

At hocher tisch in Oxford

Sir, — Despite Chaim Bermant's doubts, we do exchange quotations from Mendele over the High Table of Christ Church. I remember last year saying to one of my colleagues that I was like Hendel the bookseller; I was fed up with youngsters who talked big, but when it came to understanding things, there was nothing done. He said he thought the youngsters were all right, but that he was reminded of what is said in "Fishke the Lame" about people who were only occasionally sensible: "as soon as the moment of inspiration evaporates, the ass remains an ass and the preacher a bag of wind."

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Sir, — Your correspondent Chaim Bermant has gone too far. He has shown an obsession with Mr Begin (has anyone asked a Freudian what is behind this?), but then we believe in free speech. But to attack us Galicians is beyond all bounds.

He confirms me in the generally held belief that all Litvaks have a big *tselem* (a cross, for ignorant Litvaks) in their hearts. How do I know? Go and open him up and you'll see. But suppose he turns out to be innocent? So what, he's only a Litvak.

That's the way to treat you and your *gantse mishpuche*, Mr Bermant.

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