Sheldon Rothman<sheldon_rothman@hotmail.com> wrote:

There is a brand of orange juice here in the U.S. that is calcium enriched. The ingredients show CALCIUM LACTATE as the ingredient that is added to provide the calcium. Is that a dairy ingredient? Is the orange juice milchig?

Dear Sheldon Rothman,

Often, questions such as yours can best be answered by the kashrut agencies that deal with these issues on a day-to-day basis. So I forwarded your question to the Orthodox Union kashrut department. Here is their answer:

"Thank you for your inquiry to the OU ‘Vebbe Rebbe.’ In response to your question: Calcium Lactate is not a dairy ingredient.

The Vebbe Rebbe <kosherg@ou.org>"

Thank you, Vebbe Rebbe.

‘Acquittal’ Riddle

Last week we asked: You are one of the judges in a Jewish court in a capital case. It is your turn to state your opinion. If you say, "I find the defendant innocent," then the defendant receives the death penalty. But if you say, "I find the defendant guilty," he goes ‘scot-free.’ What is the case?

Answer: You are the last judge to vote, where all the other judges have already said ‘guilty.’

According to Torah law, convicting someone of a capital crime requires a Sanhedrin of 23 judges. After hearing testimony from eye-witnesses, the judges vote. If at least thirteen of the judges vote ‘guilty’ the defendant is executed.

There is a surprising exception to this, however: If ALL the judges vote guilty, then the defendant is acquitted.

Here’s why:

There are two ways to look at everything. There’s no situation in this world without some merit or positive side. If not one judge was able to see the good side and declare the defendant innocent, something’s wrong. The positive side of the case must have been missing during the presentation of the evidence. Therefore, he is acquitted.

Speaking of looking at the good side of criminals. I know of a theft that occurred in a Jerusalem yeshiva. The thief broke into the office safe which was full of cash, valuables and expensive silver ornaments used to adorn the Torah scroll. The thief stole everything in the safe except for these ornaments!

Sources:
Maimonides, Laws of Sanhedrin 9:1

If you have E-Mail and a question, you can submit it to Ask The Rabbi for possible inclusion in a future edition. Just write your question using your E-Mail program, set the subject to "Ask The Rabbi" and send it to ohr@virtual.co.il. We can’t include all questions submitted, but we do try to respond to everyone.

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