

The Kustanowitz Kronikle

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IRAQ INSPECTION TEAMS TURN UP MORE NEW TALMUD BAGHDADI TRACTATES

THE TALMUD BAGHDADI Tractate *Fressin*: A Sample Page

MISHNA: From what time is it permissible to begin preparations for kiddush? The Groisser Fresser says, from the time the Torah is taken out of the Ark. The Punkt Farkert says from the time the Chazzan completes the recitation of the Shemona Esrei.

GEMARA: The Etzba BaAf asks: Why from the time the Torah is taken out of the Ark? To allow enough time for the proper presentation of the chulent, and thereby to give honor to the congregation.

The Regel BaPeh disagrees and says the halacha should be with the Punkt Farkert who says that preparations may not begin until the Chazzan completes the Shemona Esrei. Why? To prevent the Chazzan from smelling the chulent, deriving pleasure, and filling his mind with impure thoughts. Why impure thoughts? The Regel BaPeh brings a proof from the Ohf Hagadol that the beans used in Babylon are so potent that inhalation of a microscopic amount can trigger unexpected physical manifestations, which will not give honor to the congregation.

Is it permissible for men to assist with the preparation of the kiddush? The Grobber Yung answers: Yes, because the gematria (numeric value) of kiddush is 410, the same value as Kirk, the captain of the Starship Enterprise, whose motto is "To boldly go where no man has gone before." — and where else could this be but the kitchen?

BEST BETS FOR THE ACADEMY AWARDS: The Kronikle's Oscar Picks

(With a special *Kol HaKavod* to Esther Kustanowitz)

Good Will Hunting: A reporter takes to the streets, searching for a Reform Jew who has something good to say about the Orthodox, and vice versa.

Twister: A community is thrown into chaos when their ceremonial huts are subjected to unusual forces of nature.

Wag the Dog: A fringe group of Orthodox Jews reenact the Kapparot ritual, with a small difference that causes a national outrage.

Contact: Turmoil ensues when two "Rakevet" chains, one of men and one of women, collide during a particularly lively wedding.

Great Expectations: A mother grieves as her son passes up medical school for rabbinical school.

Halacha Extended to Cover Rules of Preparing and Eating Kiddush in Shul; New Controversy Expected

Special to the Kustanowitz Kronikle

BAGHDAD, March 12 — Although recent inspections of newly opened Presidential Palaces have thus far yielded no secret caches of illegal chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction, inspectors were surprised to find a collection of ancient texts hidden there.

Careful inspection has revealed it to be related to the texts that were discovered in 1991 at the end of the Gulf war. As reported in the Kronikle then, the find included a set of new tractates, dubbed the Talmud Baghdadi. Included are Nappin, the laws of taking Shabbat afternoon naps; Fressin, the laws of preparing and partaking in a shul kiddush, and Meetin, the laws of conduct at shul meetings. Excerpts from Tractate Nappin were published here at that time, but the fragments of Fressin and Meetin were unreadable.

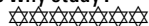
The new discovery includes the complete text of Tractate Fressin, a portion of which is reproduced on this page, and a more complete edition of Pirkei Imahot (Ethics of the Mothers,) a long-lost companion volume to Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers). Following are some of its teachings, previously published.

EXCERPTS FROM PIRKEI IMAHOT

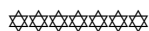
Studying Torah and being occupied with worldly things should not prevent a man from washing dishes and taking out the garbage, for the energy used keeps sinful thoughts away.



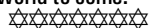
The more you study, the more you know; the more you know, the more you can forget; the more you can forget, the less you know; so why study?



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 galoshes 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.



Previously unknown Talmud tractates Fressin and Meetin were discovered in this Presidential Palace built for Saddam Hussein.

KNOW YOUR SAGES

We have learned much from the pages of the Talmud Baghdadi, but few of us know the sages behind the pages. Here are some brief profiles of the sages quoted in the excerpts from Tractate Fressin:

The *Groisser Fresser* was one of the biggest of the sages, literally. His positions were strict, but he tended to be more lenient in his opinions whenever they served to permit the consumption of more food.

The *Punkt Farkert* was a regular opponent of the Groisser Fresser, and took great pleasure in refuting every one of his arguments.

The *Etzba B' Af* was widely known for his penetrating analysis, but did not have many friends because of a lack of personal hygiene.

The *Regel BaPeh* had an uncanny ability to offer soundly reasoned arguments, but somehow tended to use them to undermine his own position.

The *Ohf Hagadol*, always one to seek compromises and find peaceful solutions, was the tallest of the sages, but his skin had a yellowish cast, with an almost feather-like texture.

The *Grobber Yung*, as wide across as the Ohf Hagadol was tall, made his mark by barging in to discussions among the more revered sages, punctuating his remarks with obscure references.