



Text Message Q&A #247 Ask Rav Aviner: toratravaviner@yahoo.com

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

Birkat Ha-Mazon

Q: Should I forgo reciting Birkat Ha-Mazon in order not to miss a Torah class?

A: Certainly not! You should recite Birkat Ha-Mazon. After all, Torah learning is not out of intellectual curiosity but in order to fulfill its words, and it is written in the Torah to recite Birkat Ha-Mazon.

Honoring Parents and Medical Treatment

A: My father refuses to go to the doctor regarding an important issue and I am very concerned. What should I do?

A: Find someone to convince him or pressure him. Kiddushin 31a-b.

Stuttering

Q: How can I be happy when I have a severe stutter and I can't get ahead in life?

A: It is true that this limiting, but it is still possible to accomplishing amazing things. It once happened that a person was badly injured in a car accident and was bound to a wheelchair. He said: I used to be able to do 10,000 things, and now I can only do 9,000! By the way, two of my professors in university had severe stutters. I also know two officers in Tzahal who stutter.

Murder of Rabin

Q: How do I respond to someone who says: "Rabin, Yimach Shemo – may his name be blotted out"?

A: Do not waste your time responding to such statements from people who require psychological treatment. And this is giving such a person the benefit of the doubt, because if we weren't giving him the benefit of the doubt we would have to conclude that what he is saying is a severe transgression (It is said in the name of the Sochachover Rebbe, the author of "Avnei Nezer", that making such a statement is forbidden. His proof is that if a man dies childless, his wife must marry the brother of her deceased husband ["Yibum"]. The Torah says that the reason for "Yibum" is so that "his name is not erased from Israel" [Devarim 25:6]. But why should I care if an evil Jew's name is erased? What's wrong with saying "may his name and memory be blotted out"? The proof is that there is no halachah which eliminates the need to perform "Yibum" for a sinning Jew [Shulchan Aruch, Even Ha-Ezer 157:3]. This means that we must be concerned that his name not be erased from Israel. Iturei Cohanim – Devarim 25:6).

Blessing for a Guest in Yeshiva

Q: When one learns in a Yeshiva, does he recite the blessings for a guest in Birkat Ha-Mazon?

A: Each Rosh Yeshiva should decide for his Yeshiva. In our Yeshiva, we do not recite it since Rabbenu Ha-Rav Tzvi Yehudah taught that a Yeshiva student is not a guest in the Yeshiva but rather a member of the household (This was also the opinion of Ha-Rav Ovadiah Yosef. Shulchan Yosef p. 25. Although he adds that if someone donated the food, it is proper to add: "May the Merciful One bless the hosts of this meal").

Jewish or Israeli State

Q: Which is preferable, a Jewish State or a Israeli State?

A: There is no contradiction. Israeli-ness is hidden within Judaism, and now with Hashem's kindness, it is once again awakening.

Surrendering Parts of Eretz Yisrael

Q: Who is authorized to decide to give up parts of our Land – the Jews living in Israel or all the Jews around the world?

A: The Nation of Israel in the entire world and throughout all of the generations, those who already lived and those who have yet to live. There is a need to ask all of them if they agree, including one's grandfather who already passed away and one's grandson who was not yet born (This was the response of Yitzchak Tabenkin to Ben Gurion as to why he opposed the Partition Plan. Rabbenu Ha-Rav Tzvi Yehudah said the same thing).

Throwing Parashah Sheets into the Garbage

Q: Is it permissible to throw away the weekly Parashah sheets?

A: No. They contain Divrei Torah. They must be placed in the Geniza.

Q: But only about 10% are Divrei Torah? The rest is advertisements.

A: Cut out the Divrei Torah and place them in the Geniza.

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