



Text Message Q&A #161 Ask Rav Aviner: toratravaviner@yahoo.com
Prepared by Rabbi Mordechai Tzion Visit our blog: www.ravaviner.com

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

Tzedakah Box

Q: I have a Tzedakah box from a certain organization. I called them to pick up the money but they no longer exist. What should I do?

A: Give it to another Tzedakah.

Q: I have made a few calls to another Tzedakah organization, which still exists, asking them to come and pick up the Tzedakah but they aren't coming. What should I do?

A: After a year, it is considered as if they forfeit the money, and you should give the money to another Tzedakah (This is also the ruling of Ha-Rav Yitzchak Zilberstein in Aleinu Le-Shabe'ach – Shmot, pp. 660-661).

4-Leaf Clover

Q: Is it true that a 4-leaf clover brings good luck?

A: Nonsense.

Ticket Checker

Q: I work as a ticket checker on the bus to insure that all the passengers paid. Is it permissible for me to wake someone up or is it forbidden on account of "Gezel Sheina" – stealing someone's sleep?

A: You are obligated to wake him up. "Gezel Sheina" is forbidden on account of "Love your fellow as yourself", but here it is necessary (See Piskei Shlomo Vol. 3 p. 142).

Torah Scholar with ADHD

Q: Is it possible to be a Torah scholar even if one has ADHD?

A: Definitely! Many, many Torah scholars had such challenges. One needs to find a method of learning that is appropriate for him.

Naming a Child after the Parashah

Q: Is it proper to name a child after the Parashah of the week in which he is born?

A: It is a personal decision (There is a well-known story that someone once came to ask advice from Ha-Rav Chaim Kanievsky about naming his daughter. He wanted to name his daughter Shirah, since it was Shabbat Shirah [Parashat Beshalach]. Ha-Rav Kanievsky said: And what if she was born on Parashat Parah [about the Parah Adumah - the red cow]?).

Blessing on a Talit which Falls Off

Q: I saw in the Shulchan Aruch (Orach Chaim 8:15) that if one's Talit accidentally falls off, he must recite another blessing over it, but I don't see people doing so. What is the Halachah?

A: Both Sefardim and Ashkenazim do not recite another blessing since a person's intention is to wear the Talit until the end of the Davening and his mind is not distracted from fulfilling this Mitzvah. Yalkut Yosef (8:3). Ha-Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach brought in Shemirat Shabbat Ke-Hilchata (Chap. 1 note #69).

Sim Shalom

Q: I saw in some Siddurin that in the Shemoneh Esrei of Maariv one says Sim Shalom and not Shalom Rav. Is there such an opinion?

A: Yes. The Arizal (brought in Mishnah Berurah 127:13).

Breaking Plate at Tena'im

Q: Should the plate which one breaks during the Tena'im (engagement) be whole or can it be broken?

A: Whole, since it is a remembrance of the destruction of the Temple. Piskei Teshuvot 560:9.

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