

By the Grace of G-d
3rd of Kislev, 5730
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Los Angeles, Calif.

Blessing and Greetings:

I am in receipt of your letter of October 30th, in which you write that you are now pregnant, and that your husband wants you to go to Eretz Yisroel and stay there until the child is born, and then he will join you, etc.

I do not think that in your present condition it would be advisable for you to make such a radical change in the climate and living conditions, etc. Moreover, the adjustment which is required in a case of moving from one country to another is also not so simple. Furthermore, as you write, you would have to be alone for a time, while your husband would be here, which makes the situation even more complicated.

There is also a further consideration, which is important too. Eretz Yisroel is a land which even non-Jews regard as a "Holy Land". It is certainly especially holy for a Jew, and requires of a Jew living there a much higher standard of living in terms of holiness in the observance of the Mitzvoth in the daily life. In the light of this, it would be advisable for you and your husband, who have not had much of a Jewish education, though you are trying to make up for it, as you write, to improve your Jewish background and knowledge, to enable you to conduct your daily life and family life in full accord with the Torah and Mitzvoth. In addition to the advancement in knowledge that this requires, it also requires getting used to this form of life. All this should be done while you are still here, so that your advancement in the knowledge and practice of Yiddishkeit will be your proper "entrance visa" to the land of which it is written in the Torah that it is "a land over which G-d watches from the beginning of the year to the end of the year."

It would be well to have the Tefillin of your husband, as well as the Mezuzoth of your home, checked to make sure they are Kosher, if this has not been done within the past twelve months.

I trust that you know of the good custom of Jewish women to put aside a small coin for Tzedoko before lighting the candles. The Tzedoko part of it should be Bli-Neder (without a vow).

Although you do not mention this, I trust that you are in contact with the representatives of Lubavitch in L.A., who will certainly be pleased to help you in the matter of advancement in Torah and Mitzvoth. In case you haven't got their address, it is mentioned below.

With blessing,

Rabbi M.S.D. Raichik
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