

ONE TORAH FOR ALL

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Satan or Shatan?

The Hebrew word שטן – “satan” means *adversary* or *accuser*. “Satan” is pronounced as “sah-tahn.” There has arisen a misunderstanding of the Hebrew in which some are choosing to render the pronunciation of the name of the accuser of the brethren as “Shatan” rather than as “Satan.” However, “Shatan” is a different Hebrew word which means “urine”. We should not confuse these two words, for rebuking “urine” (Shatan) does nothing to get the enemy to depart from us.

The Hebrew letter ש can be either a “sin” (pronounced as seen) with an “s” sound or a “shin” (pronounced as sheen) with an “sh” sound.

In this case both of these sounds appear as different words in the Hebrew language.

שטן – “satan” = the adversary

שטן – “shatan” = urine

Let us be careful not to confuse these two words and thus confuse others!

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