



Text Message Q&A #66

Ask Rav Aviner: mororly@bezeqint.net

Prepared by Rabbi Mordechai Tzion

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

Quinoa on Pesach

Q: Is it permissible for Ashkenazim to eat quinoa on Pesach?

A: According to the opinion of Ha-Rav Moshe Feinstein (Shut Igrot Moshe, Orach Chaim 3:63), it is permissible since quinoa did not exist at the time of the Rishonim when the custom of refraining from Kitniyot began. But the majority of authorities do not accept this opinion (Shut Avnei Nezer, Orach Chaim #373. Shut Melamed Leho'il 1:88. Shut Minchat Yitzchak 3:138).

Cleaning under Refrigerator for Pesach

Q: Is one required to clean under the refrigerator for Pesach if it is difficult to move?

A: There is no obligation.

Helping One's Wife

Q: Is it preferable on Friday to learn Torah or help one's wife?

A: Help one's wife in any way she needs (Ha-Rav Yisrael Yaakov Kanieski was once asked about a Kolel student whose wife complained that he did not help her on Fridays. Should he be rebuked on account of this? He answered: On Friday, one should learn and not be idle. But one also needs to ensure that his wife does not view herself as a servant in the house. He also needs to help. He did not take a servant, but a wife. Halichot Ve-Hanhagot Le-Ba'al Kehillot Yaakov, pp. 17-18).

Forefathers Observing the Torah

Q: How does our Sages' statement that the Forefathers observed the entire Torah fit with seemingly contradictory evidence in the Torah?

A: They observed the Mitzvot in the manner of their character traits. Torah Or of the Baal Ha-Tanya. And, in exceptional cases, they deviated temporarily. Nefesh Ha-Chaim of Rabbi Chaim of Volozhin.

School Davening

Q: If there is a class with both Ashekenazi and Sefardi children, which Nusach of davening should we use?

A: Each child should daven according to the custom of his ancestors.

Organic Food

Q: How much money should one spend to buy organic food?

A: There is no scientific evidence that it is healthier.

Q: But earlier generations ate food like this and they lived much longer!

A: Much shorter. A half or a third less than the current life expectancy.

Army & Yeshiva

Q: How many years should one learn in Yeshiva and how many years should one serve in the army?

A: It is a personal decision. The more one learns Torah, the more praiseworthy he is, and each person according to his ability. Or Sameach, beginning of Hilchot Talmud Torah.

Couple without Children

Q: If a couple has been married for 10 years and live together in love, but have not been able to have children, are they required to divorce?

A: The Rama rules in the Shulchan Aruch that they are not required to divorce. And the same applies to Sefarim, see Otzar Ha-Poskim (Shulchan Aruch and Rama, Even Ha-Ezer 1:3. 154:10).

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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

