



Text Message Q&A #193 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:

Travel Agency

Q: Is it permissible to work in a travel agency since I may need to help someone plan a trip outside Eretz Yisrael?

A: It is permissible since it may be a trip permissible according to the Halachah. And regarding "Do not place a stumbling block", if one is uncertain that the person will transgress the Halachah, we are "Tolim" (literally "hanging" on the assumption) that he will not violate it (Mishnah Gittin 5:9).

Living with One's Parents after Marriage

Q: After getting married, it is preferable to rent a small apartment or live with my parents in a bigger apartment and save money?

A: Rent an apartment in order to build an independent life (After all, the Torah says: "Therefore a man leaves his father and mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh". Bereshit 2:24).

One's Rabbi's Rabbi

Q: Is a person obligated to honor his Rabbi's Rabbi? Is it a dispute?

A: The Rama rules that one must do so (Shulchan Aruch, Yoreh Deah 242:21. But one honors his Rabbi more than his Rabbi's Rabbi. Shach #40).

Kashrut of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel

Q: I hold that the Kashrut of the Chief Rabbinate is not Kosher. How can they cause so many people to stumble by eating non-Kosher food?

A: It is Kosher like all other Kosher supervisions and actually even better than the others. It is also forbidden (in Israel) to eat from another Kosher supervision without the restaurant or products having the Kashrut of the Chief Rabbinate. But there is a real doubt whether it is permissible to eat your food, since one who denigrates Torah scholars is a heretic. You are therefore obligated to do Teshuvah (Sanhedrin 99b).

How Do I Get to the Temple Mount?

Q: If A Jew asks me in the Old City: How do I get to the Temple Mount?, is it permissible for me to tell him?

A: No. It is forbidden on account of placing a stumbling block before the blind, and aiding and strengthening someone who is transgressing. You should therefore say: I do not know, meaning, I do not know of a way to permit this act (It is told about Ha-Rav Eliyahu Lopian that he was invited to eat a few times and he did not want to embarrass the one inviting him. He therefore said that the doctor forbade him from eating the particular food that would be served. And he explained to his students with a smile that he was not lying, G-d forbid, since the Rambam was a doctor! Lev Eliyahu Volume 1, p. 18 in the introduction).

Question from Another Community

Q: What is the Halachah in our community...

A: You are obligated to ask the Rabbi there (Ha-Rav Moshe Feinstein related that he once received a letter from the Chinuch Atzma'ei in Eretz Yisrael regarding a dispute between Ha-Rav Yechezkel Abramsky and Ha-Rav Zalman Sorotzkin, and asked for his opinion on the matter. He said that he does not interfere with matters relating to Eretz Yisrael, and the authorities there must answer the question. He said that the Rabbi from Minsk should not interfere in question of the Rabbi from Pinsk. It is known that Reb Moshe was an expert in Seder Zeraim and even had a manuscript of his commentary on Seder Zeraim in the Yerushalami, but he did not publish it since he did not want to interfere with rulings of Mitzvot relating to Eretz Yisrael. Meged Givot Olam Volume 1, p. 55. Volume 2, pp. 31-32).

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