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When I first joined a Sefer summer school five years ago, I found myself in an entirely different world. Meetings with fascinating scholars and top-class specialists not only in Jewish studies, but the humanities in general, exceptional lectures on rare and intriguing themes, the ability to discuss freely things of interest to me with colleagues and free access to information, generously shared by professors and students alike, all finally convinced me of the desire to make Jewish studies my vocation.

Participation in Eshnav and a fellowship program at the Department of Jewish Studies of the Moscow State University gave me the skills and instruments needed for professional work in Jewish studies. In other words, I would hardly have realized myself as a scholar without Sefer. What is more, Sefer's annual conferences are among the best I have ever attended. These conferences become events, during which ideas are exchanged, discoveries and new finds are made and new interpretations offered, that is, something that is supposed to happen but in fact rarely does.