



Text Message Q&A #218 Ask Rav Aviner: toratravaviner@yahoo.com

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

Chuppah

Q: Is there an idea of having a Chuppah before sunset?

A: No. But there is an obligation to have the Chuppah at the time promised on the invitation.

Woman Reading the Ketubah

Q: Can a woman read the Ketubah under the Chuppah?

A: The entire purpose of reading the Ketubah is to separate between the Eirusin (Betrothal) and the Nisu'im (Matrimony) (Rama, Even Ha-Ezer 61:9. Therefore, a great Rav in America, Ha-Rav Eliezer Silver, would read the Ketubah very slowly. See "Be-Ikvei Ha-Tzon" of Ha-Rav Herschel Schachter p. 268). In theory, it is possible to even invite a philosopher to read Plato in Greek between them. But we do not make changes (And in American, Ha-Rav Schachter once said that in theory even a monkey could read the Ketubah in order to create a separation. Some people were

angered, mistakenly asserting that he was using an insulting expression towards women. But Ha-Rav Schachter was using a halachic expression: "The act of a monkey". For example, the Chatam Sofer writes that it is permissible for a monkey to serve as a messenger to deliver Mishloach Manot. Chatam Sofer on Gittin 22b. Or that food prepared by a monkey is still considered Bishul Akum. Shut Shevet Ha-Levi 9:164).

There is no Smoke without Fire

Q: Is it true that there is no smoke without fire, and if people talk about someone, it is a sign that there is some truth to it?

A: Incorrect. There are evil people who defame others (see Chafetz Chaim, Hilchot Lashon Ha-Ra 3:7). People also spread lies about Moshe Rabbenu (see Rashi on Bemidbar 16:15 and on Devarim 1:12).

Bring the Grave of Rebbe Nachman to Israel

Q: Is it a Mitzvah to transfer the grave of Rebbe Nachman to Israel?

A: It is certainly a Mitzvah. See Shulchan Aruch, Yoreh Deah #363, Pitchei Teshuvah #2. And it is a great Mitzvah (And there are those who opposed bring the graves of Gedolei Yisrael to Eretz Yisrael. The Chazon Ish opposed bringing the grave of the Vilna Gaon. Orchot Rabbenu Vol. 1, p. 316. And it is related in Kuntres Reshumei Aharon p. 24 #37, that the grandchildren of the Chafetz Chaim once came to Ha-Rav Moshe Feinstein and asked if they were permitted to move the Chafetz Chaim's grave to Israel, since there are non-Jews in Radin who desecrate the cemetery. Ha-Rav Feinstein replied that the basic halachah is that it is permissible to transfer a grave on account of honoring the deceased, but he didn't recommend it in this case. All of the souls of the Jews of Poland who are deceased anticipate

greeting the Messiah together with the Chafetz Chaim, Ha-Rav Feinstein reasoned, and if you take his bones to Eretz Yisrael, perhaps those souls will be upset over it).

Asking a Rabbi

Q: Is it permissible to ask a Rabbi a hypothetical question?

A: If you inform him from the outset that it is not a practical question, since if he thinks it is a practical question, the Rabbi will spend much effort and toil to answer it. It is therefore forbidden to deceive him (When Ha-Rav Meir Brandsdofer, author of Shut Kene Bosem and member of the Beit Din of the Eidah Ha-Charedit, was asked a halachic question, he would often say: "Tell me the truth, is this a practical question?" When he was asked about this practice, he explained that when he gives a practical halachic answer, there is a special Divine help in reaching the truth of Torah. Another time, he said: "A Rabbi is not a factory to create answers." And he pointed out that all of the responsa books of the Rishonim and Achronim were written from questions sent from around the world, aside from Shut Terumat Ha-Deshen, as brought in the Shach, Yoreh Deah 196:20. The reason being is that if one detail is different, the ruling can totally change. Heichal Hora'ah, pp. 17-18).

Pidyon Ha-Ben

Q: How does one calculate the time of a Pidyon Ha-Ben?

A: It is 30 days after the birth, which always falls 2 days later in the week than the birth itself. If the child was born on Tuesday, the Pidyon Ha-Ben is on Thursday or Thursday night. And if it falls on Shabbat, then the Pidyon Ha-Ben is on Motzaei Shabbat.

BCC

Q: Is it permissible to put a BCC (blind carbon copy) on an email?

A: Only if it is the desire of the one to whom the email is sent. "One who goes along slandering reveals secrets." Mishlei 11:13.

Sleeping Security Guard

Q: If I enter a place and see the security guard sleeping, should I report it?

A: Certainly. It is a life-threatening situation.

Segulah for a Long Life

Q: Is there a Segulah for a long and good life?

A: “Who is the man that desires life and loves days of seeing good? Let him guard his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking evil.” Tehillim 34:13- 14.

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