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Text Message Q&A #231    Ask Rav Aviner: [toratravaviner@yahoo.com](mailto:toratravaviner@yahoo.com)

Prepared by Rabbi Mordechai Tzion    Visit our blog: [www.ravaviner.com](http://www.ravaviner.com)

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

Choosing a Nursery School

Q: How does one choose a nursery school?

A: Choose the one where the teacher is the most motherly (see Ha-Rav's book "Chinuch Be-Ahavah" Volume 1).

Wedding Present

Q: I am invited to my friend's wedding, but do not have money to buy a gift because I am a student and work to pay for my studies. Is it permissible for me to eat at the wedding?

A: It is permissible. Each person according to his ability (see Shut Aseh Lecha Rav 1:24 that one should bring a wedding gift which is worth at least as much as the meal being served. But I have heard Rav Aviner say that it is understood that some of

those invited are unable to bring a gift, and the bride and groom understand and are just happy that they come to the wedding).

#### Stolen Bikes

Q: There are illegal immigrants in Tel Aviv who sell bikes which seem to be stolen. Is it permissible to buy them?

A: Certainly not, as our Sages say: The mouse is not what steals, but rather its hole - i.e. without the hole, the mouse would not have reason to steal. Likewise, without a buyer, the thief would not have reason to steal (Gittin 45a).

#### Using Another's Sefer Without Permission

Q: Is it permissible to use someone's Sefer?

A: It is forbidden without his permission, since there is a fear that the pages might tear. Rama, Orach Chaim 14:4.

Q: What about a Siddur or Machzor?

A: Same. Mishnah Berurah #16. But some permit it since people are not particular about them. Aruch Ha-Shulchan #13.

#### Eemunah through Intellect

Q: Does Eemunah have to be through one's intellect?

A: No. Eemunah is intellect above normal intellect: it is cleaving to Hashem. See Midot Ha-Re'eiyah, Eemunah 18.

#### Ambush on Shabbat

Q: If a soldier goes out of an ambush on Shabbat or returns from an ambush on Shabbat, is it permissible for him to take personal items with him?

A: It is permissible to take food which will contribute to his alertness. There is a dispute regarding non-essential items. The Chafetz Chaim is lenient in his book "Machane Yisrael" (see Ke-Chitzin Be-Yad of Ha-Rav Avichai Ronski, former Chief Rabbi of Tzahal, Volume 2 pp. 36-37. And Kishrei Milchama of Colonel Ha-Rav Eyal Krim, head of the Halachah Department of Tzahal, Volume 4 pp. 86-90).

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