



Ask The Rabbi

Researched at Ohr Somayach, Jerusalem

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11 December 1999

Issue #258

Parshat Miketz

BRANCHES OF LIGHT

Paul Schreiber from N. Miami, FL
<nalafunding@hotmail.com> wrote:

Dear Rabbi,

I own a seven-branched menorah for decorative purposes. A friend recently told me that this menorah should never be lit. Is this true and if so, why?

Dear Paul Schreiber,

The Torah commands that in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem there should be a seven-branched menorah, and that making such a menorah for private use is prohibited. Having six or eight branches is fine, so bring your menorah to a silversmith and add a branch, or take one off!

Sources:

Numbers 8

SHADES OF LIGHT

Shelby from Atlanta, GA
<shetlandsheepdog@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Rabbi,

Hi! My close college friend is Jewish and resides in Montgomery, Alabama. She asked me to investigate if there is a particular tradition behind the colors of Chanukah candles sold in the retail stores. Or is it important that the candles be a certain color? I look forward to your reply.

Dear Shelby,

candles; so any color is okay, even plaid! Actually, it is

preferable to use olive oil lamps, to commemorate the miracle of the oil.

Please note that the **small** colored Chanukah candles

be lit before sunset and must remain alight for a half hour after dark. This year, this applies both to the first day and the last day of Chanukah.

A STITCH IN TIME

Skip <Druss2889@aol.com> wrote:

Dear Rabbi,

I am doing a cross-stitch picture for a resident at a nursing home for Hanukkah and am curious as to what

Dear Skip,

the miracle of the oil and the Jewish defeat of the ancient Greeks. Good luck with your picture. You are doing a wonderful mitzvah, a good deed of loving-kindness.

OLD MENORAHS NEVER DIE

Arthur P. Katz from New Jersey <Apkat@Juno.com> wrote:

Dear Rabbi,

How do you properly dispose of a menorah you no longer want/need? (I bought a nicer one.)

Dear Arthur P. Katz,

Though an item not used directly for a mitzvah (such as a **talit**, without the **tzitzit**), may be discarded, it just should not be treated with disrespect. Why not give the Menorah to someone poor, who cannot afford one, or to a child?

Source:

If you have E-Mail and a question, you can submit it to Ask The Rabbi for possible inclusion in a future edition. Just write your question using your E-mail to info@ohr.org.il

Ask The Rabbi is written by Rabbi Moshe Lazerus, Rabbi Reuven Lauffer, Rabbi Reuven Subar, Rabbi Avrohom Lefkowitz, Rabbi Mordechai Becher and other Rabbis at Ohr Somayach Institutions / Tanenbaum College, Jerusalem, Israel. **General Editor: Rabbi Moshe Newman** **Production Design: Eli Ballon**

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THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

*Comments, quibbles, and reactions
-the-*

Re: Jericho Yiddle Riddle (Ohrnet Vayeshev):

In answer to a recent Yiddle Riddle, you wrote that J times. True, they **marched** around the city once a day for six days, and on the seventh day they marched around seven times. However, on the seventh day they **encircled** the city only once. To encircle means to encompass, envelope, enclose, etc. I surmised that the number of Israelites was sufficient to encompass the entirety of the city walls; thus, they had already **encircled** it the moment they got into formation to march.

Stan <altermar@dataex.com>

Re: Chop

your Web Site. They are really great! I would like to

Daniel Cohn, Uruguay

(www.ohrnet.org/seasons/5760/kislev.htm):

I would like to ask for your permission to

Sake (Kislev 5760) into Spanish, to be included in a newsletter for the members of our community, Sucath David, here in Buenos Aires. much about the Greeks and their art, but I frankly think this article is a piece of Jewish art which really deserves to be shown. Thank you, Ohr Somayach, for your great publications and the deep insights and teachings conveyed in them.

I wish you all the best, with Torah blessings!

Malka Armoza <shseider@criba.edu.ar>

Re: Triple Header (Ohrnet Vayishlach):

to the you, the two sisters born with Binyamin were not twins. Why not? Because they were part of a set of triplets!

David Grossman <davidg@mofet.macam98.ac.il>

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THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Send your comments to: info@ohr.org.il

You can submit your questions to

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