

Short & Sweet Text Message Responsa of HaRav Shlomo Aviner Quotes

But many people want nothing more than a "yes-or-no" answer. There is a joke: A person texts a Rabbi: I have a big problem. Is there a G-d? The answer: Yes. The sender replies: Thank you so much, Rabbi. You helped me greatly.¹

Q: Why do people ask such stupid text message questions? A: We should not judge one who asks a question, since he asks about what is bothering him. It is not appropriate to ridicule someone, and one who mocks another in a cynical manner reveals much about himself.²

Q: Which is preferable – to pray without proper concentration or not to pray at all? A: Even prayer without proper concentration has incredible value (Shut Ha-Rashba 1:423)³

Q: Is it permissible to pray for a certain soccer team to win if their loss will really upset me? A: We do not pray for nonsense.⁴

¹ 15

² 17

³ 57

⁴ 58

Q: What is the source for life being limited to 120 years? A: This is no such limit. Some commentators do explain on the verse: "And the days of his life were one hundred and twenty years" (Bereshit 6:3), that this is the limit on the length of one's life (Chizkuni and Ha-Emek Davar). And many great Rabbis did live to this age (Moshe Rabbenu, Hillel, Rabban Yochanan ben Zakai and Rabbi Akiva), but there is no impediment to living longer. For example, Sarah lived to be 127...⁵

Q: What should one do with a Tanach printed by Christians? A: Throw it in the garbage (Shut Igrot Moshe Yoreh Deah #172).⁶

Q: Is it permissible to bring a Hindu, Indian housekeeper into my house? A: Yes, just do not allow her to bring in idol worship.⁷

Q: Is it permissible to swim where there is no lifeguard? If it is forbidden, what did they do 300 years ago, when there were no lifeguards? A: It is forbidden. To our distress, many drowned.⁸

Q: Is it permissible to ride a motorcycle? I am very careful! A: No, being careful is not enough. There are other drivers who are not

⁵ 84

⁶ 170

⁷ 176

⁸ 187

careful, and a motorcycle is exposed. This is an extremely dangerous vehicle (see Shut She'eilat Shlomo 1:473).⁹