

From the teachings of the Rosh Yeshiva of Ateret Yerushalayim Ha-Rav Shlomo Aviner Shlit"a

Text Message Q&A #168Ask Rav Aviner: toratravaviner@yahoo.comPrepared by Rabbi Mordechai TzionVisit our blog: www.ravaviner.com

Ha-Rav answers hundreds of text message questions a day. Here's a sample:

"Bibi" Netanyahu

Q: Is it permissible to refer to the Prime Minister by the nickname "Bibi", or does this infringe upon the honor of the ruling authority?

A: It is certainly forbidden. It is an infringement. One should refer to him as the "Prime Minister," or "Prime Minister Netanyahu," or "Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu" (Baba Metzia 58b. Tosafot on Megilah 27b. Al Diglo pp. 43-44).

Tzitzit during a Ball Game

Q: Is it permissible to remove one's Talit Katan during a ball game when there is a fear that they will rip?

A: No. Tuck them inside your pants (And this is also the ruling in Shut Az Nedberu 2:55).

Measurements of Ha-Rav Chaim Na'eh and the Chazon Ish

Q: How do we rule in the dispute between Ha-Rav Chaim Na'eh and the Chazon Ish regarding halakhic measurements (for example, the size of a "kezayit")? Who is greater?

A: It makes no difference. Ha-Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv was asked: how could Ha-Rav Na'eh argue with the Chazon Ish? He answered that the measurements of Ha-Rav Na'eh were practiced earlier and it was the Chazon Ish who argued against them. The book Yashiv Moshe p. 130 (see Noda Ba-Shiurim p. 271).

Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov

Q: Should one refrain from naming his children: Avraham, Yitzchak, Yaakov and Moshe as is mentioned in the last testament of Rabbi Yehudah Ha-Chasid (Azharot Nosafot #2)?A: Some authorities hold that this testament is only for his children. Nonetheless, the custom in this case is to permit it (and this is also the ruling in Shut Minchat Yitzchak 9:137).

Pre-Torah Writings

Q: Ancient writings, which precede the Torah, had been found with stories and laws similar to the Tanach. If so, is the Tanach copied from them?

A: The existence of these is known. 1. There were prophets which preceded the giving of the Torah. 2. There are certain ideas which are relevant to the universal human spirit. 3. The Master of the Universe included proper and Kosher ideas within the Tanach. Sefer Eder Ha-Yakar of Maran Ha-Rav Kook.

E-mail on Shabbat

Q: Can I read an e-mail after Shabbat that was sent on Shabbat?

A: After the fact, it is permissible to benefit from it. Shulchan Aruch Orach Chaim 318:1.

Buying before Birth

Q: Is there a problem with buying clothing and furniture for a baby before the birth, or is there a problem of the evil eye?

A: There are some who refrain from doing so, but there is absolutely no halachic prohibition. On the contrary, it is a sign of trust in Hashem (Ner Ne-Ishon Laila p. 123. Unlike what Ha-Rav Chaim Kanievski said: The world is particular [not to do so] because of the evil eye. She'eilat Rav vol. 2 p. 58).

Forgot to Count Sefirat Ha-Omer

Q: If someone forgot to count Sefirat Ha-Omer for an entire day and is extremely sad and embarrassed, can he continue to count with a blessing?

A: No. There is an opinion which permits it, but it is a lone view. Shaarim Metzuyanim Ba-Halachah (120:7).

Special thank you to Orly Tzion for editing the Ateret Yerushalayim Parashah Sheet