



Text Message Q&A #178 Ask Rav Aviner: toratravaviner@yahoo.com
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Ha-Rav answers hundreds of text message questions a day. Here's a sample:

Donation to a Yeshiva

Q: Which is preferable – a few wealthy donors supporting a Yeshiva, or many poor donors?

A: Many poor donors, so that all Klal-Yisrael will have a part in the Yeshiva (It once happened that a wealthy individual wanted to donate the entire sum needed to build the Chafetz Chaim's Yeshiva in Radin. The Chafetz Chaim refused. He explained that he wanted all of Klal-Yisrael to have a part in the Yeshiva and asked that a Tzedakah box be placed in each house. The wealthy person had a Din Torah against the Chafetz Chaim in the Beit Din of Ha-Gaon Ha-Rav Chaim Ozer Grozinski so that he would have to accept the entire donation. Rav Chaim Ozer ruled that they should compromise).

Chilul Hashem

Q: How is it possible that there are people who are Torah observant but act in a repulsive manner?

A: This is the definition of Chilul Hashem. Yoma 85. Rambam, Hilchot Yesodei Ha-Torah Chapter 5.

Eretz Yisrael

Q: Is living in Eretz Yisrael a goal in and of itself or a means to learning Torah and performing Mitzvot in completeness and contentment?

A: It is a goal in and of itself, which also brings completeness and contentment, as does performance of every Mitzvah in the Torah. See Orot Eretz Yisrael #1 (see Ha-Rav's book "Am Ha-Artzo" which discusses this question in the first chapter).

Lying Child

Q: What can I, as a mother, do if my 4-year old is lying?

A: I apologize: this is too complicated of an issue for a text message. You can call my wife (or look in Ha-Rav's book on educating children: Chinuch Be-Ahavah).

Saying Verses By-Heart

Q: I teach Torah and quote many verses, but I saw that the Kitzur Shulchan Aruch (1:6) writes that it is forbidden to recite verses by-heart. Do I have to open up a Tanach each time I quote a verse?

A: You are not obligated to do so. 1. It is permissible to recite a verse which you know well. 2. According to Tosafot, one is only obligated to recite a verse from a Tanach if he is fulfilling a Mitzvah for others by doing so. 3. It is permissible to do so if it is a burden on the community (Piskei Teshuvot 49:9. See there for further permissible manners of doing so).

Ruach Ha-Kodesh

Q: How does one merit Ruach Ha-Kodesh?

A: Following the path laid out in Mesilat Yesharim, from beginning to end.

Reading Books in a Store

Q: Is it permissible for me to read books in a store if I do not intend to buy them but am careful not to ruin them?

A: This is theft. The books belong to the store and it is forbidden for you to use them without their permission.

WhatsApp

Q: Is it forbidden to use WhatsApp?

A: If it contains Lashon Ha-Rav, insults and idle talk.

Spitting in Front of Avodah Zarah

Q: What is the source for spitting when seeing a Preist?

A: There is no source.

Shaming the Kotel

Q: I sometimes Daven at the Kotel and see great Torah scholars there. Two of my classmates told me that we are obligated to Daven on the Har Ha-Bayit and not at the Kotel, and say "You enjoy talking to a wall"?! I am confused. What should I do?

A: Don't listen to the mockers of the generation but rather to its great Rabbis.

Yigdal

Q: I heard that the Arizal said not to say Yigdal?

A: Correct. Mishnah Berurah 68:2. But the Shelah did say it, and this is the custom (And Ha-Rav Yosef Soloveitchik said that reciting Yigdal, which includes the foundations of Emunah, is forbidden because of "Chukot Akum" - imitating non-Jewish practice. This is because it is seen as similar to the Catholic practice of reciting the Catechism – an oral review of their articles of faith. Nefesh Ha-Rav, p. 231).

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