

Subject: Proposal of an additional character to the Hebrew Unicodes: Sheva Na

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Dear Sirs,

First let me commend you on your brilliant work in the Hebrew language Unicodes. You bridge the requirements from Biblical Hebrew through Modern. Your inclusion of the dots above and below which are only found in the ancient codices in Psalms 27:13 absolutely blew me away.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Hebrew has two visual symbols that each have two possible pronunciations and very few people are knowledgeable enough to know how to pronounce them in all instances. Therefore the solution is to slightly differentiate the symbols for each of the two pronunciations. Today you already do this for the **Qamats (05B8)** and the **Qamats Qatan(05C7)**. The second symbol is the Sheva which has a silent version called the **Sheva Nach (05B0)** and a vocalized version which is not present in the current Unicode to the best of my knowledge. Companies like Davka have imbedded the **Sheva Na** in their fonts and developed their own software solutions to handle this. It is quite evident that a Unicode solution would be far better for many reasons.

IMPLEMENTATION SUGGESTION

The current implementation is to use a much bolder version of the Sheva. An example is attached which shows both the Sheva Na (pronounced and bolder) and the Sheva Na (Silent and normal visual representation). Note that there is no way to make the font normal and the vowel bold that I am aware of.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eliezer May

Example of proposed Sheva Na for Unicode

וּבֵכֶן יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ שֶׁתְּהִי אֶרְצֵנוּ בְּרָכָה לְכָל-יוֹשְׁבֵי
תְּבֵל, וְתִשְׁרָה בִּינֵיהֶם רַעוּת וְחֵדוּת, וְקַיִם בְּמִתְרָה חֲזוֹן
נְבִיאֶיךָ: לֹא יִשָּׂא גּוֹי אֶל גּוֹי חֶרֶב וְלֹא יִלְמְדוּ עוֹד
מִלְחָמָה. וְנֹאמַר: כִּי כוֹלָם יִדְעוּ אוֹתֵי לְמַקְטָנָם וְעַד
גְּדוֹלָם, וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן.

Pronounced Sheva Na Silent Sheva Nach

The Sheva is a vowel under a letter which is comprised of two vertical dots.