



## On the Air with Rav Aviner - #122

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

---

Prepared by Rabbi Mordechai Tzion

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

Questions in this issue:

1. Feeling a connection to Hashem
2. Purim and the Holocaust
3. SMS Q&A

### Feeling a connection to Hashem

Q: How do we feel a connection to Hashem?

A: It is obviously impossible to connect to Hashem in the simple sense. Furthermore, the desire to gain benefit from servicing Hashem is a lack of understanding of what it means to cleave to Hashem. The question of why one does not feel a benefit in servicing Hashem is similar to the story of a mother saying to her son: Eat, so you can grow and become strong. The child eats and stands in front of the mirror in order to see himself growing. After some time, he comes to his mom with the claim that he does not see himself growing. In the physical realm, we can receive immediate benefit – like from eating, touching, seeing, or hearing. But this is not true in the spiritual realm. This area is very large and it is difficult to see where building occurs, stage after stage, level after level of cleaving and becoming close to Hashem.

## Purim and the Holocaust

Q: Why did Hashem save us during the time of Purim, but not during the Holocaust?

A: We do not know the secrets of Hashem. We obviously do not understand the Holocaust. While our Rabbi, Ha-Rav Tzvi Yehudah, taught at length why the Holocaust occurred (see Sichot Ha-Rav Tzvi Yehudah – Moadim, vol. 2), he said both before and after speaking about it that it is a Divine secret. We grasp in the dark in order to understand what happened, but with or without Purim, we do not understand. We also do not know when it comes to individuals why one person is murdered and not another. My dear brother-in-law was murdered by a terrorist in the street and this was worse than the Holocaust for my sister-in-law. The Holocaust destroyed one-third of the Nation of Israel, but my brother-in-law was everything to my sister-in-law. The Gemara in Yevamot (50a) says that Hashem establishes how long each person will live – it is the secret of souls. Someone once traveled to the United States to raise money and recruit students for the Hevron Yeshiva. One student who he recruited was killed in the riots in Hevron. Whenever he returned to the States, he feared that he would meet the father and he would travel in a round-about way in order not to meet him. One day he met the father on a street corner. The father took him by the shoulders and said: "You took my son to Hevron and he was killed. This was a sign that Hashem decided to take him. If he would have stayed here, he would have been killed by some gang in Chicago; now he was killed for the sake of our Land, the sanctification of Hashem's Name and the Torah. Therefore, I have been looking for you to thank you." The Master of the Universe sometimes performs a miracle for us and sometimes He does not. Joseph Stalin also wanted to destroy the Jews. He planned to transfer all of the Jews to Siberia in one day. Everything was ready – trains, buses, trucks, cars, etc... The plan was for half of the Jews to die on the way and half of them to die in Siberia. Stalin died Erev Purim, three days before the plan. I was a little kid. I remember that in shul on Shabbat everyone was very excited after davening and drank a "Le-Chaim." I asked them in Yiddish: Vos? Vos? – What? What? They told me: Stalin died. I asked: Who is Stalin? They said: The leader of Russia. Like any child I asked: A good non-Jew or a bad non-Jew? They said: A bad non-Jew, very bad. I said: Then give me a

"Le-Chaim" too. But they didn't know how bad he was. We only learned later. Sometimes there are miracles and sometimes there are not miracles. A friend of mine who is a high-ranking officer in the army told me: "We have prevented 300 terrorist attacks this year. We captured three hundred terrorists with explosive belts." It was not that they thought that perhaps the terrorists would do something – they caught them with the explosive belts. But there is sometimes one terrorist who they do not capture. Why this one and not that one? Why was this person injured and not that one? Why was this person killed and not that person? We do not know. These are the secrets of Hashem.

### 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: Is it permissible to use an animal, like a monkey or dog, to turn on the light on Shabbat?

A: No, it is a Torah prohibition. "In order that your ox rest..."

Q: My son was rejected from entering a "Torani" nursery school because we have a television. Is this right?

A: Experience shows that children learn negative and damaging behavior from TV. You therefore have to choose: TV or a "Torani" nursery school for your child.

Q: If I thought about giving a specific amount to Tzedakah, am I obligated to do so?

A: Yes, if it was a clear decision.

Q: We bought a silver amulet a few years ago. What should we do with it?

A: Sell it and give the money to the poor.

Q: Should we have a "Chanukat Ha-Bayit" (dedication of our house)?

A: It is a proper custom that the first use of your house be for a holy purpose such as praying or learning Torah, even if you are alone.

Q: Can girls in high school reciting Pesukei De-Zimra with a guitar?

A: No. One needs a trembling of fear when praying. Prayer should be on its own and afterwards play instruments.

Q: Why do Rabbis fight with one another?

A: G-d forbid, they do not fight. There are difference of opinion but with respect and love. "Love peace and truth." Zealots for their own reasons are the minority.

Q: Ha-Rav writes that one should not burn the "challah" separated from the dough in one's oven. Why and what is the source?

A: It is forbidden to eat this separated "challah" and it is "absorbed" into the pan or the bottom of the oven if burnt there. You can wrap it in aluminum foil. If it is not wrapped, it does not make something cooked in the oven unkosher because the taste is nullified by a 1/60<sup>th</sup> ratio. It is preferable, however, to wrap it in a plastic bag and place it in the garbage (Shemirat Shabbat Ke-Hilchata 42:12 note #52, Shut Mishneh Halachot 12:232 and Machon Ha-Torah Ve-Ha-Aretz – Imunat Etenu #10).

Q: Is there a mitzvah to burn the Koran?

A: No, only that one should not read words of heresy.

Q: Why are there text message responsa? People just make a joke of it.

A: Mockers will always find something to mock. Serious people, like you, read them seriously.

Q: But why not answer at length and in depth?

A: You can find them in my books of responsa and other books.

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** To subscribe, send e-mail to: [mororly@bezeqint.net](mailto:mororly@bezeqint.net)

