



# Ask The Rabbi

Researched at Ohr Somayach, Jerusalem

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25 December 1999

Issue #260

Parshat Vayechi

## WORDS FROM THE HEART

Carol Conaway wrote via the Internet:

*Dear Rabbi,*

*While on a plane from Boston to Philadelphia two weeks ago, I happened to look at the cover of the book the man seated next to me was reading. On the back cover of the book, the following quotation*

*by the quotation and wrote it down for my own*

*I would like to ask: Where do these words appear in the vast writings of The Sages? I would be very grateful if you could find the time to provide me with an exact reference so that I might consult the entire text and see in what context the statement was made.*

Dear Dr. Carol B. Conaway,

meaning that it is from the Mishnah, Talmud or Midrash. But the truth is that the source for this phrase is a bit of a mystery! Although it has indeed become an accepted Jewish teaching, it does **not** seem to appear in any of the above mentioned sources!

I would like to propose that the phrase is an application of the principle taught by King Solomon in Proverbs

heart intuitively the emotions of others, and thus if one speaks with an open heart, the heart of the listener will be open as well.

**shechita** (ritual slaughter of animals). It is told that Rabbi Yisrael Meyer Kagan, the Chafetz Chaim, came before the Polish officials to plead for the rescinding of this decree which would cause tremendous hardship. The Chafetz Chaim pleaded passionately, in Yiddish. When

he could help rescind the decree.

Sources:

- Tractate Berachot 6b
- Proverbs 27:19, see Metzudot David

## GOING UP?

Suzanne from Arizona <JSNAriz@webtv.net> wrote:

*Dear Rabbi,*

*Can you tell me what it mea*

Dear Suzanne,

**aliyah**

In the Talmud and the Bible, travel to the Land of Israel is

**aliyah**

moving to the Land and becoming a citizen here.

someone who leaves Israel to live elsewhere.

The story is told of an Israeli in difficult financial straits who thinks he might do better in the US. When he

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*everyone.*

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.

Ask The Rabbi is available from • World Wide Web: Our address is <http://www.ohrnet.org>

• E-Mail via InterNet.

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announces his plans to go to Los Angeles, all his friends

first day on the job, he rides the elevator up to the tenth floor, opens the door, and a bunch of people cram in.

In LA he gets a job as an elevator operator. The

## Yiddle Riddle

Last week we asked:

*siddur*

**Answer:** In the silent *amidah* people outside Israel begin saying these words on December 4th, and once every four years they begin a day later, on after the fall equinox, and are corrected every four years by adding a day just as the civil calendar adds an extra day

ap year at the turn of every century (Y2K happens to be one of the

the 4th (or 5th) of December would in that year need to be changed to say the 5th (or 6th) of December.

The above is theoretical, as it could be affected by various factors, such as the reinstatement of the Sanhedrin (Supreme Torah Court). Anyone who has any doubts regarding actual practice should email us 100 years from now.

## THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

*Comments, quibbles, and reactions*  
*-the-*

Re: Czechs in the Mail:

Greetings from the Czech Republic. I read

always share it with my friends. It helps me a lot in studies, answers my questions clearly. Thank you very much!

*Marketa Rubesova, Czech Republic <marketa@mnet.cz>*

Re: Talking Turkey (Ohrnet Vayeshev):

Jews celebrate a non-Thanksgiving is an American holiday. Its purpose is to thank whomever every American chooses to thank for having a country such as America. A country where Jews can live free from daily fear of persecution. A country where the constitution protects us with freedom of speech, press and **religion**. The safest country, except for Israel, for Jews to reside in. It is not perfect here but it is

better than most other countries on the globe. To anyone who does not believe in thanking Hashem

any country in Europe your forebears came from and see how difficult it can be without the security of

I take Thanksgiving very seriously. Without this country most of us would not be alive today.

*Elana Heitlinger, Ridgefield Park, NJ <elana@webcombo.net>*

Regarding the Jews eating Turkey on

conversant in a number of languages. When Columbus landed in North America, many on the crew actually thought he had successfully reached India. Among the items discovered was a turkey, indigenous to North America but unknown in Europe. The translator assumed that the turkey was a native chicken of India and hence referred to it as

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**Issue #two hundred sixtieth**

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*tarnagol Hodu*

stuck.

*Jerry Kowalsk <lhkow@aol.com>*

Re: Midnight Rabbi:

so I can put it in my address book? Again thanks for being here. Sincerely,

*Deborah I. Klorman <Debschka@aol.com>*

Dear Deborah,

r.org.il>

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