

1. The first paragraph of *The Brief Travels of Benjamin III* alludes to the following Talmudic text:

“There is not a single herb or spice that does not have a constellation [a star, but also meaning an angel or heavenly being] which strikes it and tells it to grow.”

—from *Bereshit Rabba* 10.6

2. Senderl is introduced with these words in Hillel Halkin’s translation:

“[T]here was in those days, in Tuneyadevka, a man named Senderl...and he was, this same Senderl, a simple soul, that is a man without guile.”

Neugroschel’s translation is:

“And there dwelt a man in the city of Moochville and his name was called Sender . . . and this Sender was of a simple mind.”

This echoes the language of the opening of the Book of Job:

“There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.”