WEDDING CUSTOMS (THESE ARE NOT HALACHOT!)

Wedding Customs: Couple Separates for Seven Days

The couple does not see each other for seven days before the wedding. They may speak on the phone.

Wedding Customs: The Aufruf

On the *Shabbat* before the wedding, the groom has an *aufruf* at which he receives an *aliya*.

Wedding Customs: What the Bride Buys

The bride buys for the groom:

- *Talit* and *kittel*,
- Watch, and
- Set of the *Talmud*.

She also pays for the wedding except for what the groom pays for (see below).

Wedding Customs: What the Groom Buys

The custom is for the groom to pay for the band, photos, video, flowers, liquor, and wine.

NOTE In *Eretz Yisrael*, it is customary for the bride and groom to split the wedding expenses.

Wedding Customs: Prenuptial Agreement

A prenuptial agreement is permitted but it must state that the *ketuba* gets settled separately.

Wedding Customs: Groom to Mikva

The groom goes to *mikva* on the wedding day.

Wedding Customs: Wedding Shomer

The groom and bride each have a guardian (*shomer*/*shomeret*) with them from daybreak of the wedding day (some grooms have a *shomer* from the *aufruf*) until they are married.

Wedding Customs: Tanayim

Tanayim are written before the main ceremony and two guests are honored as witnesses. The *tanayim* are read out loud.

Wedding Customs: Accompanying the Bride and Groom

There are various customs about who accompanies the bride and groom but none are *halachically* required.

Wedding Customs: Chuppa

The *chuppa* should be under the open sky (via a skylight) or outdoors where practical.

Wedding Customs: Bride Circles Groom

The bride walks seven times around the groom counterclockwise, as seen from above, and stands on the right side of the groom.

Wedding Customs: Baruch HaBa

Someone sings *baruch ha'ba*... for the groom and *brucha ha'ba'ah* for the bride.

Wedding Customs: Drinking the Wine

The *mesader kidushin* does not drink the cup of wine but the bride and groom normally do.

Wedding Customs: Wedding Ring

It is not traditional for the bride to give a ring to the groom, and it is forbidden for the bride to give a ring to the groom at the *chuppa*.

Wedding Customs: Reading of the Ketuba

After the blessings on the wine have been said and the wine has been drunk, the *ketuba* is read. This separates the two sets of blessings.

Wedding Customs: Second Cup of Wine

The second cup of wine is given to the groom by the father of the bride and to the bride by the mother of the groom.

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