

# The Kustanowitz Kronikle

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Special Purim Edition

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## ANCIENT TALMUD UNEARTHED IN IRAQI WAR RUINS; NEW TRACTATES REVEALED

### THE TALMUD BAGHDADI Tractate *Nappin*: A Sample Page

**MISHNA:** It is incumbent on every male in Israel to nap for 3 hours every Shabbat. As it is written, *V'shinantam l'vanecha*. *V'shinantam* refers to *Shaymah*—sleep, and it also means teaching. Therefore, you should also teach your son to sleep on Shabbat.

Since this is a mitzvah dependent on a fixed time, women are exempt from napping until their oldest child reaches the age of Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

**GEMARA:** The *Etzba BaAf* asks: Are the 3 hours in the morning or the afternoon? The *Regel BaPeh* replies: In the afternoon, after kiddush and a full meal. The *Etzba BaAf* asks in the name of the *Erev Rav*, If one naps in synagogue during the Rabbi's sermon, does this count toward the 3 hour minimum? The *Regel BaPeh* replies in the name of the *Sonay Chinam*, that the ideal situation would be to nap at least 3 hours in addition to any napping during the Rabbi's sermon, but in an emergency, a sermon nap may be counted. The *Rodef Kessef* agrees, but only if the nap is long enough to allow an elephant to cross the Euphrates and shake himself dry.

The *Regel BaPeh* asks: How long is that?, and the *Rodef Kessef* replies: About twice as long as it takes a tiger to cross the Tigris.

### MOVIE PREVIEW

Coming Soon to a  
Theater Near You

#### KINDERGARTEN COP

Adventures of a parent newly appointed to supervise children in the shul basement during the Rabbi's sermon.

#### DANCES WITH WOLVES

The annual Lubavitch Purim Party turns into a free-for-all when everybody shows up in costume as Lazar Wolf, the Big Bad Wolf, or Wile E. Coyote.

#### EDWARD SCISSORHANDS

The son of a mohel is born with sharp appendages on his hands and immediately understands his special calling.

#### ANOTHER 48 HOURS

After six days of Pesach, a suburban family hungrily eyes the line forming outside the local bagel store.

#### PREDATOR

A hungry 5th grader stalks the kiddush tables, planning a first strike at the most chocolaty item in sight.

#### BONFIRE OF THE VANITIES

Children at a Bar Mitzvah party try to make a memory glass, but their plans go awry as the candle starts a fire in the bathroom.

## Talmud Baghdadi Extends Halacha; Companion Volumes Discovered to Shulchan Aruch and Pirkei Avot

Special to the Kustanowitz Kronikle

BAGHDAD, February 27—In a secret mission to Iraq, Israeli archaeologists have discovered a long suspected—but until now missing—collection of ancient texts that shed new light on the Talmudic period, and promise to extend the oral law to new areas of personal and communal Jewish life.

The archaeologists parachuted behind enemy lines during a lull in the allied bombing of Iraq, and made their way to a cave which was exposed by the destruction of a power station. This cave, long sought by the team of archaeologists, was spotted by Israeli high-resolution cameras earlier this week.

Among the discovered books were a set of new tractates, immediately dubbed the *Talmud Baghdadi*. They include *Nappin*, the laws of taking Shabbat afternoon naps, *Fressin*, the laws of eating at a shul kiddush, and *Meetin*, the laws of conduct at board meetings and general membership meetings.

Also discovered were the *Shulchan Hafuch*, a long-lost twin volume to the *Shulchan Aruch*, and *Pirkei Imahot* (*Ethics of the Mothers*), a companion volume to *Pirkei Avot* (*Ethics of the Fathers*).

Researchers found a stack of letters that explained the existence of the *Shulchan Hafuch*. It was written by Rabbi Fesoy Karo, a twin brother to Rabbi Yosef Caro, who wrote the *Shulchan Aruch*. The two brothers were separated shortly after birth in the confusion of the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492. Fesoy Karo wandered across Europe, eventually making his way to Baghdad, where, after writing his major work, he changed the spelling of his name and made his mark as a manufacturer of corn syrup.

The rabbis are studying this work carefully, because it parallels the *Shulchan Aruch*, which has become the bible of everyday living for the Orthodox, but every ruling in the *Shulchan Hafuch* is directly opposite to these prevailing laws. An extensive analysis of this work will have to wait for future issues of the Kronikle.

The *Pirkei Imahot* (*Ethics of the Mothers*) follows the same style as its brother volume, but with a decidedly different emphasis. Some excerpts follow:



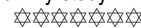
New tractates of the Talmud were found north of Baghdad in a cave beneath the rubble of a power station.

### EXCERPTS FROM PIRKEI IMAHOT

Studying Torah and being occupied with worldly things should not prevent a man from washing dishes and taking out the garbage, for the energy used keeps sinful thoughts away.



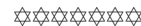
The more you study, the more you know; the more you know, the more you can forget; the more you can forget, the less you know; so why study?



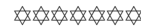
The *Ke'ev Rosh* says: A good marriage rests on 3 pillars: fresh-baked challah, plenty of ice in the freezer, and a properly working air-conditioning system. (*Editor's note: This saying, alluding to 20th century conveniences, illustrates the prophetic nature of the sages who wrote this volume.*)



The *Ke'ev Beten* says: He who wears warm clothes, eats lots of vegetables, and puts on rubbers on a rainy day will earn his share in the world to come.



She who puts chocolate in the lunchbox invites jealousy and hatred. She who keeps all forms of chocolate on the table is held in the same esteem as the righteous of all generations.



Children who write home from camp will be blessed with many gifts. Children who don't will be plagued with guilt for all eternity.