



Shut SMS #5

Ask Rav Aviner: mororly@bezeqint.net

Prepared by Rabbi Mordechai Tzion

Visit our blog: www.ravaviner.com

Ha-Rav answers hundreds of text messages questions a day! Here's a sample:

Nanny

Q: We have a nanny for our baby. She is an Orthodox woman, but she puts on Talit and Tefillin.

A: This does not invalidate her from being a nanny. The essence is that she is motherly.

Non-Religious Mohel

Q: If someone had his Brit Milah performed by a non-religious Mohel is it legitimate, or does he need a "Hatafat Dam Brit" (drawing a drop of blood)?

A: It is a dispute (Shulchan Aruch Yoreh Deah 264:1. Rama ibid. Chidushei Rabbi Akiva Eiger ibid. See Shut Mi-Ma'amakim 1:8).

Sleeping

Q: Is it true that sleeping with socks negatively affects one's eyesight?

A: Nonsense. On the contrary, it is modest.

Mezuzah

Q: If a Mezuzah falls, is it invalid?

A: No.

Distancing Oneself from Women

Q: Is it permissible for me as a single man to eat at a married friend's house?

A: Yes, but distance yourself from his wife. Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 152:8-10.

Christian Music

Q: Something in my heart tells me that Christian music is forbidden. Is this correct?

A: Yes, it is forbidden on account of the prohibition of benefiting from idol worship (Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 167:1).

Sitting on the Ground

Q: Is it permissible to sit on the ground (since it is a sign of mourning)?

A: There is no problem according to the basic Halachah, whether on the floor or on dirt.

Flies

Q: Is there a problem with killing flies?

A: No. They bother people (Shut Teshuvot Ve-Hanhagot 2:726, Shut Igrot Moshe, Choshen Mishpat 2:47 and Chazon Ish in Ma'aseh Ish vol. 7 p. 163).

Socks for Women

Q: Is a woman who always wears a modest skirt, which always covers her knees, obligated to wear socks?

A: The Mishnah Berurah does not require it, and it is permissible to follow his ruling (Gan Na'ul pp. 37-38).

Women and Gemara

Q: I am a woman. Should I learn Gemara?

A: The Shulchan Aruch (Yoreh Deah 246:6) rules that you should not.

Dating 2 Men at Once

Q: Is it permissible to meet two Shiduchim at once?

A: No. It is unethical, except in rare cases.

Long Hair

Q: I (a man) have long hair with a pony tail. Am I obligated to get a haircut?

A: Certainly. There are three severe Torah prohibitions that are transgressed by having long hair: 1. It is an impediment between one's head and Tefillin, and therefore causes a blessing to be recited in vain when putting on Tefillin. 2. Following the ways of the non-Jews (which includes acts of conceit and haughtiness). 3. "Lo Tilbash" (the prohibition of men dressing or appearing as women) (Shut She'eilat 1:23).

Crucifixion

Q: Is crucifixion practiced in Judaism?

A: No. Those who are stoned are momentarily hung, but not like the known crucifixion.

Stubbornness

Q: I want to learn a profession which is my passion, but I keep failing the tests in that area. Is this a sign from heaven?

A: No. One must be stubborn and persist in important things.

Shaking a Woman's Hand

Q: If a secular woman puts out her hand, can I shake it?

A: No. Politely apologize: "Forgive me, this is saved for my wife" (Shut She'eilat Shlomo 4:298).

Capitalism

Q: Is the ideal of Judaism capitalism or socialism?

A: Future ideal – socialism. Current ideal – capitalism.

Big Bang Theory

Q: Is the Big Bang Theory possible?

A: It is possible. And in the Beginning, G-d created heaven and earth through the Big Bang.

Q: And what about evolution?

A: Same. Hashem created man through evolution.

Q: But the simple meaning of the verses do not seem to imply so.

A: They are a parable, or have hidden meaning (Igrot Ha-Re'eiyah 1, 91).

Michael

Q: I have been told that we should not name our son Michael since this is the name of an angel.

A: This has no source in the Gemara or halachic authorities. This is a good name. As is Refael, Gavriel and Oriel (also angels' names).

Special thank you to Fred Casden for editing the Ateret Yerushalayim Parashah Sheet

