HAMA`YAN

Table of Contents:

'Who Shall Come to a Timely End and Who to an Untimely End' / The Editor	2
Letter to Rav A. I. haKohen Kook Z.T.L. / Rav Shimon Shkop Z.T.L. Directive of the Eminent Rav Shmuel Salant Z.T.L. in the Matter of the End of Twilight – When Should a Child Born Friday After Sunset be	4
Circumcised? / Rav Simcha Gershon Borer	5
Deep Meaning of the <i>Piyut 'Unetaneh Tokef'</i> / Rav Yishai Aviezer 'Surely the People is Grass' – On the Phrase 'Like the Grass That Withers and Like the Flower That Fades' in the <i>Piyut 'Unetaneh Tokef'</i> /	13
Shmuel (Muli) Jesselson	16
Grafted Myrtle – A Halakhic Problem Which Does Not Exist / Prof. Zohar Amar	19
Requesting Permission from the Rav When the Student Intends to Leave the City – Resolving Objections of the Gra [Elijah of Vilna] to the Rema	10
[Isserlis] / Rav David Metzger ····································	25 31
Halakha and Contemporary Developments	
Halakhot of Autonomous Vehicles / Rav Eitan Kupietzky More on Pregnant Women Fasting on Yom Kippur /	34
Rav Aryeh Katz; rejoinder, Rav Moshe Zuriel	43
Marriage with a Convert [<i>Giyoret</i>] / Rav Ori Bezalel Fisher	
Memorials	
The Lake Which Became a Fountain – In Memory of the Phenomenal	
Sage Rav Avraham Meir haCohen Glanzer Z.L. / Rav Raphael Stern ····	56
Rav Dov Ber Eliezerov Z.T.L. and his Role as Chaplain of the Internment Camp in Latrun / Rav Uriel Banner	65
Responses and Comments	
The Wording in the Topics of 'the Sword [Defiles] Like the Corpse' and a Wise Man Who is Superior to a Prophet / Rav Azariah Ariel ; Further on the Kashrut of Products Produced Through Genetic Engineering and Kashrut of Newly Discovered Species of Fowl / Dr. Yeshayahu Baror ; Additional Approaches in Understanding Maimonides in the Matter of the Greek Letter 'Ki' / Rav Yaakov Sayag ; More on the Greek Letter 'Ki' in the Opinion of the Jerusalem Talmud [<i>Yerushalmi</i>] and Maimonides / Rav Mordechai Emanuel ; Response to the Article on 'Moshe Brings Out And Caleb Brings In' / Dr. Daniel Levi ; rejoinder, Moshe Wolf ; In the Matter of Permission to Pray in a Different Rite and of Ruling in Accord with the <i>ARI Z.L.</i> / Yitzchak Huri and Eliyahu Wazana ; Further in the Matter of 'In a Single Utterance' / Rav Prof. Shubert Spero ; New Fowl	
Debate / Rav Yoel Catane ·····	74
On Books and their Authors	

Chapters in the History of the Life of Our Teacher the Hazon Ish Z.T.L
Setting the Facts Straight / Rav Eitam Henkin H.Y.D
Received by the Editorial Board102



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Survey of This Issue

This issue opens with a letter published for the first time from manuscript from the leading Rosh Yeshiva [Dean] of Europe before the Shoah Rav Shimon Shkop written in 1925, in which his love and respect for Rav Kook are evident. Next Rav Borer of Modiin Illit (Kirvat Sefer) explains the opinion of the Rav of Jerusalem, Rav Shmuel Salant Z.T.L. in determining the time of twilight in Jerusalem which is surrounded by hills Two brief articles clarify elements of the entrancing piyut 'Unetaneh Tokef' [liturgical poem recited on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kipur] and Prof. Amar presents convincing arguments that there is no such thing as a 'grafted myrtle', and that the concerns of later authorities in this regard contradict agricultural reality. Rav Metzger, a Jerusalem rabbinic scholar, explains in depth the need for a student to take leave of his teacher before leaving the city, in the course of his explanations resolving several difficult objections of the Gra [Elijah of Vilna] to the Rema [Moses Isserles] and Ray Ron attempts to elucidate the source of the curious given name of the Prince of Hail mentioned in the midrash.

In the area of Halakha and Contemporary Developments, Rav Kupietzky, communal Rav and author of many fine articles, examines the soon-to-be-realized phenomenon of autonomous vehicles and the halakhic questions it will raise – who is responsible for damages, what are the rules for using them on Shabbat and Yom Tov, according to which ethical principles should their reactions be programmed, and more – theoretical questions now which will need practical answers soon. Rav Zuriel, former Spiritual Advisor [*mashgiach*] at Yeshivat Shaalvim and Rav Aryeh Katz, Rav at the Puah Institute and formerly a student at Yeshivat Shaalvim, discuss whether there is room to change the way halakhah views pregnant women fasting on Yom Kippur in the wake of recent studies, and Rav Fisher of Kerem b'Yavneh clarifies the socio-halakhic standing of the female convert [*Giyoret*].

Among the Memorials, Rav Rafi Stern of the Bar Ilan Beit Midrash for Men (Kollel) eulogizes the unique eminent Rav Glanzer of Antwerp who recently passed away, and Rav Banner of Sderot describes the singular character of Rav Eliezerov, Rav of Katamon, Jerusalem, on the recent completion of twenty years since his passing. Many responses and comments are offered in this issue. They deal with the innovative suggestion of Rav Azariah Ariel in the previous issue that the rule of 'the Sword [Defiles] Like the Corpse' is not what we think; Dr. Schneller presents a letter of Rav Kalman Kahane *Z.T.L* in the matter of how we relate to genetically engineered fowl, attempts to outline accepted methods of engineering, and explains the views of those who permit eating turkey. There are other discussions here in the matter of the Greek 'ki' and in the matter of the '**Mosh**e Brings Out **And Caleb** Brings In' rule; on permission to change prayer customs; and on the plain sense of 'In a Single Utterance'. The editor concludes the response section with a précis of the Current ornithological debate regarding the standard broiler and the Braekel.

The issue ends with an essay of our beloved, unforgettable Rav Eitam Henkin *H.Y.D.* who corrects several widely accepted errors in the history of the life of the Hazon Ish [Rav Avraham Yesha`ya Karelitz] and finally the regular section about Books Received by the Editorial Board.

The editors of *HaMa'yan* bless all readers of this issue with all the blessings of a good, successful year, in which all the desires of our hearts will be accepted for our benefit.

Y. C.