



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

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Text Message Q&A #157    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:

Avram

Q: Is it permissible to call a child "Avram"? After all, the Gemara in Berachot (13a) says: "Bar Kapara teaches: Anyone who calls Avraham 'Avram' transgresses a positive Mitzvah. Rabbi Eliezer says: He transgresses a negative Mitzvah", and this is brought in Magen Avraham (156:2).

A: There is no explicit prohibition, but it is improper to do so (And Ha-Rav Chaim Kanievski answered that the Gemara in Gittin 50a quotes "Avram Choza'ah", and that which the Gemara says that "Anyone who calls Avraham 'Avram' transgresses a positive Mitzvah" – only applies to Avraham Avinu. Derech Sichah Vol. 1 p. 32. And see Shut Minchat Yitzchak 4:30).

Tzedakah Organizations

Q: I heard that there are many Tzedakah organizations in which much of the money goes into the pockets of the administrators. How can I know which organization is trustworthy?

A: You should request oral certification from a Rabbi, Rebbitzin or social worker.

Emunah of Women

Q: Is there a difference between men and women regarding Emunah?

A: No.

#### Soldier Davening during Guard Duty

Q: If I Daven during guard duty and an officer asks me how it's going, is it permissible to interrupt my Davening to answer him? If I do not answer he will discover I am Davening.

A: It is forbidden to Daven during guard duty without explicit permission. If it is not possible to Daven before or after guard duty then you are exempt: one who is involved with one Mitzvah is exempt from performing another Mitzvah. Sukkah 26a. With all halachic questions, one should call the 24-hour-a-day phone line of the military Rabbinate 052-9414414.

#### Mourner at a Wedding

Q: My Rabbi in Yeshiva is supposed to be the Mesader Kiddushin at my wedding in a month, but he is a mourner. Is it permissible for him?

A: Yes. But I don't understand why you don't ask him directly.

#### Comforting Mourners

Q: I heard that it is forbidden to say to a mourner: "What can we do". Why?

A: It implies that if it were possible to do something, we would, and it is impossible to do something against a decree of Hashem. Baba Kamma 38a. The Meharshal says, however, that this is only if one makes such a statement complaining against Hashem as if – G-d Forbid – He did an injustice. But if it is said to ease the mourner's pain, the halachah is that it is permissible (Yam Shel Shlomo #10).

#### Weekly Parashah and Current Events

Q: Is there really a connection between the weekly Parashah and current events or do Rabbis just give creative give Divrei Torah?

A: There is a connection. Magen Avraham, Chapter #580 (and so too the Tosafot on Megillah 31b).

#### Elderly Dog

Q: We have an elderly dog who suffers a great deal. Is it permissible to put her to sleep?

A: Yes. It is proper. "His mercies are on all His works" (Tehillim 145:9. And Ha-Rav Moshe Feinstein would stand during Pesuki De-Zimra, recite it outloud, and passionately say: "Hashem is good to all, His mercies are on all His works". Meged Givot Olam p. 72).

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



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