



## Ants in the House

Q: We have a lot of ants in our house. Is it a sign from Hashem or a natural phenomenon?

A: Natural.

## Fifth Section of the Shulchan Aruch

Q: What is the "fifth section" of the Shulchan Aruch?

A: It is a saying that a Posek one must understand how to deal with human beings. In truth, however, it is included in the Shulchan Aruch. And there is also a "sixth section" of the Shulchan Aruch: How to deal with people who do not act like human beings... (It is related that the Chatam Sofer once tested his student on the 4 parts of the Shulchan Aruch. The student knew them perfectly and the Chatam Sofer gave him Semichah. The Chatam Sofer then warned him: You should know that there is a fifth section of the Shulchan Aruch on how to deal and cope with people. The student became the Rabbi of an important community but didn't last long and was fired. The student returned to the Chatam Sofer to complain about his terrible situation. After hearing his words, the Chatam Sofer said: I warned you that there is a fifth section of the Shulchan Aruch how to deal with human beings. Why didn't you follow my words? The student replied: My teacher and Rebbe, I learned the fifth section of the Shulchan Aruch, but I didn't learn the sixth section of the Shulchan Aruch: how to deal with those who don't act like human beings... Meged Givot Olam Volume 2 p. 16.

However, when Ha-Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach was asked regarding one of his rulings if it was based on the "Fifth section of the Shulchan Aruch", he responded: "No, rather based on the first [or beginning – 'Rishon'] section of the Shulchan

Aruch," and he explained: "The Beginning ['Reshit'] of Wisdom is the Fear of Hashem" [Mishlei 1:7]. Chico Mamtakim Volume 1 p. 153.

And once when Ha-Rav Elazar Menachem Shach was asked about the saying the "Fifth section of the Shulchan Aruch", he said that one should not use this term, since people may think that it is permissible to add to the Shulchan Aruch, and it is as if his opinions are equal to those of the Shulchan Aruch. Kovetz Kol Ha-Torah, Choveret #52. Kuntres Halachah Ke-Rebbe Elazar by Ha-Rav Shmuel Baruch Genut p. 37).

### Acupuncture

Q: Is acupuncture true?

A: There have been many scientific trials over the years, and they have not succeeded in proving most of the claims of this method (See Ner Be-Ishon Laila pp. 63-64).

### Text Message Q&A without Knowing Questioner

Q: Isn't there a problem answering a text message question when the Rabbi does not personally know the questioner?

A: There are questions which do not require one to know the questioner, whether one asks orally or in writing, and there are other questions which do require one to know the questioner, whether one asks orally or in writing (See Introduction to Ha-Rav's book "Piskei Shlomo").

### Yielding to One's Wife

Q: Do we learn that a husband should always yield to his wife, since Hashem said to Avraham Avinu: "Anything which Sarah says to you, listen to her voice" (Bereshit 21:12)?

A: If she is correct. See Rashi there. But in general, a couple should yield to each other.

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