

Survey of this Issue

Welcome to the Tammuz Issue of *HaMa'ayan*, the last of 5776. As usual, the issue is replete with material: a wedding sermon by a sephardic sage from the well-known Gavison family, apparently from the era of the Spanish Expulsion; an additional study of the episode of David, Naval [Nabal] of Carmel and Avigail by Rav Yaakov Ariel, Chief Rabbi of Ramat Gan; on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of Operation Entebbe, a historical and halakhic examination of the background of the operation, and of the actual possibility which existed at the time of acceding to the hijackers' demands and releasing hundreds of terrorists - with the agreement of important rabbinic leaders from all sectors of observant society, synopses of whose opinions are set out in the article - although not at any price. Further on, my son Rav Mordechai clarifies the various approaches to mutual responsibility among the Jewish people, and Yitzchak Henschke of Psagot attempts to prove, from a comparison of the prohibition to leave the Land of Israel addressed to the *kohanim* and the one addressed to all Jews, that Maimonides' opinion is that it is permissible to leave the Land temporarily, and the prohibition is only to leave permanently.

In the comment section, discussion continues on Zvi Ryzman's interesting article in the previous issue of whether a *kohen* whose hands are tattooed can ascend to bless the people in the synagogue, and two members of *Kibbutz* Shaalvim provide facts on the fulfillment, even in these times, of the blessing promised to those who observe the Sabbatical Year.

Five articles deal with books: a critique of the new edition of the works of the Maharal; examination of censorship in the writings of Rav Kook's students to conceal the connection between them and their teacher; Rav Friedman of the Institute for *Torah* and the Land of Israel surveys a new and unique work on the *Shoah*; Rav Schischa of London corrects a widespread error concerning remarks attributed to Rav Israel Salanter; and the editor, in addition to the section reviewing books received by the editorial board, critiques a work of history intended for religious education which however seriously undermines simple faith.

A healthy and successful year-end, and good tidings to one and all,

Yoel Catane, Editor

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