



On the Air with Rav Aviner ~ #100

From Ha-Rav's weekly radio program in Israel

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Yashar Koach! The 100th Issue!

May we continue to merit fulfilling the verse:

"For the Torah comes forth from Tzion,
and the word of Hashem from Yerushalayim"
(Yeshayahu 2:3)

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For the Ascension of the soul of Maran Ha-Rav Kook

Q: I was at a class on the yearzeit of Maran Ha-Rav Kook – 3rd Elul – and the Rabbi said that we are learning for the ascension of the soul of Maran Ha-Rav Avraham Yitzchak Ha-Cohain Kook. Can Maran Ha-Rav Kook's soul still ascend? Isn't he dwelling at the highest possible place a person can be?

A: This is true, but when Maran Ha-Rav Kook's students learn his Torah in his merit, this certainly causes his soul to ascend, whether you say: "For the ascension of his soul" or you do not say it. The greatness of Maran Ha-Rav Kook is not only what he did in his life but all of his students and his students' students which are in his merit.

Tefillin Knot

Q: I am a Ba'al Teshuvah and bought a pair of Tefillin. On the head Tefillin, it had the Ashkenazic knot since these are my family roots. I was at a Chabad house to learn how to put on the Tefillin and they changed the knot to the Chabad knot. Which tradition should I follow?

A: One obviously fulfills his obligation with any of the traditions of knots but it is preferable for one to follow the custom of his ancestors. If your forefathers were not Chabad, follow the tradition of your forefathers. If they are Ashkenazic, it should be an Ashkenazic knot. If they were Chasidic-Ashkenazic, it should be a Chasidic knot. If you are not certain, follow the regular Ashkenazic tradition since this was the original custom.

Lashon Ha-Rav on the news

Q: Is there a problem with hearing Lashon Ha-Ra on the news?

A: First of all, one does not need to listen to the news every hour. A summary of the news once a day is enough. Now, most of the news is not Lashon Ha-Ra. If there is suddenly Lashon Ha-Ra on the news, plug your ears. When a friend speaks Lashon Ha-Ra, you also have to plug your ears although it is uncomfortable; but when there is Lashon Ha-Ra on the radio there is no such difficulty in plugging your ears. One should therefore act this way.



Shut She'eilat Shlomo – Questions of Jewish Law

"Muzinka" at a Wedding

Q: What is the source for the muzinka at a wedding (a special dance when a couple marries off their last child)?

A: Rav Aviner was not familiar with it (Ha-Rav added that obviously it is forbidden for men and women to dance together).



Text Message Responsa

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

Q: What should I read to comfort me over the fact that someone dear to me has been stricken with cancer?

A: Tehillim and Chovot Ha-Levavot – Sha'ar Ha-Bitachon (Gate of Trust).

Q: Which way should one open the Parochet (curtain) on the ark? Source?

A: It does not matter – Perishah 128. It is preferable from the left – Derishah 651.

Q: A person offended me greatly and has not asked forgiveness. Am I obligated to forgive him?

A: No.

Q: Does one who cuts someone else's nails, such as for a child, have to wash Netilat Yadayim?

A: No, but the person who has his nails cut is obligated to wash.

Q: Ha-Rav, you were right! Reflexology is nonsense. It is a pity that I did not listen to you. We would have saved a lot of money and anguish.

A: May Hashem bless you.

Q: Is it permissible to kiss a child in shul?

A: No. It is only a place for service of Hashem. Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chaim 90.

Q: Is it permissible to collect donations for a holy purpose if I receive 40% of the money?

A: On condition that you inform the donor.

Q: Is it obligatory to remove the sticker from a glass vessel before immersing it in a mikveh?

A: Yes, unless people usually leave the sticker on for beauty or as a symbol of the quality of the product.

Q: Ha-Rav wrote that it is permissible for a man to wear a wedding ring, and even a good idea as a sign that he is married and to avoid problems. But isn't it a problem of "Lo Yilbash" (the prohibition of men dressing like women) and "Chukot Ha-Goyim" (following non-

Jewish customs)?

A: If it is a ring for men – there is no prohibition of "Lo Yilbash." And there is no issue of "Chukot Ha-Goyim." The Mishnah in Shabbat mentions a ring for a man, and Ha-Rav Nissim Karelitz permits it in his book "Peat Zekanecha" #102.

Q: If a Sefardi connects more to Ashekenzaic davening, can he change his tradition of davening?

A: A person should not change from the custom of his ancestors.

Q: In the Beit Midrash where I learn, they erased Rav Kook's name from all of the books printed by Mossad Ha-Rav Kook (a publishing house). Should I continue to learn there?

A: If there is a better Beit Midrash – move to there.

Q: What is the source for the idea that there are 36 righteous individuals in each generation?

A: It is a late tradition.

Q: What should be our relation to Chabad – acceptance or rejection?

A: The Torah of Chabad is part of the Torah but not all of the Torah.

Q: When I wear modest clothing I feel like it does not come from me. It is not me. What should I do?

A: Service of Hashem is more important than human feelings. And do not worry. This is indeed you in the depth of your soul. Have patience, the feeling will come.

Q: In order to find a lost object, it is a segulah (spiritual remedy) to say: "The G-d of Rabbi Meir, answer me" or "Rabbi Binyamin said: All are considered blind until The Holy One Blessed Be He lights up their eyes."

A: It is not correct.

Q: Can a Sefardi wear his Tzitzit out?

A: It is a dispute between Sefardic authorities, it is therefore possible to act either way.

Special thank you to Fred Casden for editing "On the Air"



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