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Yeshivat Ateret Yerushalayim

IN THE HEART OF THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

The Torah of Ha-Rav Shlomo Aviner

Parashat Tzav 5768

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Would you like to ask Rav Aviner a question? E-mail mororly@bezeqint.net and the question will be brought to Ha-Rav and I will e-mail you the answer.

Purim Seudah on Erev Shabbat

The book "Sichot Ha-Rav Tzvi Yehudah – Moadim" (vol. 1, pp. 300-301. Edited by Rav Aviner) records that our Rabbi, Ha-Rav Tzvi Yehudah Kook, was asked: What was the practice of Maran (our revered teacher) Rav Kook ztz"l regarding the festive meal on Purim when it falls on a Friday?

Answer: He would make it a little earlier than usual and the meal would continue until before the arrival of Shabbat. In the original building of the yeshiva, Maran Ha-Rav was like a flowing spring which did not cease, giving sharp thoughts and dialectics, mystical ideas and Chassidic thoughts – all appropriate for the people to whom he was speaking. Each Purim was an actual book in and of itself.

It is written in the Gemara in Pesachim (99b): Rabbi Yehudah says that one may not eat after "minchah" (the earliest time for minchah – six and a half hours into the day) on Erev Shabbat or Erev Yom Tov in order that he will enter Shabbat [or Yom Tov] with an appetite. Rabbi Yosi says that he may eat until dark. A story follows: It once happened that Rabbi Shimon ben Gamliel, Rabbi Yehudah and Rabbi Yosi were eating in Acco on Erev Shabbat. Rabbi Shimon ben Gamliel suggested to Rabbi Yosi that they should be concerned for Rabbi Yehudah's opinion. Rabbi Yosi responded to him: "You always prefer my opinion to Rabbi Yehudah's opinion and now you prefer Rabbi Yehudah's opinion to mine?! 'Would you attack the Queen while I am in the house?'" (quoting Esther 7:8).

Maran Ha-Rav Kook said that it is obvious that this was a festive meal of Purim on a year when Purim fell on a Friday, and Rabbi Yosi therefore quoted this verse from Megillat Esther. Rav Aviner explains in the notes that this also explains how it is possible that these Sages were in the middle of a meal when Shabbat arrived.

When asked when the Purim meal should begin on Purim which falls on Erev Shabbat, Rav Aviner answered: "It is preferable in the morning, but not obligatory" (Mishnah Berurah 695:10).



Text Message Responsa



Ha-Rav answers hundreds of text message questions a week. Some appear in the parashah sheets "Ma'ayanei Ha-Yeshu'ah" and "Olam Ha-Katan." Here's a sample:

Q: Can I learn in a classroom in which the mezuzah was taken down to be checked?

A: One should not lose time from learning Torah for this reason, and you can rely on the lenient positions.

Q: Can a mourner during the twelve months of mourning for his parents attend a close relative's wedding?

A: You can attend the chuppah and have the meal in a room adjacent to the wedding hall.

Q: Can I place items on top of my tefillin in my backpack?

A: The tefillin need to be on top except for clothing to protect them.

Q: If my kippah keeps getting blown off by the wind, can I recite a blessing and eat without it?

A: One always needs a kippah.

Q: Can a girl ride on a bike? Please give the source.

A: Yes with modest clothing. Rabbenu Chananel at the beginning of Massechet Pesachim.

Q: If I receive a letter and the stamp was not voided, may I reuse it?

A: No, based on the law of returning a lost object.

Q: I learned all of the Gemara with the commentary of Rav Steinsaltz, but I do not remember most of the material. Is this considered a "siyum Ha-Shas" – a completion of the Gemara?

A: Certainly. Yashar koach – way to go! It is natural for a person to learn and forget, and you should strengthen yourself to learn more.



Stories of Rabbenu – Our Rabbi

Ha-Rav Tzvi Yehudah Ha-Cohain Kook

Purim

Control over the intellect

On one Purim, the student brought all types of alcoholic drinks to our Rabbi and he drank them all, but it did not influence him and he did not say a word. At the end of the meal, they davened maariv and it was as if he had not had anything to drink and he was as usual. (Ha-Rav Yosef Kelner)

Shtreimel

On Purim, a drunken student asked our Rabbi: "Where is the shtreimel of Maran Ha-Rav? We also want a Rebbe with a shtreimel!" Our Rabbi smiled and responded: "One for whom it is proper to wear a shtreimel has a shtreimel."

A blessing

On Purim, a drunken student asked our Rabbi to give him a blessing that he should merit the trait of truth. Our Rabbi smiled, but did not bless him.

The Jew who imitated Rav Shlomo Goren on Purim

On Purim, a tall Jew entered dressed in the uniform of a general of Tzahal: "Shalom, my master, Ha-Rav, I am Rav Goren," and he began to imitate Ha-Rav Goren, and stated all kinds of halachic rulings. Suddenly, our Rabbi burst out in awful screaming regarding shaming Torah scholars, and scolded him seriously.

Stupidity on Purim

It once happened that our Rabbi left in the middle on the Purim party. The students ran after him and asked him why he left. He said: "You also need to have awe of Hashem on Purim." (Ha-Rav Binyamin Eisner)

It once occurred on Purim that a student began to say "Purim Torah" and said "Rashi is a woman and Tosafot is a man because it says 'The entire glory of the princess is on the inside' (Tehillim 45:14) and Rashi's commentary always appears on the inside of a page!" Our Rabbi scolded him.



Shut She'eilat Shlomo - Questions of Jewish Law

Tzedakah on Purim

Question: The Shulchan Aruch says that we should give tzedakah to everyone who requests on Purim, but I have heard from Ha-Rav that Rabbis estimate that 90% of beggars are swindlers. Should we still give to them?

Answer: We only give to beggars who are truly poor. Therefore, do not give to them. It is a shame to waste the money when it could help the truly poor.

Blessing of Kohain's Clothing

Q: Did the kohain gadol or kohanim recite a blessing when they were dressed in the "bigdei kehuna" – the special clothing of the Kohanim?

A: It is a mitzvah for the Kohanim to wear the "bigdei kehuna" (Rambam, Hilchot Klei Ha-Mishkan). It is also not a part of the mitzvah of offering sacrifices, but a mitzvah in and of itself. We do not find, however, that there is a blessing recited over them and I do not know why.

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