



Ask The Rabbi

Researched at Ohr Somayach, Jerusalem

This Issue Contains:

- 1.
2. I Do Declare
3. Transfusion Confusion
5. Public Domain



29 January 2000

Issue #265

Parshat Yitro

LETS BE FRANK

From: Name@Withheld

Dear Rabbi,

My stepdaughter, a Jewish girl, is marrying a very fine Catholic man. My wife and I are looking for a Rabbi in the (withheld) area who will perform the ceremony for them. The groom wishes the actual ceremony to be held jointly with a Catholic priest. The wedding ceremony and the reception are to be

involved (ie. not in a church).

Dear Name@Withheld,

I can see that you are sincerely concerned with ests, and that you want to do the right thing Jewishly, seeing as you want a rabbi to perform the ceremony.

But let me tell you a joke: It was right before Yom Kippur and the Rabbi sees one of his congregants entering a non-kosher restaurant. He could not believe his eyes! As he peers into the window, he sees the man talk to a waiter and sit down. He watches while the man orders lobster and pork and eats it with relish. Unable to contain himself, the Rabbi rushes in and confronts his

While you and I may have differing views

wrong and dishonest to create and foster false impressions.

In your search for a Rabbi for this ceremony, you have no doubt discovered that Judaism forbids intermarriage. Therefore, I feel that having a Rabbi at the ceremony fosters the false impression that Judaism

of common sincerity. The right thing, the honest thing, is that no Rabbi be at the ceremony.

I have no doubt that your stepdaughter has indeed met a very fine man; but this does not change the Jewish position on the subject. This is not to say that Judaism in any way deprecates or looks down on non-Jews, G-d forbid. Just that G-d has commanded us to be a separate people in order to fulfill our role to be a light to the nations. For our essay regarding intermarriage, go to: <http://www.ohrnet.org/ask/ask191.htm#Q1>

I DO DECLARE

From: Name@Withheld, South Africa

Dear Rabbi,

I have read about the results of a process called yourself a goal, and you write down that goal 15 times on a piece of paper every day. For example,

me about it, he has had spectacular success with more focused almost every affirmation he did was

events that would have been totally out of his control just started happening until his previously unlikely goal was made a reality.

He himself is not a religious person, but he acknowledges that it may have effects similar to prayer for example, he says that research shows that sick people who are prayed for are much more

sick people themselves are unaware that others are praying for them...

mechanism such as affirmations, is it wrong to use

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

everyone.

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

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order of things. Or maybe it is a natural force that just
ed for the last 5760 years? I am very

you buy something for Shabbat, since

your wonderful Ask the Rabbi service.

achieve it. And remember: You WILL succeed, you WILL
succeed....

Dear Name@Withheld,

No problem with affirmations. Simply using the
because we usually only use a fraction of our brains.

One is that, with your mind focused on the goal, you notice

I bought my first used car, I suddenly noticed a lot of cars with
are selling their cars just now when I happen to want to buy

TRANSFUSION CONFUSION

From: Daniel <danielaztil@hotmail.com>

Dear Rabbi,

I know that it is strictly forbidden to drink or eat blood,
but is it permitted to replace by transfusion precious
lost blood in the event of an accident?

Dear Daniel,

It is definitely permitted to replace lost blood by transfusion;
and this does not fall under the prohibition of eating blood.
The Torah commands us (*Deuteronomy 4:15*
mitzvah and an
obligation to replace lost blood.

Yiddle Riddle

Last week we asked: What two Friday nights of the year is there no *shalom zachor*? (*Shalom zachor* is the Friday night celebration held in honor of the birth of a boy.)

Answer: Pesach and Yom Kippur. Yom Kippur is a fast day, and therefore all eating and drinking is forbidden. And on the night of Passover, it is forbidden to eat anything after eating the *afikomen* the piece of *matzah* eaten at the end of the Passover *seeder*. Therefore, the *shalom zachor*, which is usually held after the Friday evening meal, is not held on these two nights.

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Comments, quibbles, and reactions

-the-

Rhodes To Zimbabwe

We are a Sephardic congregation, and our forefathers came from the Island of Rhodes where they settled after the expulsion from Spain in 1492. I saw copies of your publication at the Ohr Somayach Synagogue in Gallo Manor, Johannesburg. Please may we receive Torah Weekly, which is very interesting. We would like to publish extracts of it in our newsletter.

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

Virt-Shul

I go to your website when I am feeling down, and it cheers me up. We do not belong to a *shul*, as my husband is not very religious, and I do not have anyone else to discuss Jewish issues with. I have a relative who always jokes about what she would do if she won the lottery. She says she would have a live-in cook and a live-in nurse. I say I would

want a rabbi on call to answer questions and discuss things with. Your service is the next best thing. Thank you very much for providing this service!!

Name@Withheld

Re: Add Much? (Ohrnet Bo):

I asked your recent Yiddle Riddle
to the Youth Minyan in Bnai
Torah of Toronto. I received two responses, one the same as your answer and a new one, submitted by Moriah Ellen: Thirty minus thirty equals zero, which is written the same as the Hebrew script letter *samech*; *samech* has the numerical value (*gematria*)

David Woolf on behalf of the Bnai Torah Youth Minyan, Toronto
<wolfman@ican.net>

Take part in

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