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Text Message Q&A #197      Ask Rav Aviner: [toratravaviner@yahoo.com](mailto:toratravaviner@yahoo.com)

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

Sacrifices

Q: 1. According to Rav Kook, will there be sacrifices when the Mashiach rebuilds the Beit Ha-Mikdash? 2. Is it permissible to be a vegetarian? 3. What will a vegetarian do regarding the Korban Pesach?

A: 1. Yes. See Rambam, Hilchot Melachim 11:1. 2. It is permissible. 3. One may be a vegetarian aside from eating a Kezayit of the Korban Pesach.

Women and Musaf

Q: Are women obligated to Daven Musaf on Shabbat?

A: It is a dispute. Mishnah Berurah 106:4.

Aliens

Q: What does the Torah say about space aliens?

A: The Prophets did not say whether or not there are aliens. We must remember that the Torah is not a science book. The Torah does not come to tell us if there is life on other planets, but rather how to have a pure soul and to be a holy and righteous person on this planet (Maharal in Netivot Olam – Netiv Ha-Torah, Netiv 14). From a scientific perspective, by the way, there is no proof of aliens (The Satmar Rebbe – Ha-Rav Yoel Teitelbaum – exerted with total certitude that there was no life on the moon. If there was life on the moon, he reasoned, the Ponevizher Rav – Ha-Rav Yosef Shlomo Kahaneman, who was a most successful fundraiser for his yeshiva in Bnei Brak, would have gone there collecting! Builders, by Chanoch Teller, p. 352).

### Transcendental Meditation

Q: Is transcendental meditation permissible in order to calm stress?

A: According to science, it does not have greater efficacy than other regular methods of dealing with stress (See Ner Be-Ishon Laila p. 183).

### Stealing from a Thief

Q: Is it permissible for me to steal from someone who stole from me, since "one who steals from a thief is exempt"?

A: One is exempt from "Kefel" paying back double (the punishment for stealing in this case), but not from the theft itself (Baba Kama 69b and Chazon Ish, Choshen Mishpat 15:6).

### Postpartum Depression

Q: I wanted a baby so much before and during my pregnancy, and now I feel that I do not love him. Taking care of him is just a burden. In general, I do not enjoy anything. In what way did I sin?

A: You did not sin. This is postpartum depression, a known phenomenon, which affects 10%-15% of women. Turn to a psychologist. It will work out.

### Wearing a Kippah in France

Q: I am traveling to France. Is it permissible to go without a Kippah on account of fear?

A: 1. Ask the Rabbis there. 2. Wear a hat so that you won't be identified as a Jew.

### Brit Milah in the Afternoon

Q: Is it permissible to postpone a Brit Milah until the afternoon so that there will be more people in attendance (Be-Rov Am)?

A: It is preferable that it be done in the earliest part of the day because of the principle "The diligent fulfill Mitzvot as early as possible" (Zerizim Makdimim Le-Mitzvot). It may be delayed somewhat, however, in order to allow close family to arrive. Aruch Ha-Shulchan, Yoreh Deah 262:8 (The fact that Avraham Avinu performed his Brit Milah in the middle of the day was a special case. See Torah Temimah on Bereshit 17:26 #53).

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