



Text Message Q&A #173 Ask Rav Aviner: toratravaviner@yahoo.com
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Ha-Rav answers hundreds of text message questions a day. Here's a sample:

Home Front Command

Q: Ha-Rav always says that one should listen to the Home Front Command. What is the halachic obligation to do so?

A: 1. "Guard your souls". 2. The obligation to listen to the State and Army. 3. Intellect.

Routine during a Time of War

Q: During a time of war, should we continue on with our normal routine while our soldiers are waging war?

A: Yes. We have been in this state in different forms for more than 60 years. The goal of terror is to break life and routine.

Husband Called Up for Reserve Duty

Q: My husband was called up for reserve duty for Operation Protective Edge. What should we do in our family?

A: Keep your routine, repent, Daven and give Tzedakah.

Operation Protective Edge and Soldiers who have Fallen

Q: Despite my strong faith in Hashem it is very difficult for me to digest the great number of soldiers who have been killed.

A: When Rabbenu Ha-Rav Tzvi Yehudah was asked this question during the Yom Kippur War, when perhaps a hundred-fold more soldiers fell, he responded: Where is your contract?! Where is the contract which Hashem signed for you that we would not be killed in war?!

Sin Caused the Need for Operation Protective Edge

Q: What sin caused the war of Operation Protective Edge?

A: You don't know?! It was on account of the horrible sin of destroying Gush Katif, a sin against Hashem, a sin against the Nation and a sin against the people who lived there - and all because of false dreams of peace. After all, when we lived there, there were no missiles or tunnels. We lived in peace and contentment in Gush Katif.

Q: So should we not forgive the people who destroyed Gush Katif now that we see the results?

A: One is not obligated to forgive them, but it is better to fill oneself with joy than resentment.

Wounded Arabs during Operation Protective Edge

Q: Do our hospitals need to take in Arabs from Gaza who were wounded on account of Hamas?

A: Yes. Based on 1. morality. 2. national benefit, i.e. we care for other people and in return other people care for Jews.

Operation Protective Edge and Music during the 3 Weeks

Q: Is it permissible to listen to music now since it is a time of war?

A: No. There is no connection. But we must be more particular regarding Halachah during this time.

Music for a Soldier during the 3 Weeks

Q: I am stationed on the border with Gaza. Is it permissible for me to listen to music during the 3 weeks in order to relax and bring a little joy?

A: Yes, if it is a military need.

Special Prayer for Operation Protective Edge

Q: Is there a special prayer to say during Operation Protective edge?

A: Tehillim #35.

Q: I meant something aside from Tehillim?

A: The Prayer for the State of Israel.

Honoring Parents and Operation Protective Edge

Q: I want to go down south and help but my parents object. What should I do?

A: When you are independent, do as you wish, but as long as you live in your parents' house, consider their feelings.

Operation Protective Edge and Youth Activities

Q: Should we cancel youth activities on account of the war? After all, our soldiers are waging war?

A: Do not cancel them. Part of the struggle is not to break the routine of life. But recite Tehillim at the beginning of each activity for the victory and peace of our soldiers.

Prayer for a Non-Jewish Soldier Fighting in Operation Protective Edge

Q: Is it permissible to Daven for a Druze soldier who was wounded in our war over our Land?

A: Of course, he spilled his blood for this purpose (see Shut Yechaveh Daat 6:60).

Operation Protective Edge and "Harm will not befall one on the way to perform a Mitzvah"

Q: "Harm will not befall one on the way to perform a Mitzvah". How then are our soldiers killed?

A: It says in the Gemara Pesachim (8b), which mentions this general principle, that this only applies in the case of an infrequent danger. We do not apply this principle, however, when there is a frequent occurrence such as war. In general, one should be careful from partial quotes.

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