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Text Message Q&A #241    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:

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.).

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 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).

#### Conversion and Intermarriage

Q: Isn't intermarriage more severe than conversion not according to the Halachah?

A: If the conversion is not according to Halachah, then it is intermarriage.

#### 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).

#### Shehechyanu on Television

Q: I bought a TV, should I recite Shehechyanu?

A: We do not recite a blessing on a calamity (Berachot 54a-b).

#### Shiduch Controlled by His Mother

Q: I decided to get married, but I see that in every matter, the boy's mother's decides for him, and he therefore wants to live near his parents. What should I do?

A: Since he is controlled by his mother, break it off. "A man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife" (Bereshit: 2:24).

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