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 program, set the subject info@ohr.org.il and send it to 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. General Editor: Rabbi Moshe Newman Production Design: Eli Ballon

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This Issue Contains:
1. Jewspeak
2. Ben Bag Bag
3. Common Error
4. Yiddle Riddle
5. Public Domain

Parshat Bo

15 January 2000
Issue #263

JEWSEPEAK

From: Chica Brown from San Jose State University <chicab@pacbell.net>

Dear Rabbi,

I have a query and this refers to the Sayings of the Fathers, as printed in our prayer books. There is a reference to Ben Bag Bag and Ben Heh Heh. Please inform us who are these gentlemen? Thank you again for your wonderful email.

Dear Chica Brown,

Jews usually talk with their hands (just kidding). We communicate in all languages, since there are Jews all over the world. Jews speak a variety of languages, including English, Spanish, French, Arabic, German, Russian, even Chinese and Japanese. In Israel, the main language is Hebrew.

Jews in Europe and Spain developed their own language. In Europe the Jews spoke Yiddish, which is based on German, and in Spain they developed Ladino, which is based on Spanish.

Chica Brown responds: Thank you so much, I gave my son

BEN BAG BAG

From: Benny Leon from Zimbabwe, Africa <vleon@mango.zw>

Dear Rabbi,

I have a query and this refers to the Sayings of the Fathers, as printed in our prayer books. There is a reference to Ben Bag Bag and Ben Heh Heh. Please inform us who are these gentlemen? Thank you again for your wonderful email.

Dear Benny Leon,

Bag. Both he and Ben Heh Heh were descendants of converts; their names were disguised to protect them from informers who would have turned them over to the Romans. ben ger, ben giyoret

and Sarah, to each of whose names G-d added the letter Heh Abram became Abraham, and Sarai became Sarah.

COMMON ERROR

From: Viviane Prager <prager8@yahoo.com>

Dear Rabbi:

When I was a school boy I thought that CE stood for

Now, 25 years and a number of common errors know, so I asked your question to a professor of European

Is there a reader out there with more insight into this? Write to <info@ohr.org.il>
Yiddle Riddle

Last week we asked: In Hebrew, if you subtract 30 from 30 you get 60. How is this?

Answer: The numerical value of the letter lamed is 30 (each Hebrew letter has a numerical value). The Hebrew
   shin lamed shin yud mem
   shoshim
So, if you take the letter lamed
   shin shin yud mem
   shishim,
the heart will be recognized as truth and enter the next heart.
   Rabbi Eisenman <rye613@aol.com>

Re: Ohr Somayach Internet Publications:
   The Ohrnet is just fantastic! I virtually wait for it to arrive in my e-mail box each week!
   J. W. from Des Moines, Iowa <jw613@aol.com>

Re: Hip Hip Hurrahs (Ohrnet Shemot):
   I liked the historically-
   and read Psalms 137 anew. I know so little. Great!
   Yuri A. Klimenko, Ukraine <tdtana@zfs.kg.ua>

Where is Yossi?
   Ohren received the following regarding the parsha cartoon series for youth:
   Dear Yossi,
   Are you all right? Please come back, I miss you extremely.
   Your friend, Mendy
   Mendy Singer, England <bsinger@bury2.demon.co.uk>

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN
Comments, quibbles, and reactions
-the-

hrnet Vayechi):

...the heart will be recognized as truth and enter the next heart.

Re: Words from the Heart (Ohrnet Vayechi):
   regarding the source

Chazal
Sages) cited in Sefer Hayashar by Rabeinu Tam,

Gershon Sabol <gsabol5244@aol.com>

Re: Words from the Heart (Ohrnet Vayechi):
   of the Jews went into effect in Spain. Any Jews who chose to leave had to leave behind all of their
   property and estates. Of the approximately one million Jews living in Spain at the time, half left and
   left everything behind. Everything left behind was forfeit to the Spanish crown. The following day
   Jews. (It is probably true that there were several Jews aboard fleeing Spain.) The remaining
   500,000 Jews were forced to convert to Catholicism, most of whom secretly practiced
   Judaism. Those Jews who were not sincere in their baptisms were referred to by the Christians as

Havah <havah@netvision.net.il>

Re: Words from the Heart (Ohrnet Vayechi):

Mendy Singer, England <bsinger@bury2.demon.co.uk>
Take part in
THE PUBLIC DOMAIN
Send your comments to: info@ohr.org.il

You can submit your questions to
Ask The Rabbi
with your web browser from the page:
www.AskTheRabbi.org
Or if you want to use e-mail, address it to: info@ohr.org.il