



Text Message Q&A #200 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:

Serving in Tzahal and Torah Scholars

Q: Is it true that it is impossible to serve in Tzahal and also blossom into a Torah scholar?

A: You should repent for shaming Torah scholars by asking this question. After all, many great Torah scholars served in Tzahal, including: The Chief Rabbi Ha-Rav David Lau, Ha-Rav Tzvi Tau (Nasi of Yeshivat Har Ha-Mor), Ha-Rav Shear Yashuv Cohen (Rav of Haifa), Ha-Rav Shmuel Eliyahu (Rav of Tzfat), Ha-Rav Avraham Yosef (Rav of Holon) and many others (Note: Ha-Rav Aviner also served in Tzahal – M.T.).

Child who Talks to Doll

Q: Our seven year old pours his heart out to his doll when he is laying in bed. Is this a problem of idol worship?

A: Certainly not. It is not only permissible but good.

Humility in Torah Learning

Q: What should I do if the Tosafot's words do not seem logical?

A: You need humility to realize that they are logical. It is you who is not thinking logically. When Rabbi Akiva Eiger writes on a Tosafot: "Tzarich Iyun" - it requires investigation, he does not mean that the Tosafot requires investigation but rather he himself requires investigation in order to understand their words (In his youth, Ha-Rav Yosef Shlomo Kahaneman, who later became Rosh Yeshiva of Ponovezh, spoke in learning with Reb Chaim Brisker. A Tosafot came up and the Ponovezher Rav said that it was difficult to understand, and he repeated it a few times to emphasize that the Tosafot's words were truly difficult. Reb

Chaim disapproved of this expression and said: "The Tosafot is not difficult, only your head has difficulty understanding it." Rabban Shel Kol Bnei Ha-Golah – Toldot Ha-Grach p. 559 note #25. And Ha-Rav Ovadiah Yosef once said to his grandson that the abbreviation of the letters "Tzadi-Ayin" does not mean: "Tzarich Iyun" - it requires investigation, but rather "Tzarich Amal" – it requires toil. Maran Shel Kol Bnei Ha-Golah p. 136).

Reusing Water Bottles

Q: Is it true that reusing small plastic water bottle is unhealthy?

A: There are those who claim that bacteria from one's mouth and hands build up in them and there is a problem with BPA. Ask a doctor (See Wikipedia – Reusing Water Bottles).

Visiting the Sick

Q: I heard that one who visits a sick person but does not Daven for him does not fulfill the Mitzvah of Bikur Cholim. Is this correct?

A: This is the ruling of Rama (Yoreh Deah 335:4). But his intention is not that the person does not fulfill the Mitzvah at all, only not in its entirety. Chafetz Chaim in Ahavat Chesed (3:3).

Student without Tzitzit

Q: If a student in my class stubbornly refuses to wear Tzitzit, should I wait patiently or demand that he put them on?

A: If he is negatively affecting others in this area, then demand it, like Shammai. If he is not, then wait patiently like Hillel. Ain Aya, Shabbat 31.

Anorexia

Q: What should be done with a young woman who is anorexic and refuses food and treatment?

A: There is no choice, she must eat and have treatment. This is a life-threatening situation. She must therefore be hospitalized.

Sadness

Q: How does one free himself from sadness?

A: Through the intellect. By seeing things in their proper proportion, and recognizing that the most important and joyous thing in the world is serving Hashem. Pele Yoetz, Erech "Atzvut".

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