

ב"ה

A Bad Bet or a Light Laugh? – The Difference Between Lotto and Gambling*

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Question ^Δ

What is the halachic difference between gambling and a lottery? Is one allowed to buy a lottery ticket? Are they not all games of chance?

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Response ^Δ

I. Gambling ^Δ

Law and Rationale ^Δ

The Mishnah¹ states that one who gambles (*'mesachek bekvuya'*) is unfit to serve as a witness. The Talmud² then proceeds to explain the rationale for this law, and cites two major opinions:

* המאמר נערך ע"י חברי המכון הרבנים שליט"א: בנימין ביטון, אברהם בערגשטיין. תודתנו נתונה להרב משה אליהו גורארי' להערוותיו המועילות.