



Text Message Q&A #249 Ask Rav Aviner: toratravaviner@yahoo.com

Prepared by Rabbi Mordechai Tzion Visit our blog: www.ravaviner.com

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

Taking a Book from a Beit Midrash

Q: Is it permissible to take a book from a Beit Midrash for a few hours in order to learn from it?

A: Only with the Gabbai's permission.

Giving Tzedakah without Offending

Q: How can I give money to a family member who is in a bad financial state without offending him?

A: Tell him that it is a loan, and then forget about it.

Children's Book about Noach

Q: There is a children's book which depicts Noah as a good and kind grandpa. Is there a problem with it?

A: Yes. One needs to have awe of holiness towards him: He was a righteous man who walked with G-d (Bereshit 6:9. And see Ha-Rav's book on learning Tanach properly "Torat Emet").

Sleeping in a House Where Someone Died

Q: Is it true that if someone sleeps in a house where someone died, even for one night after the Shiva, he must continue to sleep there during the entire Sheloshim?

A: No.

Milk and Fish in One Oven

Q: What is the Halachah if one cooked meat and fish in the oven at the same time but on different trays?

A: If one did not drip on the other, it is, after the fact, Kosher. Aruch Hashulchan (Yoreh Deah 116:10).

List of Donors

Q: Is it permissible for an organization to pass along a list of donors to others?

A: Our Rabbis forbade one from relating that he received good "Hachnasat Orchim" (hospitality) lest others come to the person who provided it. It is praising another in a loud voice. Arachin 17a. Nonetheless, Ha-Rav Moshe Feinstein allows it since the donor always has the option to refuse. There is however an additional problem: perhaps the donor does not want one to tell others that he donated to that organization. One thus violates: "Gossipers go around revealing secrets" (Mishlei 11:13) or

violating one's trust, i.e. "Genevat Da'at" (deception) (Shut Igrot Moshe, Yoreh Deah 3:95).

Pesukei De-Zimra Out Loud

Q: Is there worth in reciting Pesukei De-Zimra out loud?

A: Certainly. This aids one to have proper intent. Sefer Chasidim #18. But one should obviously not exaggerate and should not bother others. Piskei Teshuvot 51:70.

Immersing in the Dead Sea

Q: Is it permissible to immerse in the Dead Sea as a Mikveh?

A: It is dangerous to immerse there.

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