



On the Air with Rav Aviner ~ #104

From Ha-Rav's weekly radio program in Israel and more

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Advertising trips outside of Israel in parashah sheets

Q: Is it permissible to advertise trips outside of Israel in the parashah sheets which are disturbed in shul in Israel? After all, it is only permissible to leave Israel under particular circumstances.

A: It is certainly forbidden. It is forbidden to leave Israel for a vacation. It is permissible to temporarily leave Israel to make a livelihood, learning Torah, or get married but not for a trip. We obviously do not throw stones at someone who leaves Israel for a trip, but advertising, encouraging and enticing others is a different matter entirely. I remember that there was once a letter from a reader in one of the parashah sheets which said: I don't understand - there was an article from Ha-Rav Mordechai Eliyahu stating that it is forbidden to leave Israel for a vacation and below it there was an advertisement for trips outside of Israel. A contradiction on the same page. They answer him: There is no

contradiction. The article comes from the Halachaha department and the ad comes from the advertisement department. I was not convinced by the response. How is it permissible to advertise forbidden activities? There are parashah sheets which do not advertise trips outside of Israel such as "Be-Ahavah U-Be-Emunah" of Machon Meir and "Ma'ayanei Ha-Yeshu'ah" and others. And we need to understand that they lose a lot of money since parashah sheets survive by the advertizing. There are travel agencies who organize trips both outside of Israel and within Israel and they say: You either publish them all or none. We support those who do not encourage Jews to do something which is against the Halachah even when they lose money.

Increasing yeshivot in the Old City (Q&A from Ha-Rav's blog)

Q: Why don't we establish more yeshivot in the Old City of Jerusalem? The more yeshivot and Jews in the Old City, and the more we control it, the less riots by Arabs.

A: There were indeed many yeshivot in the Old City in the Old Settlement of Jerusalem. I heard an explanation: There is a mitzvah of "Shemirat Ha-Mikdash" (Guarding the Temple - in a spiritual sense, not a physical one). When there is no Temple, there is no such mitzvah to perform, but establishing yeshivot around the spot of the Temple is a quasi-fulfillment of the mitzvah. All of the yeshivot in Israel therefore tried to have a branch in the Old City. At the same time, we have to weigh establishing yeshivot in other places. There are places which have a lack of connection to Torah and we do not want to abandon them. We need to fill them with light. We therefore have two important goals. In fact, many times Rabbis from our Yeshiva went with their students and established other yeshivot. The last one was in Yafo and it is bringing much light there. Everything is important: Yeshivot close to the Temple Mount and yeshivot all around the Land of Israel.

Shut She'eilat Shlomo - Questions of Jewish Law

Havdalah for Bar Mitzvah on Motza'ei Shabbat

Question: Can someone who becomes Bar Mitzvah on Motza'ei Shabbat recite Havdalah for himself and for others?

Answer: A Bar Mitzvah is obligated in the mitzvot, but he was not obligated on Shabbat. He should therefore hear Havdalah from someone else and all the more so not fulfill the mitzvah for others (Shut Har Tzvi #165 and Ha-Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach in Halichot Shlomo - Tefillin chap. 2 note #48).



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-Emunah." Here's a sample:

Q: If a person can either learn with a chevruta or daven with a minyan which is preferable?

A: Daven with a minyan. One should first fulfill his obligation and then add on.

Q: If there is a doubt, can I put a mezuzah on both sides of a door?

A: No, it will make the mitzvah look ridiculous.

Q: I have been dating a young woman for a long time, it is going well and we have decided to get married. But I ask myself: maybe I can find better?

A: No, she is the one. Believe in Divine Providence.

Q: Is it permissible to pet a house pet on Shabbat?

A: No, it is muktzeh.

Q: If all Israel has a portion in the World to Come, why should we exert ourselves?

A: 1. There is a big portion and a small portion. 2. Exert effort for the sake of heaven out of a love of Hashem.

Q: Can I buy something without a receipt?

A: No, you are aiding a thief. If you receive a discount, you yourself are a thief.

Q: Does one fulfill his obligation to ask forgiveness through a text message?

A: It depends on the severity of the offense.

Q: Is it permissible to use lipstick without kosher certification?

A: If it lacks taste.

Q: I have a stronger evil inclination than other people which makes it very difficult for me. What should I do?

A: You also have a stronger good inclination than others and, with Hashem's help, you will succeed.

Q: Is animal experimentation permissible?

A: Yes, it is for a human need.

Q: Can a son-in-law and father-in-law have the same name?

A: Some are strict, so you can add a name.

Q: My father wants something at the wedding and my finance does not. Who should I follow?

A: You and your finance should decide together.

Q: Hashem fulfilled my prayer. How do I thank him?

A: Prayer, repentance and Tzedakah.

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