

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

Text Message Q&A #230 Ask Rav Aviner: toratravaviner@yahoo.com

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Ha-Rav answers hundreds of text message questions a day. Here's a sample: Tefillin Not Sitting on One's Forehead

Q: If I see that an adult's Tefillin is not sitting in the correct place on his head, but rather on his forehead, should I point it out? Perhaps he will be embarrassed?

A: You can either ask an older person to point it out to him, or point it out yourself by asking him a question such as: "I should put on my Tefillin this way or the way that I see you have them?" Or you can put them on the way he is wearing them and have a friend point out to you in front of him that they are sitting in the wrong spot.

First Shot

Q: I am in Tzahal. I just shot my gun for the first time and am extremely happy. Can I recite the blessing of Shehechiyanu?

A: Yes. A good tiding. Performing a Mitzvah for the first time (Shut Orach Mishpat #268-269).

Drafting Yeshiva Students

Q: Serving in the army is a Mitzvah, but because it is a Mitzvah that can be performed by

others doesn't learning Torah supersede it (Moed Katan 9)?

A: Tzahal is currently in need of an additional 8000 soldiers to fill all of its positions. For

example, it is lacking 1000 Kashrut supervisors. This is a very important and holy job, and is

perfect for students from Charedi Yeshivot.

Text Message or Oral Question

Q: Is it better to ask a Rabbi a question orally than in a text message?

A: Certainly. But sometimes the question is urgent, or a person does not have a

Rabbi, or the questioner is embarrassed and wants to remain anonymous.

Note to Refrain from Speaking Lashon Ha-Ra

Q: Is it a good idea for me to prepare littles notes which remind me not to speak

Lashon Ha-Ra?

A: Yes. It is a good idea which helps some people. See Zachor Le-Miriam 21:1.

Bar Mitzvah Meal

Q: Can a Bar Mitzvah meal be dairy?

A: Yes. Other meals for a Mitzvah may also be. The essence is that the meal is respectable

(see Piskei Teshuvot #194 in the notes. Shut Teshuvot Ve-Hanhagot 2:485, 3:294).

Will

Q: Will I get the evil eye if I write a will?

A: Certainly not. Some authorities even hold that it is a Segulah for a long life.

Travel Expenses

Q: I receive reimbursement for travel for my job, but sometimes I get a ride. Can I still receive the payment?

A: Ask your work directly, since it depends on the conditions of the job.

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