that her knives are all of a poor quality. I would like to buy her a good set of knives as a gift. I am familiar with the idea that according to Jewish tradition we don't give knives as gifts. I understand that it is acceptable to give knives as a gift, if the recipient of the gift gives the other party a coin in exchange for the gift. I would be grateful if anyone could shed some light on whether: - the practice of not giving knives as gifts is in fact a Jewish tradition; Indeed it is a Jewish tradition. Rebbe Nachman of Breslov mentions it in the name of the Baal Shem Tov. - the practice of not giving knives as gifts only applies to wedding gifts; and I never heard that limitation. - it is acceptable to give knives as a gift, if the recipient of the gift gives the other party a coin in exchange. I have seen that done. By giving the coin, it becomes a sale rather than a gift. The superstition is that giving someone a knife/scissors etc without exchanging money will result in the friendship being cut by the knife. It is traditional to give the recipient of the gift a coin along with the knife so that the coin can be given back to the donor. Eli

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Posted by Giorgies E. Geshahna - 2008/09/13 05:45

In article <c63047c7-82b4-4bba-a643-b4506f9ad...@26g2000hsk.googlegroups.c= om, Giorgies E. Geshahna <geshah...@saintly.com writes: In some stores in Israel, you can purchase pre- toyveled pots and pans= . It saves the *shlep* to the Keylim Mikva which is a 10 minute taxi ride= away in Baka next to the train tracks :-) In America, New York at least, many hardware stores have a keilim mikva on the premises where you can tawel your keilim at purchase time without having to *shlep* them anywhere. As a courtesy, most such shoppes will let you bring keilim purchased elsewhere and use their mikva. A caution is that not all of these mikvas are regularly, or even occasionally, inspected by a knowledgeable rabbi, and may not in fact be kosher for tewila. One needs to

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