



Text Message Q&A #74

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

Segulah for Shalom Bayit

Q: Is there a good Segulah for Shalom Bayit?

A: Help your wife wash dishes (Satmar Chasidim end Shabbat very late due to a long Seudat Shelishit and the Rebbe's talk. Once, on a Saturday night, the Satmar Rebbe saw that one of his Chasidim was the last one in the Beit Midrash and was folding his Talit with great precision. The Rebbe asked him what he was doing. The Chasid said that he saw in various books that care in folding one's Talit is a Segulah for Shalom Bayit. The Rebbe responded: A better Segulah is to go home and help your wife wash dishes).

Davening

Q: If there are parts of the davening which I do not understand, can I skip them?

A: Definitely not. Even prayer which one does not understand has value since it is fulfilling the will of Hashem (Shut Ha-Rashba 1:423).

Meat which is not Glatt

Q: Can a person who only eats Glatt-Kosher meat cook with utensils that were used by someone who eats non-Glatt meat?

A: Yes. It is a case of a double-doubt. Perhaps the Halachah is that non-Glatt meat is permissible, and perhaps the meat which is designated as non-Glatt Kosher is in fact Glatt, since when designating meat as Glatt there are additional strictures not based on whether the meat is Glatt or not. For this reason, one who eats Glatt may eat when invited to a person who eats non-Glatt. The host should obviously inform the guest, however, so he can decide on his own what to do (Shut Yabia Omer Yoreh Deah 5:3).

Redemption

Q: Are people who do not see that the Redemption has begun blind or stupid?

A: Confused (see Rambam, Hilchot Mamrim 3:3).

Techelet

Q: I wear Techelet on my Tzitzit. If I do not have Techelet, should I wear only white Tzitzit or not wear Tzitzit at all?

A: Certainly white. It is a Torah Mitzvah. Woe to us from such a question (see Shut She'eilat Shlomo 4:12-20).

Text Message with Fiancee during Week before Wedding

Q: Is it permissible to communicate through text messages with my fiancee during the week before our wedding if there is a lot to plan and it is difficult to do so through a third party?

A: Yes. Although there is a custom not to meet during the week before the wedding, it is certainly permissible in this manner for things which are necessary.

Epidural

Q: Should one not to have an epidural during childbirth in order to “experience” the birth?

A: If a woman is suffering she should certainly have one, and even with it, she will experience the birth.

Prof. Yeshayahu Leibowitz

Q: What was Rabbenu Ha-Rav Tzvi Yehudah's opinion about Prof. Yeshayahu Leibowitz?

A: Acceptance of the yoke of Mitzvot without acceptance of the yoke of the Heavenly Kingdom.

Q: How should we relate to him today?

A: He hardly has any religious students.

Special thank you to Orly Tzion for editing the Ateret Yerushalayim Parashah Sheet



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