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Text Message Q&A #242    Ask Rav Aviner: [toratravaviner@yahoo.com](mailto:toratravaviner@yahoo.com)

Prepared by Rabbi Mordechai Tzion    Visit our blog: [www.ravaviner.com](http://www.ravaviner.com)

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

Jews as Amalek

Q: How should we relate to a Rabbi who calls Religious Zionist Jews Amalek?

A: Anyone who does not speak to the heart of a matter, indicates that he has nothing to say about the matter. In practice, all segments of Am Yisrael are lacking and together we form a whole. But certainly no one is Amalek (see Igrot Ha-Re'eiya, Vol. 1 Igeret 311. And see Sichot Ha-Rav Tzvi Yehudah – Bereshit, pp. 382-383).

Disputes

Q: I asked a text message question and received an answer that it was permissible. For your information, I later saw that a certain Rabbi forbids it.

A: It is known. But you did not state in your question that you wanted an answer according to his opinion. Please note this the next time you ask (see introduction to Piskei Shlomo).

Charedi Torah Scholars

Q: Why are there more Charedi Torah scholars than Religious Zionist Torah scholars?

A: Because Charedi Torah scholars began 2000 years ago, and Religious Zionist Torah scholars began 100 years ago, but the quantity and quality grows at an incredible pace.

### Bad Breathe

Q: I am newly married and I do not know how to tell my husband that he has extremely bad breathe.

A: Blame the problem on yourself and tell him that you are very sensitive.

### Tearing One's Garment over Yerushalayim and the Cities of Yehudah

Q: Why don't we tear our garments over seeing Yerushalayim and the Cities of Yehudah in their destroyed state?

A: Because they are under Jewish sovereignty. See Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chaim 560, Mishnah Berurah in the name of the Beit Yosef (and see Kum Hithalech Ba-Aretz #1-2).

### Spies or Golden Calf

Q: Which was worse – the Sin of the Spies or the Sin of the Golden Calf?

A: Each was worse than the other in a particular way.

### Local Custom

Q: I am Ashkenazi and Daven in a Sefardi Shul. Should I stand for Kaddish (as is Ashkenazi, but not Sephardi, custom)?

A: Act as everyone else (see Massechet Derech Eretz, Chapter 5: "A person should not stand among those who are seated or sit among those who are standing").

### Lashon Ha-Ra at Work

Q: My fellow workers speak Lashon Ha-Ra against other workers in a foreign language because they think I don't understand it. Should I tell them that I do understand to save them from speaking it or refrain since it will embarrass them?

A: Certainly inform them. It is preferable to embarrass them a little here than a lot in the World to Come.

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