

December 25, 1992

Dean Dovid,

I just finished reading your essay on Yitskhok  
Bashevis (I am careful not to say I. B. Singer, though it  
concerned him as well) in *קייט פאר אונז'ס נייע 134*.  
It was wonderful, and it certainly makes me eager  
to read your forthcoming book.

I particularly appreciated your interpretation of  
"פֿירעלע אַרײַן" where you reflect the view that modern  
messianic belief, the idolatry of secularism and  
progress are the root of the problem -- because when  
man becomes the Messiah, in the end he will  
deliver the world from humanity also. The last  
Jewish *zele*, i.e. the last Yiddish writer, is left  
with his rhyme in which ... *פֿאַרען אַרײַן אַרײַן*  
*פֿאַרען אַרײַן אַרײַן* ... *אַרײַן אַרײַן אַרײַן* ...  
I agree that *אַרײַן אַרײַן* is *אָרײַן אַרײַן*, but I would  
think *פֿאַרען* here means "pardon, forgive"; however  
*פֿאַרען אַרײַן אַרײַן* -- perhaps Bashevis means that  
seduced by the *אָרײַן*, and its aftermath, the  
Jewish people are unaware of God's forgiveness

because they are already of the generation that is  
entirely cut off, חילול השבת וכו'.

I look forward to talking to you after your  
return from Russia.

חילול השבת

and may you go from  
strength to strength!

Best wishes,

Michael Stern