



Ask The Rabbi

Researched at Ohr Somayach, Jerusalem

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22 January 2000
Issue #264
Parshat Beshalach

SHE WAS A DAY TRADER

From: Name@Withheld

Dear Rabbi,

Do you have anything to say about the phenomenon of

of money at it. To supplement our income, we have taken a portion of our savings (which would not make or break

doing very well. Daytraders try to take advantage of the intraday swings in the price of a stock. The more volatile the price swings, the better. If the stock is falling in price, it does not matter, because a trader can borrow the stock to

thereby pocketing the difference. If a stock went up in price 10 dollars and then fell 10 dollars, ending up the day at the same starting price, a day trader could earn \$20, whereas an investor who held on to the stock throughout the day would not make a penny. It seems like gambling to me. I do not see how it contributes anything to society. My husband says it serves a valuable service by providing liquidity to the market and narrowing the spreads between the buy and sell price. If I could be successful at it, it would solve a lot of our problems.

Dear Name@Withheld,

Stocks are a legitimate investment. Buying stocks is essentially no different than buying diamonds, land, or wheat.

why it should be classified as a forbidden form of gambling.

Everyone agrees about one thing: Daytrading requires nerves of steel, tremendous concentration and an understanding of the markets. It can make one a lot of money in a short time; however, most people seem to lose money at it. Think long and hard about whether you really want to do this.

MY FAVORITE MARTIN

From: Ron Newton, Roanoke, Alabama
<newron@teleclipse.net>

Dear Rabbi,

Shalom and thank you again for your wonderful site. I have always heard of the wonderful and unselfish life of Martin Luther, but have recently read he was a devout anti-Semite. My question is, was Martin Luther anti-Semitic, and if so to what degree?

Dear Ron Newton,

Martin Luther, the 16th century German theologian (not to be confused with Martin Luther King, the 20th century American Civil Rights leader), is considered the founder of Protestantism.

-Semitic remarks

he claims, among other things, that Jews live from the excrement of the Devil! Luther had a five point plan for the

all synagogues be burned and that all Jews be enslaved at hard labor, instead of living off the goodness of others, as he claimed they did.

surprising or out of line with his times, or with the history of Christianity up until his day.

Sources:

Why the Jews, Telushkin & Prager

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

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.

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

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COLORS

From: Name@Withheld

Dear Rabbi:

I heard that colors have meanings in Judaism. What is the history behind this and could you explain the meaning of certain colors like red, green, blue, yellow, violet, black, orange, and white.

Dear Name@Withheld,

The color red represents blood and sin. White represents purity from sin. Ironically, a white skin coloration marks a person impure, making him into a *metzora* spiritualit

*Red, white, and blue, represent fire, water, and air, respectively. They also stand for strength, kindness, and

splendor, respectively; or, similarly, judgement, kindness, and mercy.

Furthermore, the color white is associated with the Angel Michael, red with Gabriel, and blue with the Angel Uriel. And white is associated with Abraham, red with Isaac, and blue with Jacob.

there are divergent views regarding this.)

Sources:

Yitav Panim 1 page 193
Megalleh Amukot, Ofan 8, 57, and 86

Yiddle Riddle

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.)

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Comments, quibbles, and reactions
-the-

Re: KOSHER COSTS:

the father of a disabled daughter having a hard time affording kosher food on a low income. We want to thank our readers for their overwhelming response with suggestions and offers of help. The following is a sample of some of those responses. We hope to publish a follow up on this subject in the near future.

A kosher food bank was established last year and helps people in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Jewish community, seniors, Russians, observant and not. It is confidential and available to all who

demonstrate need. I would be glad to put you in touch with the administrators of the kosher food pantry for information. Perhaps one could be set up in your area.

Batya Moses, Pittsburgh, PA < batya7@hotmail.com >

Many items in regular supermarkets not marked

Din puts out a handbook of their products yearly and they can be found on the Internet. Thank you so very much for an excellent publication.

Suzanne Havivi < shavivi@barak-online.net >

Take part in

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Send your comments to: info@ohr.org.il

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Issue #two hundred sixty-fourth

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