Asking Non-Jew To Do Melacha D'Rabanan

You may directly instruct or ask a non-Jew to do *melacha d'rabanan* for you on *Shabbat*, but only:

- To prevent a large financial loss.

  NOTE A large loss is subjective to the individual's actual wealth and also to that person's perception of what is a large loss. Consult a *rabbi*.

- For *Shabbat* needs.

EXAMPLE You may ask a non-Jew to unlock an electric hotel door or trigger an entrance door on *Shabbat*, since this is for a *Shabbat* need and the action is not prohibited *d'oraita*.

SITUATION A new guest arrives and you need the space on the table occupied by your *Shabbat* candlesticks.

WHAT TO DO You may not move the candlesticks, but you may ask a non-Jew to do so.

SITUATION You left a non-*muktza* item that you now need for *Shabbat* on a tree branch (or a child left one in a tree house!).

WHAT TO DO You may not climb the tree to retrieve the item, but you may ask a non-Jew to retrieve it.

EXAMPLE You may ask a non-Jew to turn on air conditioning.

EXAMPLE You may ask a non-Jew (directly, no need to hint) to turn off a light if it interferes with someone's sleeping.

- To allow doing a *mitzva*.
- For other pressing (and certainly for life-threatening) needs, such as health, even if the person not sick.

NOTE All of these are *d'rabanan* cases!

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