



# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:davidg@mofet.macam98.ac.il)>

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