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Text Message Q&A #210      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:

One Shabbat Candle

Q: If a woman only has one candle to light for Shabbat, does she fulfill her obligation?

A: Yes (A woman once called Ha-Rav Pinchas Hirschprung – Chief Rabbi of Montreal – and asked: Since she only has one candle to light for Shabbat, is it possible to light it facing a mirror so it appears as two candles? He answered that if this were the case, there would be two women in the mirror, and both would have to light... The booklet "Gedulat Pinchas", p. 83).

Book of Tehillim

Q: Should one sleep with a Book of Tehillim under his pillow?

A: No, rather he should recite Tehillim. And see Rambam, Hilchot Zarah 11:12.

Rabbi Eliezer

Q: How is it possible that Rabbi Eliezer never said anything which he did not hear from his Rabbi (Sukkah 27b), when it is related that he gave a Dvar Torah which no ear had ever heard (Avot De-Rebbe Natan, Chapter 6)?

A: Maran Ha-Rav Kook explains that Rabbe Eliezer, with his deep ability to listen, understood things in his Rabbi's words which others did not understand. Maamarei Ha-Ree'eiyah, p. 204 (and Ha-Rav Avigdor Neventzal wrote that he heard the same difficulty and answer from his teacher, Ha-Rav Chaim Shmuelevitz. Although he adds that in his humble opinion, there is no difficulty, since Rabbi Eliezer did not say anything which he did not hear from his Rabbi out of a concern that he would err and spread incorrect Torah. But when Rabbi Eliezer delivered a Dvar Torah which no ear had ever heard, he did so in the presence of Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai, his Rabbi, since if he erred, his teacher would correct him. In this case, therefore, there was no such fear. Iturei Cohanim #104).

Adding a Name

Q: Our son is extremely short. We asked a Chasidic Rebbe what to do and he recommended adding a name. Is it enough to add it during an Aliyah to the Torah or do we need to do something else?

A: Ask the Rebbe directly, or ask his student.

Short

Q: I am extremely short. What can I do to grow taller?

A: If you are a child, ask a doctor. If you are an adult, I do not know of a solution. You should know that many great Rabbis were short.

## Learning Tanach with Chazal

Q: Is it permissible to teach children the simple meaning of the Tanach or must we teach them with Chazal?

A: Hashem gave the Torah with a commentary, i.e. the Oral Torah. See the Rambam's introduction to the Mishneh Torah (Ha-Rav Yosef Soloveitchik explains the same way. When he was asked the same question, he said that without the Oral Torah, the Tanach is the "Bible of the Christians". He added that Ha-Rav Shimshon Rafeal Hirsch is an expert in fusing the Oral Torah with the teaching of Chumash. Divrei Ha-Rav, p. 202).

## Yahrtzeit Candle

Q: Is there an obligation to light a Yahrtzeit candle on the anniversary of a person's death?

A: It is a custom, but it is not an obligation. See Shut Teshuvot Ve-Hanahgot 1:702 (It is brought there that the Vilna Gaon did not hold by the custom to light a Yahrtzeit candle on the Yahrtzeit).

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