

## CURRENT TALMUD PASSAGE

Posted October 10, 2002 by Rabbi Judy Abrams. Please refer to Maqom's home page for information about previous passages.

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## Exciting Developments in Long-Term, Intensive Talmud Study at Maqom!

About one year ago, I offered those who study Talmud with Maqom the option of working with me on a one-on-one basis to do research and create articles about rabbinic literature that would be posted [here](#) at Maqom. With this article, that project is bearing its first fruit. I hope you enjoy reading Rabbi Louis Rieser's research and the papers that have yet to come.

--Rabbi Judith Z. Abrams, Ph.D.

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## REVISITING THE PRIESTLY BENEDICTION

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Since we have had so much fun discussing the idea of gymmatría, I thought we would return to another literary masterwork in the Torah: the priestly benediction.

God blessyou andkeepyou.

(Y'varech'cha Adonai v'yishm'recha)

God willshine Hiscountenance uponyou andgraceyou.

(Ya'eir Adonai panav eleicha vi'huneka)

God willraise Hiscountenance uponyou andgive toyou peace.

(Yisa Adonai panav elecha v'yaseim l'cha shalom) (Numbers 6:24-26)

We previously looked at these verses as liturgy ([http://www.maqom.com/apr11\\_2002.html](http://www.maqom.com/apr11_2002.html)). Now let's look at them from the standpoint of numerology. You will need a Hebrew version of these verses that can be found in any prayerbook.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Count the number words in each line. How many are there? What is the significance of these numbers?
2. Count the number of letters in each line. How many are there? What is the significance of these numbers?
3. Count the total number of words. How many are there? What is the significance of this number?
4. Count the total number of letters. How many are there? What is the significance of this number?
5. Count the number of letters of the central word in each line. What is the significance of this number? What

sentence do the center words make?

6. Do you think this is deliberate literary style or a coincidence?