



And the word of Hashem from Yerushalayim...

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

Text Message Q&A #163 Ask Rav Aviner: toratravaviner@yahoo.com

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

Walking under a Ladder

Q: Is it forbidden to walk under a ladder which is leaning against the wall?

A: Not walking under a ladder is a Christian superstition. The leaning-ladder makes a triangular shape that recalls the Trinity, and walking under it is considered a desecration of their faith. One should, however, be careful when walking under a ladder that no object falls on him, and all-the-more-so that the ladder itself doesn't fall on him or anyone else (Ner Be-Ishon Laila p. 234).

Addition in Musaf of Rosh Chodesh

Q: During a leap-year, we add "U-le-Chaparot Pasha" into the Shemoneh Esrei of Musaf. When do we stop saying it?

A: There are three opinions. Mishnah Berurah (423:6). The custom is to cease at the end of Adar Bet (This is also the custom mentioned in Luach Eretz Yisrael).

Father and Son - Yaakov and Yisrael

Q: For Ashkenazim, who are particular not to name a son after a living father, is it permissible for a father with the name Yaakov to name his son Yisrael, or visa-versa?

A: It is permissible. It is not the same name.

Street Named after a Rabbi

Q: When a street is called after a Rabbi, does one have to call the street Rabbi X or Y, or is it permissible to just say the last name?

A: Rabbi (see Tuvcha Yabi'u Vol. 2, pp. 17-19).

Earth as the Center of the Solar System

Q: Rabbi Nachman of Breslov held firmly that the sun revolves around the earth. How can we understand this?

A: It is indeed difficult to understand.

Informing a Family about the Death of a Tzahal Soldier on Shabbat

Q: Is it permissible to drive on Shabbat in order to inform a family of the death of a soldier in Tzahal?

A: Yes, out of a fear that the family will find out on their own, and this could be life-threatening to an elderly or ill person. It is obviously preferable that the driver be a non-Jew.

Smoking on Yom Tov

Q: Is it permissible to smoke on Yom Tov?

A: It is forbidden to smoke even on a weekday (Shut Tzitz Eliezer 17:21. Ha-Rav Chaim Kanievsky in She'eilat Rav 1:52. Shut Teshuvot Ve-Hanhagot 4:115. Ha-Rav Nisim Karelitz in a letter at the beginning of the book "Chaim Le-lo Ishun". Ha-Rav Ovadiah Yosef in Maran Pe'er Ha-Dor p. 31).

Wrapping Tefillin Straps around One's Fingers

Q: Sefardim put on the hand Tefillin while seated. Does the same apply for wrapping the straps around one's finger?

A: This is done standing. The same is true for removing them (Mishnah Berurah 27:8. Kaf Ha-Chaim 28:6).

Teachings of Rabbenu Ha-Rav Tzvi Yehudah

Q: What are the central tenets of the teachings of Ha-Rav Tzvi Yehudah?

A: Love and faith. Love of Hashem and Israel and faith in Hashem. Orot p. 69.

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



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