

Blessings over Torah Learning for a Woman

Q: Is a woman obligated to recite the blessings over Torah learning?

A: Yes. A woman is also connected to Torah (Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chaim 47:14. See Shut Orach Mishpat Siman 11 #2. Ha-Griz on the Rambam, Hilchot Berachot 11:16 at the end. Piskei Teshuvot 47:18).

Writings of Maran Ha-Rav Kook

Q: Why haven't all of Maran Ha-Rav Kook's writings been published?

A: Since they must undergo editing in order to prevent confusion and error. Otherwise, learning them is similar to someone walking on a flat roof without a railing. At the same time, we must understand that almost all of Rav Kook's thought is found in his published works.

Burning Chidushim

Q: There are stories that great Rabbis, out of their humility, threw their Chidushim (innovation Torah ideas) into their fire. Is this permissible? [This is told about the Tosafot Yom Tov, the Kotzker Rebbe and the Chidushei Ha-Rim]

A: This is an expression meaning that they hid them away (And to this question, Ha-Rav Chaim Kanienski answered: "Do not rely on stories". The booklet "Derech Torah" pp. 108-109).

Strictures

Q: As a Yeshiva student, should I be strict in any area where the Shulchan Aruch brings a stricture?

A: Ask your Rosh Yeshiva.

Torah Learning and Teshuvah

Q: Is it true that one should do Teshuvah before learning Torah?

A: Yes, so that the learning will be with purity and fear of Hashem. Even Shlomo. Nefesh Ha-Chaim. Orot Ha-Teshuvah. And it is told that the book Ketzot Ha-Choshen was accepted by the entire world because the author learning with great fear of Hashem, and he would enter a special room before learning and repent with immense crying. Piskei Teshuvah #155 note #34.

Torah Learning for the Ascension of a Deceased Person

Q: Does it benefit the deceased if one says before a regularly-scheduled class that the learning is "Le-Ilui Nishmat..."?

A: No. Only if they add extra learning after mentioning the deceased (Ha-Rav Chaim Kanievski said the same. Derech Sichah Vol.1 p. 484).

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