

Rabbi Yaakov Ariel

Chief Rabbi of Ramat Gan



The word for Jewish law, Halacha, is derived from the Hebrew root Hei-Lamed-Kaf which means to go, walk or travel and this reflects the fact that Jewish Law stretches from Sinai to today and all the way until the End of Days. “All that which a learned scholar comes to renew has already been related to Moses at Sinai.” Every new phenomenon requires a revisiting of the fixed Halachic principles. The strength of Halacha is in its ability to be implemented in every single situation. On the homily of the Sages “He who learns Halachot every day is guaranteed a share in the World to Come” and when taking the Sfat Emet commentator into account, it may be said: the way of the world, whereby G-d renews the world order every day, demands from man to also renew Jewish law, so to speak. The changes that are happening every day, especially in the modern, dynamic way of life, demand from us to take another in-depth look at the Halachic sources and to implement them. This is the meaning of “He who learns Halachot every day”.

Marcos and Adina Katz should be blessed for encouraging our generation's scholars to deal with modernity and adapting it to Jewish law through their setting up the Katz Award for Applying the Halacha in Modern Life. Those who were deemed fitting to be winners of the prize should be blessed. The prize should help them to continue to strengthen and glorify the learning of Torah. B'virvat HaTorah and with blessings to be written and inscribed in the Book of Life,

Rabbi Yaakov Ariel

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'YA' or 'JA' in a cursive style.