

MORE ON ANONYMOUS LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR:

Mirish Kiszner's article "Orphaned Messages: A Look at Anonymous Letters" raised a number of important points about problems with writing anonymous letters.

Readers of the *Hamodia* might very well be interested in what Harav Shamshon Raphael Hirsch wrote in 1877 about anonymous writings. The following is from page 168 of the book *Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, Architect of Torah for the Modern World*, by Rabbi Eliyahu Meir Klugman:

"Various publications opposing our call for secession ... have already appeared under the cover of anonymity. Their contents only show that their authors are in no position whatsoever to voice any

opinion worthy of note on this question... Any replies written anonymously or signed with a fictitious name will not receive any consideration from me. One who lacks the courage to sign his true name to his views must be aware that what he is saying is meaningless, and that therefore he cannot expect others to take notice of it. Let the anonymous gnats buzz happily in the sunny meadows. I certainly do not want to spoil their pleasure."

Given this, to me it seems clear that in almost all cases it is important and appropriate for writers to include their names in whatever they write.

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