

Ha-Rav Shlomo Aviner Shlit"a

Text Message Q&A #234 Ask Rav Aviner: toratravaviner@yahoo.com

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

Q: What is the definition of Bitul Torah? Is every moment that I am not learning Torah considered Bitul Torah?

A: Each person according to his level. The more one learns Torah, the more praiseworthy. See Or Sameach, beginning of Hilchot Talmud Torah.

Personal Prayers

Q: Is a personal prayer from the heart equal to a prayer from the Siddur, or is it even greater?

A: It is less. The prayers from the Siddur came from the heart of the Members of the Great Assembly (Anshei Knesset Ha-Gedolah) which included prophets. They are the heart of Klal Yisrael. A personal prayer is therefore an addition to the prayers in the Siddur and not a substitute of them.

Chabad

Q: Is it idol worship for Chabadniks to say that the Rebbe is alive and is the Messiah,

and to Daven to his picture?

A: They exaggerate, but one who says this is idol worship is also exaggerating.

Burying Dentures

Q: Is there an obligation to bury dentures with a person who passed away?

A: No (See Berachot 5b that Rabbi Yochanan would carry a bone [smaller than the

size of a piece of barley which would spread impurity - Rashi ibid.] or a tooth

[Rashbam on Baba Batra 116a] of his tenth son who died, in order to comfort others

who had a loss. We learn from here that it is not even required to bury an actual

tooth. See Shut Yabia Omer Volume 3, Yoreh Deah #21. Shut Tzitz Eliezer 10:5 #8.

And see Shut Mishneh Halachot 16:113 who brings a few opinions that one is un fact

required to bury a tooth. And he also relates there that although the Noda Bi-Yehudah

held that there is no obligation to bury a tooth, he appeared to his son, Ha-Rav Shmuel

Landau, in a dream and told him to bury his tooth which he left on a bookshelf. Ha-

Ray Shmuel miraculously found the tooth).

Maran Ha-Rav Kook and JNF Tzedakah Boxes

Q: I heard in a class by a Charedi Rabbi that Rav Kook preferred Eretz Yisrael over

the Torah, and he therefore ruled to remove the Tzedakah boxes of Rabbi Meir Baal

Ha-Nes and replace them with JNF Tzedakah boxes.

A: It is a lie! On the contrary, Maran Ha-Rav Kook ruled that the Tzedakah boxes of

Rabbi Meir Baal Ha-Nes should remain affixed in the wall, as was the custom, and

that the JNF Tzedakah boxes should be placed on the table. Shut Da'at Cohain (#136).

Marriage, Army, Studies

Q: What is the proper order: Marriage, army, studies?

A: Studies, army and then marriage. This is in general. But for specific cases, one should ask a Rabbi who knows the individual.

Name Not in the Tanach

Q: Is it permissible to give a child a name which does not appear in the Tanach?

A: Certainly. For example, Rabbi Tarfon, Rabbi Akiva, etc.

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

