



## On the Air with Rav Aviner ~ #106

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

---

Prepared by Rabbi Mordechai Friedfertig

Visit our blog: [www.ravaviner.com](http://www.ravaviner.com)

Questions in this issue:

1. The punishment for speaking Lashon Ha-Ra
2. A Rabbi's Blessing
3. Picture of Animals
4. Understanding a Gemara in Baba Kama
5. SMS Q&A

### The punishment for speaking Lashon Ha-Ra

Q: How is it possible to explain why one who speaks Lashon Ha-Ra against another has his mitzvot transferred to the person about who he spoke and receives his demerits?

A: This concept is written in the work "Chovot Ha-Levavot" (Obligations of the Heart). We do not have a source for this idea in the Gemara, but the author of "Chovot Ha-Levavot" was one of the early authorities and it seems that he received it as a tradition. It is truly a novel idea but it appears that one who speaks Lashon Ha-Ra against another causes him such great damage, pain and anguish, and the Master of the Universe punishes him in this way.

### A Rabbi's Blessing

Q: How does the blessing of a Rabbi work?

A: There is obviously also a question on a person's prayer for himself. How can a person pray to Hashem? Does he expect to change Hashem's will? The Rivash explained this idea with a parable. A king said to one of his officers: "This man committed a crime against me, put him in prison. But if you come to arrest him and he asks forgiveness, let him go." When the criminal pleads for mercy, he does not change the king's mind. The king's will was if he acts this way, he will be forgiven. Hashem sometime decides if a person prays it will be one way, and if he does

not it will be another way. Furthermore, the reason one person can pray for another is based on the idea that certain souls are unified. I can therefore pray for my son or brother. Regarding a Torah scholar, the Gemara says that it is as if everyone is his relative (see Moed Katan 25a and other places). The prayer has the potential to help him if one is not merely saying words, but truly means it.

### Picture of Animals

Q: Is it permissible to hang pictures or poster of animals in my room?

A: There is no problem of hanging up pictures of animals, even pictures of non-kosher animals. The flag of the Tribes had pictures of non-kosher animals such as a donkey, snake, lion, etc... There are also shuls that have lions on the Ark. Chabad has a different teaching in this area. The Lubavitcher Rebbe (Likkutei Sichos, Vol. 25, pp. 309-311) taught that visual images have great impact on a person's mind, especially on young children: What one sees can leave lasting impressions for good or bad. Viewing sacred objects or images such as holy books has positive benefits, and pictures of impure animals harm the mind and soul. However, Rabbi Chaim David Ha-Levi – former Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv-Yafo wrote (Shut Aseh Lecha Rav 8:60) that there is no halachic problem of hanging up pictures of non-kosher animals since there were non-kosher images in Yechezkel's vision of the chariot (Yechezkel 1:10) and there were also pictures of non-kosher animals on the Tribes' flag (Ibn Ezra on Bamidbar 2:2). He therefore ruled that it is permissible to hang them up but if one is a Chabad Chasid he is obligated to follow the Rebbe's rulings.

## **Shut She'eilat Shlomo - Questions of Jewish Law**

### Understanding a Gemara in Baba Kama

Question: The Gemara in Baba Kama (52a) says: A Galilean said in front of Rav Chisda: When a shepherd is angry at the flock, he blinds the lead goat. It will fall in a pit, and they will follow it. Similarly, when Hashem wants to punish Israel, He appoints an improper leader. Is this the reason for our leadership today?

Answer: Hashem is not punishing us but is redeeming us – already 90-95% and provides us with great leaders.

### **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: Are braces or a retainer milchig or flieshchig?

A: No, because one does not generally put burning hot food into his mouth which would transfer the taste.

Q: The Torah says that Yishmael would be a wild man. Doesn't this take away his free will?  
A: No, it was an inclination and it was possible to overcome it. In fact, Yishmael repented in the end.  
Q: Does Vaseline for one's lip require kosher certification?  
A: No.  
Q: When I finish basic training should I recite Shehechiyanu?  
A: Yes, at the ceremony because it is great news.  
Q: At the swearing in ceremony for Tzahal should I say "I swear allegiance" or "I declare allegiance"?  
A: The basic halachah is that one can swear since you certainly will not commit treason and violate the oath, but because of the severity of the laws of oaths, you should declare.  
Q: There is a Sefer Torah being donated to the shul but my wife wants me to stay at home. Which is preferable?  
A: Home, since the Torah has many people to bring it joy, and your wife only has you.  
Q: My mother does not have enough money and I am a student. What should I do?  
A: Stop your studies and work. Do you want that strangers should provide your mother with a living?

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



**Yeshivat Ateret Yerushalayim** P.O.B. 1076 Jerusalem 91009 Tel.02-6284101 Fax.02-6261528

**[www.ateret.org.il](http://www.ateret.org.il)** To subscribe, send e-mail to: [mororly@bezeqint.net](mailto:mororly@bezeqint.net)

