



From the teachings of the Rosh Yeshiva of Ateret Yerushalayim  
**Ha-Rav Shlomo Aviner Shlit"a**

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Text Message Q&A #155    Ask Rav Aviner: [toratravaviner@yahoo.com](mailto:toratravaviner@yahoo.com)  
Prepared by Rabbi Mordechai Tzion    Visit our blog: [www.ravaviner.com](http://www.ravaviner.com)

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

Bedouins who Steal

Q: We have Bedouins near our community who are constantly stealing. Is it permissible to steal things of equal value from them?

A: They are thieves, we are not. Turn to the police.

Vegetarianism

Q: What is the halachic approach to vegetarianism?

A: It is not a Mitzvah or a transgression. It is the personal choice of each person (see Rav Aviner's book on vegetarianism according to Maran Ha-Rav Kook).

Tzedakah before Traveling

Q: Is there a source for giving Tzedakah before traveling?

A: Yes. "Righteousness should go before you" (Tehillim 82:14. "Tzedek" meaning righteousness is from the same root as "Tzedakah"). Kaf Ha-Chaim (110:24).

Teaching Divrei Torah to the Secular

Q: Is it permissible to teach Torah to secular Jews who have not recited the blessing over learning Torah?

A: Yes. This is the ruling of Rabbenu Ha-Rav Tzvi Yehudah (Ha-Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv also rules this way. Kav Ve-Naki 1:9).

Learning Torah Every Moment

Q: Is there an opinion to learn Torah every free moment?

A: This is the opinion of Rabbenu Yonah in Igeret Ha-Teshuvah, Derush 1:13. The Mishnah Berurah 155:4 also leans in this direction.

Stories about Gedolei Yisrael

Q: Is reading stories about Gedolei Yisrael considered Torah learning?

A: Yes, like learning books of Mussar. However, it is not at the level of toil and depth as learning Torah. See Piskei Teshuvot 155 note #41.

Hashem's Name during Torah Learning

Q: When the Gemara mentions a verse which includes Hashem's Name, is it permissible to pronounce it or should one say: "Hashem", "Elokim", etc.?

A: It is permissible (Piskei Shlomo Vol. 1 p. 22. Ha-Rav's commentary on Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 6:3).

Traveling in Eretz Yisrael

Q: Is taking a trip in Eretz Yisrael or hiking around Eretz Yisrael considered a Mitzvah?

A: It is a partial Mitzvah. See the book "Kum Hithalech Ba-Aretz" of Rabbi Mordechai Tzion.

Train Ticket

Q: Is it permissible for me to use a train ticket which was used and then thrown into the garbage (train tickets on the light-rail in Yerushalayim may be used for a period of an hour and a half)?

A: It is certainly forbidden. Theft.

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