

## Let It Be

Yehuda Berger (Queries & Comments, BAR 30:04) is correct about the numerous attestations of the word *tequ* in the Babylonian Talmud to refer to an issue that cannot be decided. But he repeats an old canard when he claims that the word is an acronym for *Tishbi yetaretz qushiyot ve-ba'ayot*, "the Tishbite (Elijah) will settle [all such] difficulties and problems." This is the way that later Jews understood the word, but this is not its proper etymology. In fact the word is a perfectly good Aramaic word, derived from the root *qwm* "stand, arise" (which occurs commonly in Hebrew also). The specific form *tequ* means "let it stand" in the sense of "let (the matter) remain (unresolved)" (see M. Sokoloff, *A Dictionary of Jewish Palestinian Aramaic* [2002], p. 993). At some point, Jews unfamiliar with the workings of Aramaic grammar no longer understood the form, and thus they created the notion that the word was an acronym.

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